Project Document for GEF Trust Funds

Project title: Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments		
Country(ies): India	**Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):** National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	**Execution Modality:** National Implementation (NIM)
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNSDF/CPD): By 2027, Government of India, state governments, communities, private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans. **Strategic Plan Outcome:** #3 Resilience built to systemic uncertainty and risk		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Substantial		**UNDP Gender Marker:** 2
Quantum Award ID: 00127645.1		**Quantum Project ID:**00127645
UNDP PIMS ID number: 6593		**GEF Project ID number:** 10776
LPAC meeting date: 12 August 2024		
Last possible date to submit to GEF:31July 2023		
Latest possible CEO endorsement date: 10 December 2023		
Project duration in months: 60		
Planned start date: 15 March 2025		**Planned completion date:** 15 March 2030
Expected date of Mid-Term Review: 15 September 2027		**Expected date of Terminal evaluation:** 15 January 2030
Expected Operational Closure Date: 15 January 2031		**Expected Financial Closure Date:** 15 July 2031
Brief project description: The project aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local level self-governance institutional planning and budgeting systems in two high		

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biodiversity landscapes in India – the Sathyamangalam landscape of the Tamil Nadu Eastern Ghats surrounding Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves; and the Garo Hills landscape of Meghalaya, surrounding Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Balpakram National Park, Siju Wildlife Sanctuary and Baghmara Reserve Forest. The project will work with community organizations and panchayati raj institutions, supported by district and state governments, to undertake such mainstreaming and accessing finance in order to carry out agreed priority actions – to protect remaining natural forest areas, strengthen connectivity for wildlife, and create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and businesses based on biodiversity for women and men, including marginalized tribal communities. The project also creates platforms for replicating this approach across other states, in other high-biodiversity landscapes of India, and across the country through the National Biodiversity Authority.

FINANCING PLAN	
GEF Trust Fund grant	USD 4,880,000
UNDP TRAC resources	0
Confirmed cash co-financing to be administered by UNDP	0
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	**USD 4,880,000**
(2) Total confirmed co-financing to this project not administered by UNDP	**USD 29,626,279** **MoEFCC : 7,144,307** **Tamil Nadu : 10,295,041** **Meghalaya : 11,686,931** **UNDP : 500,000** **Total : 29,626,279**
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1) +(2)	**USD 34,506,279**

SIGNATURES

Approved by LPAC during the meeting held on 12 August 2024 [DEA OM dated 13 September 2024- **F.No 11/1/2023-UN&SF***]*	**Agreed by Ministry of Finance**	**Date/Month/Year:** *LPAC meeting held on 12August 2024 [DEA OM dated 13 September 2024-* **F.No 11/1/2023-UN&SF***]*
Signature: **Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali** Scientist-G, CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India	**Agreed by Implementing Partner**	**Date/Month/Year:** 17/3/2025
Signature: **Ms Angela Lusigi,** Resident Representative, UNDP India	**Agreed by UNDP**	**Date/Month/Year:**

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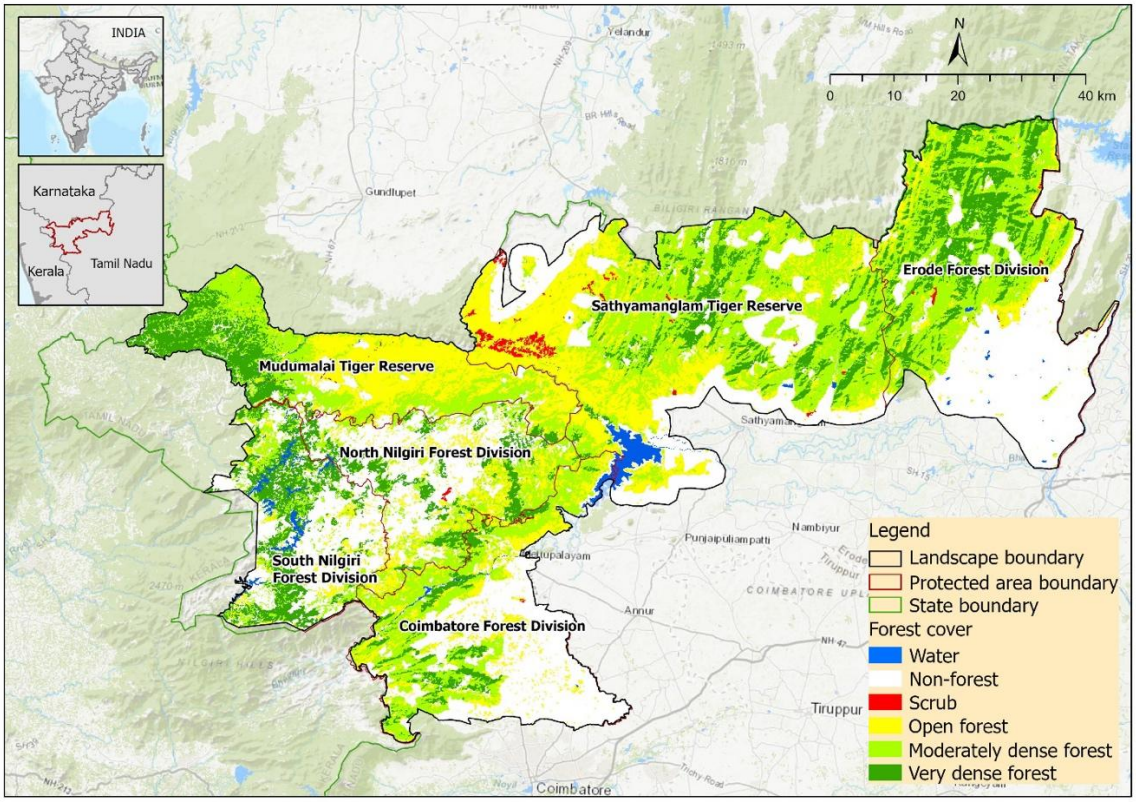
Acronyms and abbreviations

BMC	Biodiversity Management Committees
BPPS NCE	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support - Nature, Climate and Energy
DCM	District Coordination Mechanism
ERC	Evaluation Resource Centre
FPIC	Free, Prior, Informed Consent
FSP	Full Sized Project
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEFSec	Global Environment Facility Secretariat
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoAFW	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoPR	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MoTA	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
MSP	Medium Sized Project
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NIRD&PR	National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
PBR	People's Biodiversity Registers
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RIRD	Rural Institute for Rural Development
S&LCC	State and Landscape Coordination Committee
SBB	State Biodiversity Board
SECU	Social and Environmental Compliance Review Unit
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SIRD	State Institute for Rural Development
SRM	Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM)
STAP	Scientific Technical Advisory Panel
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

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

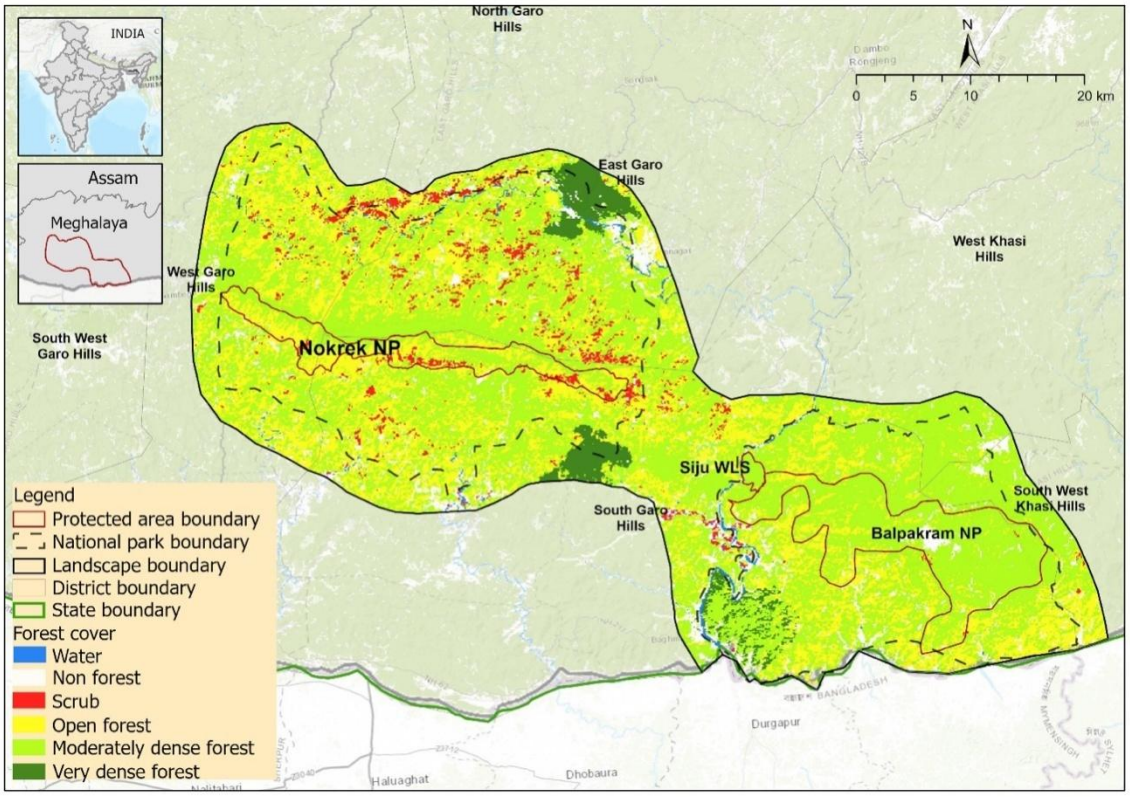
2. India is a megadiverse country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, with a wide array of ecosystems and habitats. With only 2.4 % of the geographical area of the world, India has nearly 8% of the globally known floral and faunal species. Over 1,04,561 species of fauna and over 55,726 species of flora have been documented in the 10 Biogeographic zones of the country that supports four of the 36 globally recognized biodiversity hotspots, represented by the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the Northeast and the Nicobar Islands. India is also a recognized centre of crop diversity and crop wild relatives. Conservation is a tradition in India. Cultures, traditions and festivals of India centre around the rich biological resources and traditional knowledge associated with it. However, the biodiversity is under immense threat in these two landscapes, as in many of India's high-biodiversity landscapes where production and conservation co-exist.



Landscape 1: Sathyamangalam-Nilgiri project landscape, Tamil Nadu State

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

3. In the Sathyamangalam landscape of Tamil Nadu, many forest-adjacent communities have limited access to products from the wild, as the tiger reserves have been expanded, which put restriction to this. Tribal communities living in hamlets inside protected areas retain their traditional use rights, but both the forest dwellers and forest edge communities suffer extensive losses of crops and livestock from wild animals like elephant, leopard and wild pig due to edible crops being grown right up the forest edge, worsening exposure to crop damage, and increased human-wildlife interaction. For India, conservation of biodiversity is crucial because it is directly linked with providing livelihoods and improving socio economic conditions for millions of its inhabitants, thereby contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation (see *Annex 19a* and *b* Landscape Profiles 1 and 2 for further detail on biodiversity and threats).



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

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

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

5. In recognition of the value and need to protect its biological diversity and ecosystems, India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002 aims at conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its resources, and fair and equitable sharing of benefit arising from their use. The objective

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

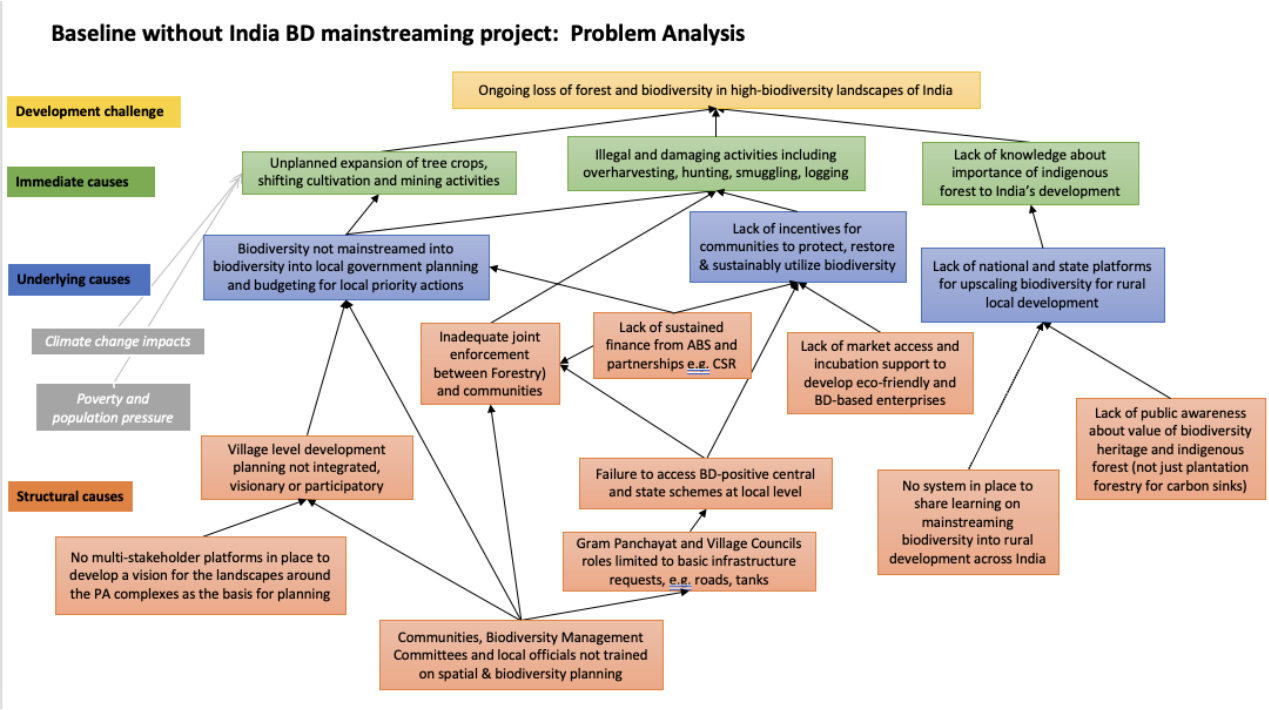
of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC),is to implement the Act in accordance with the objectives of CBD and the BD Act viz., conservation , sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources. The Act mandates the implementation through a decentralized system with National Biodiversity Authority at the national level, the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at state level and Union Territories Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) at Union Territory level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local and district levels, who are responsible for the development of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) at each local body level. India also has a framework for village level development planning through local Panchayati Raj self-governance institutions (including traditional structures in the North-East), and many central and State government schemes exist for financing rural development, into which biodiversity can be mainstreamed.

6. Although the institutional mechanisms and regulatory frameworks are in place for local involvement in deriving benefits from biodiversity conservation, and for village-level development planning, across India these mechanisms are not yet being used to their full potential, and much remains theoretical. For example, though BMCs have been constituted across the country they need to be strengthened. Similarly, the PBRs that are prepared needs to be digitized for easy access. Village level development planning is meant to be integrated, strategic, participatory, and strategic in theory, but in practice consists of limited interactions between local governance institutions and block and district officials to request limited infrastructure inputs, with opportunities to access myriad biodiversity-relevant schemes(see *Annex 21*) going largely untapped. Effective implementation of both development planning and biodiversity management is currently facing the following challenges; i) there is a need for mainstreaming priority actions for biodiversity conservation at the local, district and landscape levels; ii) there is need to mobilize additional resources including funding to integrate biodiversity conservation programs into local and district level economic development planning and implementation; and iii) upscaling of institutional mechanisms, tools and knowledge for "biodiversity for development" approach is required.

7. In relation to biodiversity finance, BIOFIN India has highlighted three key mechanisms with potential in these landscapes - identifying untapped potential for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements benefiting custodians of traditional knowledge on forest products, for Corporate Social Responsibility support for forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises, and for local community access to existing additional government schemes. UNDP India's Country Programme Document 2018-2022 notes that implementation of central and state schemes faces several challenges, including a "lack of systematic analysis on value-chains and producer-cooperative opportunities that leaves a gap in understanding how to effectively include those at the bottom of the pyramid. Inadequate policy frameworks and capacities often miss the opportunity to link natural resources management with sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Not least, cultural barriers that prevent women's engagement in economic life are holding back India's economic future." Without an inclusive and participatory approach to village and district development planning that includes women and men in planning and decision-making for natural resource utilization, degradation of natural ecosystems will continue, and opportunities to achieve development benefits based on biodiversity will be lost.

8. As shown in the diagram overleaf (also see *Annex 9: Theory of Change*), India's high biodiversity landscapes are continuing to experience loss of biodiversity, as natural forests are degraded due to various drivers. Some of the structural causes underpinning these unsustainable practices are shown in the diagram – including the lack of effective platforms for landscape wide multi-stakeholder planning, and the lack of integration of biodiversity actions and business opportunities into local development planning and budgeting. Communities, once highly dependent on forest resources, are not deriving the same extent of benefits from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge due to loss of biodiversity. As the population is expanding and forests are getting fragmented with loss of migratory corridors resulting in increased proximity and conflict between humans and wildlife. Nationally, there is a need to promote an understanding of the value of India's biodiversity heritage, and how forest lands can be protected and restored, while maximizing benefits to local communities. Central government's focus on afforestation is important for the purposes of meeting the country's forest cover target in the NDC but tends to result in expansion of monocrop plantation forest. Plantations have the benefit of crop income and carbon storage but lack the multiple benefits of natural forest – a high diversity of species, forest produce for tribal peoples, and source material for agroforestry and commercial exploitation of indigenous species, habitat for wildlife, and benefits related to the water cycle (replenishing groundwater and creating rainfall).

9. With increased awareness, stakeholders in these landscapes can come together around a vision of maximizing benefits for all – doing proactive land use planning to promote connectivity for wildlife. Much more can be done to promote small businesses based on the harvesting (sustainably by tribal people) cultivation and processing of India's rich natural heritage of useful forest species for food, traditional medicine, crafts, construction, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries etc. The development planning system that is set up to involve local communities and their Panchayati Raj / traditional governance institutions, as well as the architecture for maximizing biodiversity benefits through BMC structures and PBRs capturing traditional knowledge, provide a powerful framework for meeting these challenges.



10. In tackling these interlinked challenges, the project is aligned with India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP, equivalent to NBSAP) and will directly address its targets related to conservation and management of ecologically representative areas, sustainable management of agriculture and forestry, mobilization of resources, environmental education and awareness, management of invasive alien species, access and benefit sharing, and development of biodiversity action plans at all levels of governance. The project will contribute to several of the Sustainable Development Goals towards Agenda 2030, including SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17. Its work to strengthen protected areas and involve communities in protecting forested areas in their buffer zones (which were not notified as government forest or wildlife areas) is in line with "Criteria and Guidelines for Identifying Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India" published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in September 2020. The project will also contribute to national forest cover targets by protecting indigenous forest, and putting degraded lands under productive agroforestry, and aligning with the National Agroforestry Policy that aims at encouraging and expanding tree plantation in complementarity and integrated manner with crops and livestock. This will contribute towards Government of India's ambitious commitment in its 2016 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in terms of the Paris Agreement, to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by the year 2030. It is also aligned with the National Afforestation Programme and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) payments for reforestation in states losing forest. The project supports the National REDD+ Strategy India, released in 2018, which highlights India's 173,000 forest fringe villages where local communities are highly dependent on forests for their needs in relation to: a) the country's Joint Forest Management programme since 1990, through which local communities and the State Forest Department jointly plan and implement forest regeneration and eco-development activities,

and communities can access minor forest produce; as well as b) the legal protection for forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers to exercise their customary rights and traditions, through the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

11. At State level, the project is in line with Meghalaya Vision 2030 issued by the State Government, which aims at sustainable community forest management through participatory planning and inclusive growth, along with capacity development for people and institutions concerned. The project will also contribute to alleviate poverty and emphasize inclusive sustainable development through sustainable community forest management, and grassroots planning by adopting a participatory development approach. The project contributes towards the Tamil Nadu Vision 2030 of preserving State's diverse historic, natural, & cultural assets, while emphasizing on sustainable tourism.

II. PROJECT STRATEGY

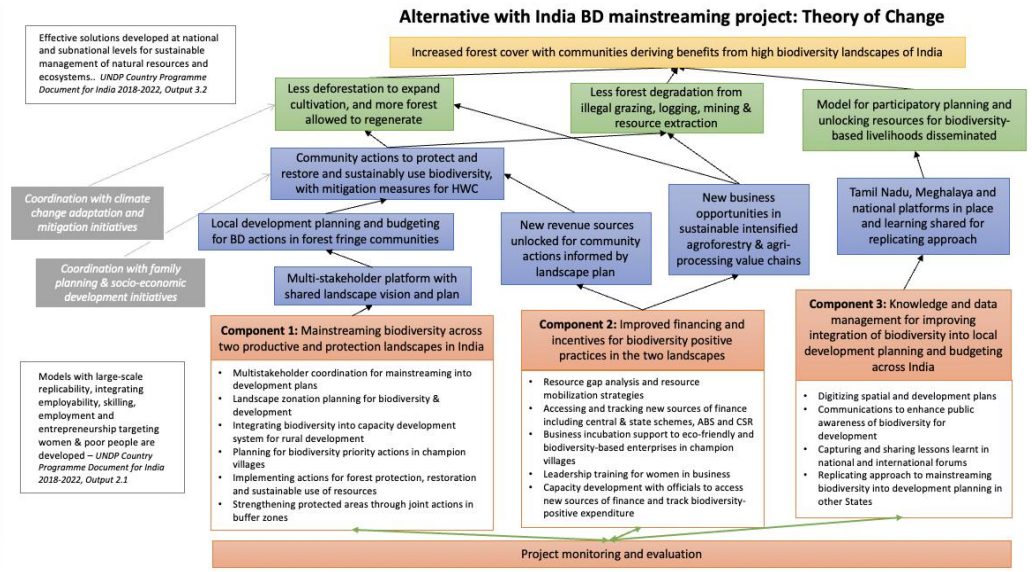
12. The objective of the new project titled ***"Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments"*** and contributing to the global GEF-7 Biodiversity Focal Area, is to mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local development planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India and create platforms for replication. The project strategy involves mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the existing system of village, block and district level planning for rural development in the two States (See *Annex 17a* for a full outline of the different local governance systems in Tamil Nadu based on Gram Panchayats and in Meghalaya based on traditional village councils inputting into Village Employment Councils, with higher level structures as well, as shown in the table below). This integration will be achieved in the context of landscape level multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together local communities and district government, supported by the Forest and Rural Development Departments, to establish a common vision and land use plan for these two landscapes which include five major Protected areas, as well as Reserve Forest and community-owned forest in their buffer zones (see *Annex 19a* and *19b* Landscape Profiles).

Administrative Levels	Tamil Nadu (PRI system)	Meghalaya (Employment Council Institutional system)	Biodiversity Institutions
Local level (Village level)	Gram Panchayat	Village Employment Council	BMCs at Village Level
Block level (aggregate of villages)	Block Panchayat (Panchayat Samiti)	Block Employment Councils	BMCs at Block Level
District level	Zilla Panchayat and District Development Councils	District Employment Council and District Planning and Development Councils	BMCs at District level[2]
State level	State Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj Department	State Rural Development Department	State Biodiversity Boards
National level	Ministry of Panchayati Raj Ministry of Rural Development	Ministry of Rural Development	National Biodiversity Authority Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

13. A landscape plan will thus form the basis for developing capacity to mainstream biodiversity into local development planning and carrying out priority biodiversity actions in terms of the landscape plans that maximize benefits for communities and for biodiversity (Component 1). Incentives for such biodiversity actions in 40 champion village lands will be created through accessing new sources of biodiversity finance, building on the BIOFIN approach; and through support to local forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises (Component 2). The model piloted and the lessons learnt will be shared across Tami Nadu and Meghalaya states, and with the other States of India through the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs), and the central government departments supporting panchayat raj institutions, rural development, and forest conservation. The

[2] In addition, a Technical Support Group (TSG) at the district level in Meghalaya provides oversight and guidance to the BMCs and VECs and provides an organic link between the traditional institutions at the village and district levels.

diagram below shows the theory of change behind these three interrelated components of work, as well how the project's outputs, outcomes and results will be monitored and evaluated, with learning fed back into the project to maximize impact through adaptive management.



14. Key assumptions underpinning this theory of change are that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

x. The 445 villages (see Annex 2b, 2c) whose local governance institutions, community groups and supporting officials participate in the capacity development programme for mainstreaming biodiversity into development, will form a solid core of experience that can then be drawn on by government in rolling out the training across the two States post-project (as well as sharing their learning with other States).

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

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

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

xiv. Women in local governance institutions, in new small enterprises and in existing self-helpgroups will be successfully empowered through targeted capacity development efforts and will participate fully in project activities such as land use planning and livelihoods activities etc.

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

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

16. In terms of BD 1-1, the project will focus on mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resource use at the landscape level (Outputs 1.2 and 1.5) as well as the local development planning and regional development sectors (Outputs 1.3,1.4 and 1.5), across the two biodiversity landscapes, the latter in key development sector namely agriculture, forest, fisheries, small scale irrigation, animal husbandry and other disciplines and aim to improve/enhance positive environmental practices in these sectors. As part of this effort, it would improve guidelines, protocols and planning strategies and build institutional capacities at the landscape, district, and local levels to better integrate conservation outcomes in respective planning processes. The intent is to use the BMCs as the key vehicle for delivery of conservation actions at the community level, so that local communities become agents of change in managing biodiversity. The GEF project, has the potential to integrate biodiversity in local development plans and will result in preventing further loss of biodiversity and associated habitats. This will be achieved through mapping and digitization of biological resources at the BMC level(Output 3.1), and developing integrated planning of GPDPs and VECs (Output 1.4). Project components include improved planning processes and addressing direct threat and habitat loss by increasing habitats through improved PA management effectiveness (Output 1.5); enhancing conservation in forests and other natural and productive use areas (agriculture, grazing, etc.); BMC capacity enhancement and preparation and implementation of PBRs; capacity building and improved community surveillance and monitoring to reduce threats (Output 1.3). It will also support community livelihood improvement to reduce unsustainable practices (Output 2.2).

17. The project will directly address BD 2-7 - improving financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global Protected Area estate. Project components include identification and implementation of blended/innovative/incentive-based finance solutions to bridge the finance gap for implementation of biodiversity actions in particular for promotion of innovative collaborative measures with local communities and OECMs partners to improve and enhance connectivity of habitats, conserve species, strengthen monitoring of species and habitats, improve surveillance, enforcement and threat reduction measures. In this regard it will also demonstrate implementation of locally based financial solutions, such as linking with government sector financing, the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge for improving financing for conservation and community revenue generation as well as supporting small-scale forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises that will build community support for conservation. Additionally, Output 1.5 will focus on enhancing management effectiveness of 5 PAs to enhance connectivity and collaboration with high biodiversity areas (including OECMs) adjacent to the PAs to strengthen and improve the viability of the PA network. As a measure of improving the coverage of protected area estate, Output 1.4 focuses on identifying, mapping and improving management of a range of OECM categories that lie within the landscapes, representing the first major effort in India to leverage OECMs to meet India's obligation to meeting KMGBF Target 3.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

18. The project's overall objective is to mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local development planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India and create platforms for replication. The outline below shows the work that will be done through the project, per project component and intended outcome, describing the planned interventions and outputs to be delivered. For each output, a clear set of planned activities is outlined, with accompanying budget provision in Section IX: Total Budget and Work plan. Outcome-level indicators and detail on targets are shown in Section IV: Project Results Framework, and plans for monitoring of these indicators are in Section VI: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The expected results are shown below for each component of the project, in fulfilling the project strategy set out above.

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

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

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

- *Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 200,528 hectares improved by at least 15 points from the baseline*
- *Improved institutional capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)*
- *Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into at least 445 Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans*

Component 1 Outputs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Output Indicator: All 8 multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in place, capacitated and meeting at agreed intervals in States & Landscapes, and at District Level

20. Output 1.1 will involve the establishment, capacity development and operation of multi-stakeholder platforms for ensuring coordination, convergence and synergy across the development planning and budgetary processes that operate at various levels of society. This will include a State & Landscape Coordinating Committee in each of the two landscapes: Sathyamangalam and Garo Hills; as well as a District Coordination Mechanism in each of the 6 districts whose territory is included in the landscapes: Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode, West Garo, East Garo & South Garo (see *Annex7* for full terms of reference for these state & landscape and district level coordinating structures).The State & Landscape Coordinating Committees will guide project activities being carried out at both state and landscape level, and will provide a participatory mechanism for the identification of landscape-level conservation priorities that can facilitate: (i) integration of protected areas, forest reserves and other key biodiversity areas as integral parts of larger viable conservation units; (ii) testing the concept of OECMs in the Indian context as an innovative mechanism for extending the conservation estate in the country and facilitating connectivity between PAs, forest reserves and key biodiversity areas; (iii) mainstreaming of biodiversity, sustainable resource use and improved benefit sharing from biological resources into the village and district development planning systems.

21. The establishment and operation of the State and Landscape Coordinating Committees and the District Coordination Mechanisms will be facilitated by the Technical Coordination Unit and the two State & Landscape Coordinators, in close liaison with state and district level government line departments. Technical experts will support on the provision of training on gender responsiveness, and women's leadership support. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 1.1.1 Establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms at state level

Establish two State & Landscape Coordination Committees chaired by the Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya State Governments, including departments covering local governance and rural development, as well as Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (ADC), representatives of district administrations and civil society[3].

Activity 1.1.2 Annual meetings of S&L Coordinating Committees

[3]In order to meet UNDP-GEF safeguards requirements, State & Landscape Coordination Committees will need to be gender-responsive, and the civil society groupings will need to include representatives of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

Hold annual meetings of two State & Landscape Coordination Committees, overseeing the work of the project at state and landscape level, especially Component 1 Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6; Component 2 Outputs 2.1 and 2.3; and Component 3 Outputs 3.2 and 3.4.

Activity 1.1.3 Training on gender responsiveness

Develop and deliver training for government officials and civil society participating in state/landscape and district coordination structures on how project aims to be gender-responsive and promote women's empowerment, and equipping participants to facilitate this.

Activity 1.1.4Establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms at district level

Establish 6 district coordination mechanisms - for 3 Sathyamangalam Districts and 3 Garo Hills districts, meeting every 6 months under District Collectors (TN) / Deputy Commissioners (ML), with input from Autonomous District Council (ADC) in Meghalaya, and community representatives[4]and carry out initial capacity development.

Activity 1.1.5Biannual meetings of District Coordination Mechanisms

Hold biannual meetings of 6 district coordination mechanisms, overseeing the work of the project at district and village level, mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning and budgeting, as well as supporting biodiversity-based livelihoods, especially Outputs 1.4, 1.5, 2.2.

Activity 1.1.6 Women's leadership support

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

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

Output Indicator:Participatory landscape plan at 1:30,000 scale in place for each of two target landscapes, indicating target areas for land use change to enhance connectivity and wildlife movement corridors, and maximise biodiversity-compatible livelihoods

22. Output 1.2 will produce landscape level plans through the multi-stakeholder platforms set up in Output 1.1and will facilitate the process of these plans being socialized into the forest departments[5], district government, NGOs and donor-funded related initiatives. It will also see the implications of the plan being discussed, through a Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process, at local scale in a set of 40 champion village lands, located in priority areas for implementation of biodiversity actions and enhancing connectivity (and thus climate change resilience) of protected areas:
    - In the Sathyamangalam-Nilgiri landscape, 10 tribal communities living inside wildlife sanctuaries will be selected, and 10 Gram Panchayats in forest fringe areas;
    - In the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape, 20 Village A'khing Lands will be selected(usually 2-3 hamlets each), with community owned forest (controlled by the Nokmas).

23. The activities under Output 1.2 will be carried out under the guidance of the State and Landscape Coordination Committees in each of the two States. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the State & Landscape Coordinators, based in the landscape

[4] As above, the district coordination mechanisms will be gender responsive and include representatives of SC/ST/OBC.
[5] In Tamil Nadu the Forest Department, and in Meghalaya a combination of the Forest department and forest officials of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council – see also Activity 1.6.2

in Erode and Tura, and liaising closely with line departments at State level in Chennai and Shillong. The S&L Coordinator in each landscape will be supported in this work by three full-time Community Facilitators each. The central PMU will procure the services of a consultant / consulting firm to support the participatory mapping exercises at landscape and village level, the socialization and refinement of the plan, and on the development of the tracking tool. Contractual services will be provided by relevant firms to support the multi-stakeholder platforms on participatory landscape planning, and work with champion villages to do spatial planning at a finer scale for their own communal lands, also supporting the Forest departments to develop a tracking tool for monitoring progress towards the landscape plan, and project spatial targets. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 1.2.1 Landscape plans

Working through S&L committees, undertake landscape-scale participatory mapping exercise to establish a shared vision for each landscape and identify areas where conservation and restoration[6] are needed for connectivity, and where biodiversity-based livelihoods and HWC mitigation can be promoted[7], producing two landscape plans.

Activity 1.2.2 Multi stakeholder engagement for landscape level plans

Conduct sessions for forest officials, frontline staff, CBOs, NGOs, local communities, and other development partners for strengthening landscape level plans in select landscapes Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

Activity 1.2.3 Champion village identification

Identify/confirm 40 champion village clusters: 10 Gram Panchayats[8] and 10 tribal communities in Sathyamangalam landscape, and 20 Village A'khing Landsin Garo Hills landscape, with forest cover and potential to undertake actions for biodiversity conservation, restoration, or sustainable use, HWC mitigation or PA connectivity.

Activity 1.2.4 Spatial planning for champion village lands

Undertake a socially inclusive participatory mapping exercise[9], applying FPIC principles, for communally owned village lands, spatially mapping current land uses and identifying the spatial extent of potential future uses as per the landscape plan (preparation for Activity 1.4.1 identifying priority biodiversity actions).

Activity 1.2.5 Tracking tool for landscape plans

Develop Forest Department[10] tracking tool for landscapes, to track progress towards landscape plan, and towards project targets:
a. Area of restoration / natural regeneration of biodiversity-rich areas (target 4,000 hectares)
b. Area under new biodiversity-friendly forest and land management practices, including conservation for improved connectivity and wildlife corridors (target 6,000 hectares)

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

[7] To meet project target of 60,000 hectares under new biodiversity-friendly forest and land management practices, including conservation for improved connectivity

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

[9] The participatory mapping process will include women (including female headed households), youth, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other discriminated / vulnerable groups.

[10] In the case of Meghalaya this will be a joint effort between the Forest department (managing Protected Areas and reserve Forests) and the forestry officials of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, overseeing the community-owned forest lands

c. Area of Reserve Forest for which Working Plans now include biodiversity goals (target 266,000 hectares).

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

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

24. Output 1.3 will undertake training for the local governance institutions of 445 villages in the high biodiversity and forest fringe areas of the Sathyamangalam-Nilgiri landscape and the highly forested Nokrek-Balpakram landscape. The prioritization of these high- and medium-biodiversity villages was based on a mapping exercise for each landscape – see *Annexes 19a* and *19c* for the full analysis. The names of the 445 prioritized villages are listed (and shown on the map) in *Annexes 15b* and *15d.* The local governance and community leadership structures in these 445 villages, including Biodiversity Management Committees[11], will be involved in the training programme, along with block and district government officials. Please refer to *Annex 17aBaseline report on local governance and rural development* for an in-depth analysis of how the system of Village Level Development Planning works in the two States – both in theory in terms of the legislation, institutions and training system in place in the two States, and in practice in terms of the knowledge gleaned from stakeholder consultations and missions during the project preparation phase.

25. The activities under Output 1.3 will be carried out under the guidance of the State and Landscape Coordination Committees in each of the two States, with strong input from the State Institute for Rural Development in each case (in liaison with the National Institute for Rural Development). Development of curricula and course material will be supported by technical experts, and delivery of the training will be through enhanced capacity in the SIRDs and district-level institutions. Updating of People's Biodiversity Registers will be supported by a tertiary institution. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 1.3.1 Development of training materials

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

Activity 1.3.2 Capacitation of State master trainers

[11] BMCs as standing committees of the GPs and VECs are responsible for conservation, sustainable resource use, promoting access and benefit sharing and mandated to develop their own People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) that detail biological resources and traditional knowledge at the local level. District BMCs serve to facilitating aggregation and scaling up to a higher level. See *Annex 17c* for a full outline of BMC's mandated roles.

Training of all Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya master trainers (male and female) involved with village/block/district level development planning system, and male and female district master trainers of Biodiversity Management Committees (in TN case already created under GIZ) across all districts in each of the two states through SIRD.

Activity 1.3.3 Training for local governance institutions

Training courses delivered through two State SIRDs, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy and district institutions (see *Annex 17b*) to male and female participants:
a) Gram, Block and District level Leadership, Biodiversity Management Committees, Self Help Groups and CBOs involved in planning in 200 Gram Panchayats including villages with forest cover in Sathyamangalam landscape;
b) Leadership of Village Employment Councils and traditional village councils, BMCs and SHGs of 200 Village Employment Councils/Nokma-village councils in Garo Hills landscape;
c) Relevant block officials and line departments at district level in both the landscapes, with focus on facilitating convergence and unlocking schemes for BC and integrating in local plans.

Activity 1.3.4 People's Biodiversity Registers

Update current guidelines for PBR development (building on GIZ templates) to be more user-friendly for mapping and monitoring biological resources, traditional knowledge, conservation planning and implementing ABS agreements; and provide support from a tertiary institution in each State to the 445 Gram Panchayats / Village Councils following completion of training, to produce or validate and update their People's Biodiversity Registers, including traditional knowledge of women as well as men.

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

Output Indicator:40 village or Gram Panchayat development plans with costed and spatially defined biodiversity priority actions integrated into them, with report on resources mobilized and local capacity developed (including women).

26. Output 1.4 will produce development plans into which biodiversity priority actions (building on the landscape planning and village spatial planning in Output 1.2) have been mainstreamed, and in which costing of these actions can lead to identification of new and additional funding sources (see Output 2.1).The identified biodiversity priority actions will, wherever possible, be designed also to build communities' resilience to climate change. The activities under Output 1.4 will be carried out under the guidance of the District Coordination Mechanisms. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the six full-time Community Facilitators, managing the work of NGO partners recruited and capacitated to provide support in the 40 champion village clusters on developing and costing biodiversity actions and integrating them into development plans. Technical experts will provide training on gender responsiveness and women's leadership, and monitoring of progress. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 1.4.1 Costed biodiversity priority actions

Involve men and women from local governance institutions in 40 champion village clusters, with relevant block and district officials, in developing costed biodiversity priority actions, drawing on People's Biodiversity Registers where relevant, and building on the landscape planning and village spatial planning in Output 1.2, with plans specifying goals/targets, spatial extent, monitoring mechanisms, and roles of men and women, as well as beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes.

Activity 1.4.2 New opportunities for social inclusion

Involve local governance institutions and potential beneficiaries in champion Gram Panchayats in Sathyamangalam landscape to identify suitable underutilized /degraded communal lands and grant special

access for men and women participants from Scheduled Castes to these lands for cultivation and processing activities (see Output 2.2).

Activity 1.4.3 Gender training for self-governance institutions

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

Activity 1.4.4 Champion women leadership programme

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

Activity 1.4.5 Biodiversity into development planning

Integrate biodiversity actions and targets from champion village clusters into the relevant annual and 5-year Development Plans at Village, Block and District Levels, with costings and deadlines, and with roles of men and women specified, as well as beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes.

Activity 1.4.6 Monitoring progress against targets

Prepare monitoring tools for village/block/district level to track progress against indicators of success for biodiversity actions, for periodic re-evaluation and feeding back into development planning and budgeting, as well as feeding back into landscape plan updates.

Activity 1.4.7 Accessing new funding sources

Following completion of Output 2.1, access state and central schemes, and other funding, to undertake biodiversity priority actions, based on resource mobilization strategies, with communities and local governance institutions supported by Forest Department, block and district officials.

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

Output Indicator: 40 reports from champion village clusters (through Gram Panchayats or Village Councils[12]) on implementation of biodiversity priority actions contained in local development plans, and their results in terms of project targets and landscape plan

27. Output 1.5 will involve the champion village clusters in actually carrying out the biodiversity priority actions, contributing towards the project targets, and towards the fulfilment of the vision in the landscape plans. This work on the ground will be made possible through additional co-finance leveraged during the project (see Output 2.1), and will be incentivized through new small business opportunities supported by GEF funds through the project (see Output 2.2).

28. The activities under Output 1.5 will be carried out under the guidance of the District Coordination Mechanisms. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the

[12] i.e.,Village Employment Councils with input from traditional village councils (with village A'king lands under Nokmas' leadership)

6Community Facilitators, managing the work of NGO partners recruited and capacitated to provide support in the 40 champion village clusters on carrying out the biodiversity actions (with funds unlocked through Outputs 2.1 and 1.4), and monitoring progress in terms of project spatial targets and the landscape plan, with technical expertise utilized as needed on specific interventions.

29. Examples of restoration interventions and impacts on state of forest degradation[13] are as follows:
    (a) Clearing of invasive alien species by the Forest Department working with tribal communities to clear (and process wood from) *Lantana camaera* and *Prosopis julifora* from Reserve Forests
    (b) Regenerative mixed-use agroforestry on highly degraded communal forest land, through Gram Panchayat leasing land to Dalit women's groups[14], e.g., growing indigenous fruit trees, spices, and medicinal plants along with vegetables, food and fodder crops for sale
    (c) Intensification of mixed-use agroforestry in former monocrop tree plantations under Village Employment Councils with traditional village councils, using nitrogen-fixing crops and cultivation of valuable medicinal species
    (d) Enrichment planting in Sacred Groves[15], demarcated by Gram Panchayats or tribal communities for protection, with enrichment planting of indigenous tree species
    (e) Natural regeneration by Village Councils, allowing land formerly under *jhum* (shifting cultivation) to recover over time, with strict exclusion of resource use

30. Where changes in land use are envisaged, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied. For example, if a new area in the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is proposed to become a Community Reserve[16], involving curtailing of community use rights, this will involve in-depth discussions with various local governance and community structures in the relevant Village A'king Lands, on whose communally owned forest decisions are ultimately taken by the Nokmas[17] on behalf of their communities. Wherever sacrifices are made in favour of biodiversity conservation, the Community Facilitators will work to support the introduction of incentives in the form of support to livelihoods activities (see Output 2.2), or through the new Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)scheme introduced through the parallel MCLLMP project[18].Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

[13] For detail on state of degradation before and after restoration interventions, see *Annex 15b* and *Annex 15c.*

[14] Granting land leases to Scheduled Castes in this manner is unfolding across Tamil Nadu – see, for example,https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tn-dalit-women-sow-seeds-of-equality-through-land-ownership/articleshow/70682845.cms

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

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

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

[18]The World Bank-funded Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP), being implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) from 2018 to 2023, is rolling out a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme from 2022 supporting villages, communities, clans or individuals who commit to conserve and protect an area of over 5 hectares of Natural Forest for a minimum of 30 years – paying them Rs 8,000 (USD 100) per ha per year for 5 years, and additional amounts if the area is registered as a Community Reserve, or if very dense forest, a Sacred Grove, or in an eco-sensitive zone around a Protected Area.

Activity 1.5.1 Champion village clusters' biodiversity priority actions

Implement biodiversity priority actions on communal land in 40 champion village clusters, involving men and women, initially using co-financed government seed funding to their Biodiversity Management Committees, and accessing schemes and other funding as they continue (see Output 2.1), including MG-NREGS, and undertaking monitoring of participation, methods and results.

Example actions:

a. Biodiversity conservation, e.g., through surveying and demarcation of existing Community Reserves, or establishment of new reserves[19]

b. Forest restoration, e.g., through clearing of alien vegetation, allowing forest to regenerate on *jhum* lands, or protecting Sacred Groves or Sacred Waterbodies

c. Sustainable use of forest products or cultivation of forest species for livelihoods and other purposes

d. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g., elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences

e. Regeneration of fallow village panchayat common lands for agroforestry, including cultivation of valuable forest species using collected seeds

f. Soil and water conservation measures and revegetation in degraded communal lands, and restoration of shared springs, ponds and wetlands.

(for Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements, see Activity 2.2.6)

Activity 1.5.2 Monitor progress with tracking tool

Apply tracking tool developed in Output 1.2.5 annually through Forest Departments (Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and ADC) to track progress through (i) project-funded activities, (ii) other activities of government with communities, and (iii) donor-funded related initiatives – towards fulfilment of landscape plan.

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

Output Indicator: Report by each of the two Forest Departments (with GHADC in Meghalaya) on achievement of joint forest management actions, protocols developed, community training completed and results achieved in relation to project targets and landscape plans, as well as updated Reserve Forest working plans with biodiversity gaols incorporated.

31. Output 1.6 will strengthen management of state-run Protected Areas (Tiger Reserves, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries) by improving relationships with communities in the buffer zone, embarking on joint actions, e.g., for restoration or enforcement, and enhancing habitat connectivity through collaborating with communities to bringing new areas of the PA buffer zones under either PA status (Community Reserves).

32. The activities under Output 1.6 will be carried out under the guidance of the State and Landscape Coordination Committees in each of the two States. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by Forest Departments (including the forestry officials of the Garo Hills Autonomous District council – see Activity 1.6.3). Additional support will be provided by technical experts to do land surveying and remote sensing work, prepare legal documentation where necessary, and support the development of new protocols, e.g., for

[19] Existing community reserves in East, West and South Garo Hills Districts (where the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is located) total 3,136 ha. In some cases, these can be strengthened through surveying and demarcation, and new Community Reserves can be created in priority area for connectivity and buffer zones for HWC. This is a policy priority for the Government of Meghalaya – see, for example, https://www.syllad.com/govt-seeks-to-increase-community-reserve-forests-in-meghalaya/

restoration following alien clearing, or for sustainable harvesting of valuable forest products. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 1.6.1 Protocols for joint SFM interventions

Develop protocols for site-specific priority forest management actions inside PAs or in Reserve Forests (including alien invasive removal, restoration / regeneration, human wildlife conflict reduction, habitat connectivity, PA demarcation, and sustainable harvesting of minor forest produce)in accordance with National Forest Working Plan Code.

Activity 1.6.2 Meghalaya foresters' joint forum

Joint coordination and capacity development forum for officials of Meghalaya Forest Department and Forest Department of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (all 5 districts), collaborating to implement the landscape over time, in consultation with other land use and conservation planning initiatives through government, NGOs and donor-funded projects.

Activity 1.6.3 Mainstream biodiversity into Reserve Forest working plans

Support the updating of Working Plans for each of the state Forest Divisions (especially for Reserve Forest) to support the fulfilment of the landscape plans and integrate actions for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use; surveillance, monitoring and enforcement; and mitigation of human wildlife conflict.

Activity 1.6.4 Community & officials training for forest management

Undertake training through Forest Departments, where needed, for men and women's participation in joint forest patrolling, joint management actions and work opportunities (including MN-REGS) in Reserve Forests and Protected Areas, with special attention paid to opportunities for youth.

Activity 1.6.5 Protected Area management effectiveness evaluation

Draw on Management Effectiveness Evaluation[20] biennial scores for the five Protected Areas in the project landscapes, recording changes attributable to project interventions, and feeding this data into the METT tool for the project.

Activity 1.6.6 Registration of Community Reserves and OECMs

Confirm GPS coordinates and register all Sathyamangalam and Garo Hills protected areas (including Community Reserves) and OECMs on the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA), conducting additional surveys where necessary (also see Activity 1.5.1).

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

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

33. To reach the outcome of having improved incentives and finance in place for implementation of priority biodiversity actions integrated into local development plans, Component 2 includes three outputs – these will enable the analysis of biodiversity finance gaps and development of resource mobilization strategies, and will capacitate local officials to track increases in biodiversity spending over time; and will also support communities from amongst the 40 champion village clusters to develop and eco-friendly and forest-based

[20]The Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) conducted by each PA in India every two years is used as the basis for the GEF Management effectiveness Tracking Tool scoring

enterprises and value chains, and access scheme funding for equipment (see summary of opportunities in *Annex 21 Baseline report on public finance for biodiversity & financial solutions)*. In addition to business incubation support over time, a specific programme for women in business will develop women participants in new enterprises and existing self-help groups. The outcome indicators for the component as a whole are as follows (see detail in Section IV. Project Results Framework):

- *At least three new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes*
- *Total amount of new funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in 40 champion village clusters*
- *Increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard) with baseline established in Year 1*

Component 2 Outputs

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

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

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

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

Output Indicator: Report from each landscape on landscape-level and champion village-level resource gap analyses & mobilization strategies, as well as progress in terms of tracking tool

34. Output 2.1 will quantify the financial and human resources needed to implement the full vision of the landscape plans, as well as the priority biodiversity actions in the champion village clusters. The activities under Output 2.1 will be carried out under the guidance of the State and Landscape Coordination Committees in each of the two States. Day-to-day coordination of Activity 2.1.1 will be carried out by the State & Landscape Coordinators, based in the landscape in Erode and Tura, and liaising closely with line departments at State level in Chennai and Shillong. Day-to-day coordination of Activities 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 will be supported by the 6 Community Facilitators in the Districts.

35. The project will take forward the three prioritized biodiversity finance solutions of BIOFIN India through Activity 2.1.3 in which champion villages will develop resource mobilization strategies focused on a. Central and state government schemes and missions, b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements, and c. Corporate Social Responsibility. For the latter, BIOFIN's detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation will be drawn upon. The project will also apply BIOFIN method and approaches in supporting local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources,

and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure. Liaison with BIOFIN India will continue throughout implementation of the output, and additional support will be provided by technical experts on resource gap analyses and resource mobilization strategies at landscape and local levels. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 2.1.1 Landscape Resource gap analyses & mobilization strategies

Working through S&L committees, undertake resource gap analysis to identify and cost actions beyond the scope of the project to achieve the shared vision for each landscape as indicated by the landscape plans – with optimal conservation and restoration for connectivity, balanced with maximizing biodiversity-based livelihoods and HWC mitigation.

Activity 2.1.2 Champion village resource gap analyses

Produce biodiversity resource gap report for 1 year and for 5 years, for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (see Output 1.4) for both short and medium-term.

Activity 2.1.3 Champion village resource mobilization strategies

Research and report on opportunities for financing of costed actions, and prepare a resource mobilisation strategy, including clear actions to pursue initial funds in the short term, as well as over five years, for the 40 champion village lands, including the following financing mechanisms:

a. Central and state government schemes and missions
b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements
c. Corporate Social Responsibility (including liaison with the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative[21])

Activity 2.1.4 Tracking tool for biodiversity finance

Develop simple tracking tool for measuring new sources of finance coming in to fund priority biodiversity actions in champion villages, and for use by the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans.

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

Output Indicator: At least six livelihoods report with detailed feasibility study, governance structure, capacity development needs, business plan and report on incubation support, marketing and buyer agreements

36. Output 2.2 will help provide incentives for forest conservation by supporting communities in champion villages on establishing, operating and putting on a sound business footing by project end – at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts. The activities under Output 2.2 will be carried out under the guidance of the District Coordination Mechanisms. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the six full-time Community Facilitators, managing the work of specialized NGO partners and business incubation service providers, recruited and capacitated to provide support on these identified value chains and enterprises, and also on Access and Benefit Sharing. Additional technical expertise will be brought on board as needed, for example to negotiate Access and Benefit Sharing agreements or small-scale

[21] The Confederation of Indian Industries hosts the IBBI as a platform to engage businesses in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with 48 companies as members. This work will also draw on BIOFIN India's detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation.

processing facilities. Where changes in land use are envisaged, for example, intensive cultivation of communal lands previously left fallow, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied, and full consultations conducted.

37. Examples of livelihoods include fodder production and processing, beekeeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making[22]. See *Annex 27 List of potential livelihoods for enterprise development support* for more detail. Specific central and state schemes will be accessed for additional technical and financial support e.g., Apiculture Mission for beekeeping and honey, Aroma Mission for oil production form aromatic plants cultivation (see *Annex 21)*. The two State Medicinal Plants Boards[23]will be key partners in identifying opportunities for cultivation and commercialization of medicinal species, and potential for Access and Benefit Sharing for local endemic species on which communities hold the traditional knowledge. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 2.2.1 Identify eco-friendly / forest-based enterprises

Conduct consultations with communities in champion villages (following FPIC principles especially where change in land use involved) to identify / confirm at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts, identifying specific activities along each value chain for women and men, including beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, with special attention paid to opportunities for youth, and planning appropriate governance structures

Activity 2.2.2 Business studies and plans

Complete detailed desktop and in-field feasibility study for each of the 6 (or more) livelihoods: link to biodiversity, existing value chains, potential buyers, input and equipment needs, environmental sustainability, gender and social inclusion potential, possible funding sources – and work with community to develop a basic business concept for each, with Biodiversity Management Committee regulating sustainable harvesting where relevant.

Activity 2.2.3 Creation / strengthening of governance structures

Support the strengthening or creation of an appropriate cooperative society or other governance structure/s, including men and women, to oversee each operation, hire the necessary personnel, manage the finances and share the profits, registered and with a bank account.

Activity 2.2.4 Women in business leadership programme

Conduct leadership programme on Women in Business with women participants in Self Help Groups, and women in new enterprise ventures supported by the project in champion village clusters, covering basic business skills, as well as financial and digital literacy.

Activity 2.2.5 Business incubation support

Run a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment[24] / accessing Schemes (see Output 2.1), developing full

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

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

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

business plans, including sustainability plan that involves phasing out subsidization of input supply through the project, as cash flow increases.

Activity 2.2.6 Buyer agreements and marketing

Put agreements in place with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and roll out marketing and branding strategy for each of the 6 forest-based / eco-friendly enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain

Activity 2.2.7 Access & Benefit Sharing agreements

Support at least two enterprise cooperatives / other structures to identify potential for, research structure of, facilitate, negotiate and conclude Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements, with sharing guided by FPIC consultations.

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

Output Indicator: Curriculum materials and reports on training conducted through the six project District administrations, and the two State Biodiversity Boards, as well as results in tracking public biodiversity expenditure

38. Output 2.3 will support local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources, and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure. Some of the specialized material developed here will be delivered through Output 1.3 through the SIRD system. The activities under Output 2.3 will be carried out under the guidance of the State and Landscape Coordination Committees in each of the two States. Liaison with BIOFIN India will continue throughout implementation of the output, and additional support will be provided by technical experts to support the specialized capacity development involved. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 2.3.1 Curriculum and materials development

Develop curriculum for training of male and female village, block, district officials including key line departments on budgeting for biodiversity priority actions, accessing biodiversity-relevant schemes, and new financial instruments (like CSR, ABS) and feed into training in Output 1.3.

Activity 2.3.2 Training officials to access finance

Train Block Development Officers and officials in key line departments of 6 districts on supporting 40 champion GPs/VECs to access central and state schemes, and Corporate Social Responsibility funds where relevant for biodiversity conservation actions; and provide follow-up support to facilitate access.

Activity 2.3.3 Training officials to track biodiversity finance

Provide specialized training on tracking and tagging biodiversity-relevant expenditure using the BIOFIN approach: (i) in the project districts, through the District Coordination Mechanisms, and (ii) across Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, through the State Biodiversity Boards, building on the baseline analysis of biodiversity-relevant expenditure conducted in preparation for the project.

Activity 2.3.4 Tracking progress on biodiversity finance

Apply tracking tool with leadership of champion villages to measure new sources of finance coming in to fund priority biodiversity actions, and with the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans.

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

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

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

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

- *Level of awareness of value of and threats to biodiversity, and options for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development amongst sample of residents across 445 villages, as indicated by score on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey*
- *At least 20 good practices of integrated conservation, sustainable resource use and access and benefit sharing captured and disseminated at the state and national level*

Component 3 Outputs

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

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

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

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

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

Output Indicator:All relevant material uploaded to National Biodiversity Authority digital platform and, central Ministry of Panchayati Raj e-gram swaraj portal

40. Output 3.1 will make available tools and products of the project through digital platforms. The activities under Output 3.3 will be carried out under the guidance of the central Project Steering Committee/Project Board, and day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the PMU, led by the communications and admin officer, with support from the state-level communications and admin officers, based in the landscape in Erode and Tura, and liaising closely with line departments at State level in Chennai and Shillong. Additional support will come from firms hired to support on scanning, digitization and digital storage. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 3.1.1 Digitalizing spatial & development plans

Upload to National Biodiversity Authority, central Ministry of Panchayati Raj e-gram swaraj portal and other digital platforms:
a. the 445 validated / updated People's Biodiversity Registers, including spatial data layers where available
b. The 2 landscape plans for Sathyamangalam and Garo Hills
c. Forest Reserve Working Plans and other spatial plans produced in project landscapes
d. 20 Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and 20 Meghalaya Village Level Development Plans (VLDPs) with biodiversity actions integrated, including spatial data layers where available.

Activity 3.1.2 Repository of training material

Upload to platform housed by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj all training material and tools related to mainstreaming biodiversity into village, block and district development planning and budgeting, for access by all States of India.

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

Output Indicator:Report on media strategies and campaigns at State and landscape level for public awareness on importance of biodiversity conservation, including One Health messaging

41. Output 3.2 will develop one central and two state communications strategies and implement them, including a sub-strategy on the importance of a One Health approach to rural development, highlighting the interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health and promote public awareness. The activities under Output 3.3 will be carried out under the guidance of the central Project Steering Committee/Project Board, and day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the PMU, led by the communications and admin officer, with support from the state-level communications and admin officers, based in the landscape in Erode and Tura, and liaising closely with line departments at State level in Chennai and Shillong. Additional support will come from firms hired to support on production of communications material and media dissemination. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 3.2.1 Communications strategy

Draw up communications strategy with State and landscape-specific media plan (radio, social media etc), covering biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use and rural development (with gender and social inclusion angles) linking to timeline of opportunities in the development planning and budgeting cycle.

Activity 3.2.2 One Health public awareness

Develop public messaging and communications sub-strategy on the importance of a One Health approach to rural development, highlighting interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health, the resultant vulnerabilities, and how these can be combated.

Activity 3.2.3 State and district media campaign

Implement communications strategy and sub-strategy in 6 project districts and 2 state capitals with rural and urban communities and decision-makers, using a combination of public service announcements, media releases and planned engagements – with billboards, TV, radio, newspapers, news websites and social media platforms.

Activity 3.2.4Biodiversity for development interns

Arrange internships through government co-finance and place young women and men as interns promoting the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development[25], and contributing to ongoing efforts – in Biodiversity Management Committees, rural development departments and State Biodiversity Boards[26].

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

Output Indicator: Archive of media products including lessons learnt products (short documents with photos or video clips) from 40 champion village clusters, knowledge exchange reports, documentaries showcasing results in and capturing learning from project landscapes, policy guidance notes, and slideshow presentations for conferences

42. Output 3.3 will capture lessons learnt and best practices and disseminate these, and showcase the project's work through national and international forums, platforms and networks. The activities under Output 3.3 will be carried out under the guidance of the central Project Steering Committee/Board, and day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the PMU, led by the communications and admin officer, with support from the state-level communications and admin officers, based in the landscape in Erode and Tura, and liaising closely with line departments at State level in Chennai and Shillong. Additional support will come from technical experts supporting communities to analyse and communicate lessons learnt, and firms hired to support on production of print and audio-visual materials, as well as organizing and facilitating of knowledge exchanges.

43. Documentariesshowcasing results in and capturing learning from project landscapes will be disseminated via social media, and through all partners' own websites, the Food and Land Use Coalition's India Country Platform, donor and technical partners and co-financiers, UNDP, BES-Net, BIOFIN and the Global Environment Facility. Dialogue between the project and the partner networks should be facilitated wherever possible, based on the exchange of these and other products. This output will also see the development of policy guidance notes with application in and beyond India and lessons learnt, and project champions will present these at relevant forums for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, and forest landscape restoration, e.g. BIOFIN, Conferences of the Parties to CBD and UNCCD, GEF Assembly, World Parks Congress, Global Landscapes Forum, UN Decade on Restoration etc.Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 3.3.1 Champion village lessons learnt series

Produce lessons learnt products (short documents with photos or video clips) from 40 champion village clusters (through Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils / traditional village councils), recording and

[25] Including developing learning products on mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, and on expansion of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs) in high biodiversity landscapes and biodiversity rich areas - see Activity 3.4.2.

[26]This will engage youth in State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Council to support in implementation of relevant activities at the State and Union Territory level (including constitution of BMCs, supporting them on preparation and updation of PBRs).

analysing at least one good practice each[27] – where biodiversity management is contributing to socio-economic development (with gender and social inclusion angles).

Activity 3.3.2 State and landscape knowledge exchanges

Facilitate knowledge exchanges within and across landscapes, including balance of men and women - leadership of 40 champion village clusters and key local officials, also sharing learning between Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, with additional exposure visits to good practices on local planning, e.g., to other states such as Kerala (KILA) for Tamil Nadu, and Tripura for Meghalaya participants.

Activity 3.3.3 Landscape results documentaries

Produce two short professional documentaries showcasing results in and capturing learning from project landscapes, and disseminate via social media, and through all partners' own websites, the Food and Land Use Coalition's India Country Platform, donor and technical partners and co-financiers, UNDP, BES-Net, BIOFIN and the Global Environment Facility.

Activity 3.3.4 Showcasing approach in international forums

Develop policy guidance notes and lessons learnt, and present at relevant forums for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, and forest landscape restoration, e.g., BIOFIN, Conferences of the Parties to CBD and UNCCD, GEF Assembly, World Parks Congress, Global Landscapes Forum, UN Decade on Restoration etc.

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

Output Indicator: Strategies for replication at State and national levels, including content for State Biodiversity Boards learning programme and national conference, with policy guidance notes where relevant

44. Output 3.4 will apply the learning from the project landscapes across the rest of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, and in other States of India, setting up pathways to scale. The activities under Output 3.4 will be carried out under the guidance of the central Project Steering Committee/Project Board, as well as the State and Landscape Coordination Committees in each of the two States. Day-to-day coordination of the work will be carried out by the PMU and the State & Landscape Coordinators, based in the landscape in Erode and Tura, and liaising closely with line departments at State level in Chennai and Shillong. Additional support will come from technical experts hired to support on the development of policy notes, with consulting firms hired to support workshop and conference organizing. Activities planned and budgeted for under this output are as follows:

Activity 3.4.1 Replicating across Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya

Organise workshops in Chennai and Shillong, co-hosted by State Biodiversity Boards and State Institutes for Rural Development, inviting all line departments, district councils & administrations, and male & female participants from local self-governance institutions and traditional structures, on lessons learnt and outcomes on biodiversity integration in development planning and budgeting processes.

Activity 3.4.2 State Biodiversity Boards learning programme

Facilitate an ongoing learning programme on mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development, including expansion of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Mechanisms (OECMs) - with all 28 State Biodiversity Boards and 8 Union Territory Biodiversity Council across India, utilizing the monthly online forum of SBBs/UTBCs

[27] Landscape Coordinators may enter some of three champion villages for ether the Panchayat Award: Ministry of Panchayati Raj in the NRM category (Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar)

facilitated by the National Biodiversity Authority, with support from SBB interns (see Activity 3.2.4).

Activity 3.4.3 National biodiversity mainstreaming conference

Hold conference at national level co-hosted by MoEFCC, the National Biodiversity Authority, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the central Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the central Ministry of Rural development, to disseminate lessons learnt on strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and local governance institutions for conservation, restoration and sustainable use in high-biodiversity landscapes.

Activity 3.4.4 National replication strategy

Draw together results from Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya workshops, SBB learning programme and national conference, and develop a national replication and resource mobilization strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, including prioritization of next set of high-biodiversity landscapes, as well as relevant policy notes.

45. Outputs from activities, and outcomes from project outputs and components, as well as overall results at project objective level, will be tracked and reported on through the project's Monitoring and Evaluation systems (see Section V below for full outline).

Partnerships

46. The project is being implemented with co-financing support from MoEFCC, as well as the two State Governments where the target landscapes fall, and which will also be engaged at State level for capacity development across the state, in mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting.

47. The co-finance is summarized in the table below:

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount ($)	Included in project results?[28]
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	Public Investment	6,744,307	No
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	In-kind	400,000	No
Government of Tamil Nadu	Public Investment	9,940,041	No
Government of Tamil Nadu	In-kind	355,000	No
Government of Meghalaya	Public Investment	11,686,931	No
UNDP	Grant	400,000	No
UNDP	In-kind	100,000	No
Total Co-financing		**29,626,279**	

Private Sector

[28] The In-kind amounts will contribute towards Project Management Costs (PMC).

Private sector engagement is an important part of the project design, as outlined in Component 2 "Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes". Although it was not possible to secure private sector co-finance before commencement of project implementation, the leveraging of private sector investment during the project is critical, and will be tracked and reported on in each annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), using data generated through the completion of the project tracking tool in *Annex 23 Biodiversity Priority Action Tracking Tool*, which captures cash and in-kind contributions from public and private sector co-financiers, leveraged during the project in support of implementation, and through Activity 2.1.4, which involves the design of a comprehensive "Tracking tool for biodiversity finance", to be used for measuring new sources of finance coming in to fund priority biodiversity actions in champion villages, and for use by the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans. Activity 2.3.4 will apply the new tool with leadership of champion villages, the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms.

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

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

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

- Firstly, there are 150 India-based private corporations identified by BIOFIN as having made expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation, some of which operate in

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

- Secondly, selected private companies commercially utilising biological resources in the project landscapes will be approached for negotiating Access and Benefit (ABS) agreements – for local species on which communities hold the traditional knowledge (see prodoc *Annex 27: List of potential livelihoods for enterprise development support*). The project Activity 2.2.7 aspires to add two more agreements through the BD project, potentially including *Citrus spp.* from Meghalaya, particularly those varieties with scientifically proven highest medicinal properties, i.e. Indian wild orange (*Citrus indica*) Khasi papeda (*Citrus latipes*), Chinotto (*Citrus myrtifolia*) and Pomelo (*Citrus grandis)*– for processing into powders for export markets – as sources of functional components, bioactive compounds, and antioxidants with nutritional, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anthelmintic, antibacterial, antifungal, and hypolipidemic properties. This specialized area of blended finance will be supported by a Biodiversity Governance Specialist (see *Annex 6 Overview of Project Staff and Technical Consultancies*).

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

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

Related Initiatives

48. The project is designed to build on and complement a number of recent and current related initiatives supported by the Government of India and its development partners, as set out in the table below. These include other projects funded through the GEF Trust Fund and the World Bank, and bilateral cooperation between the Governments of India and of Japan and Germany. The new GEF project (referred to as "the BD project" in the table below), is designed to build on this baseline of work and to ensure synergy with partners' work and avoid duplication. In one case (JICA initiative with the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency), the initiative is closely aligned to the GEF project objectives and will form co-finance to the project.

49. In addition to significant government co-finance through a multiplicity of schemes enabling biodiversity conservation and rural development in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, the partner agencies' parallel investments will help to meet the challenge of integrating biodiversity into local development planning to reverse environmental degradation and maximize sustainable livelihoods based on nature. The table below is divided into two parts – Part I provides more detail on current and recently completed initiatives with relevant lessons learned, and Part 2

highlights initiatives running concurrently with the BD project – for coordination and synergy.

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
Part I: Current and recently completed initiatives with relevant lessons learned		
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project – JICA and State of Tamil Nadu	The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project was financed by the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), which provided USD 71 million from 2011-12 to 2018-19. The project has been instrumental in reducing the threats to the native Biodiversity of the State and in enhancing the natural resource base besides improving the capacity of field staff. 80 million seedlings have been planted under Tree Cultivation in Private Lands from the beginning of the project covering an area of 1.43 million hectares farmland benefiting 87,299 farmers.	Useful lessons include the importance of strengthening of partnerships between conservation institutions (PAs and Forest Reserves) and Gram Panchayats and communities living in the vicinity of these areas to engage in resource protection through increased surveillance, monitoring and patrolling; monitoring threatened species; developing strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, wildlife crime and illegal logging.
India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) – GIZ and CII	The India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) was formed through a project funded from 2012-2017 by the German Government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), working with MoEFCC and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), and aiming to engage businesses in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The CII-hosted platform continues to operate today has 48 companies as members, who have signed a self-declaration to mainstream sustainable management of biological diversity in business, with 84 Biodiversity Champions working towards mainstreaming biodiversity at corporate and site level.	The IBBI will be an important focus of engagement for Activity 2.1.3 of the BD project – developing champion village resource mobilization strategies, including accessing Corporate Social Responsibility funding to support the implementation of biodiversity priority actions mainstreamed into local development planning.
Conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity in India – BMZ with MoEFCC	This German Government-supported project with MoEFCC from 2012 to 2020 through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has increased the awareness among a wide range of stakeholders both public and private about approaches towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This includes ongoing support to the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) and to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) India Initiative assessment of the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services for mainstreaming as factors in development planning and decision-making. The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	The BD project can learn from the results of the TEEB study, including 12 field-based primary assessments of biodiversity and ecosystems with relevance for policymakers, feeding this into Activity 1.3.1 developing new curricula with State Institutes of Rural Development. Activity 2.2.7 to develop new Access & Benefit Sharing agreements can build on the GIZ-NBA work to create awareness among commercial users of bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge for the effective implementation

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
	Partnership strengthened the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu and selected Biodiversity Management Committees.	of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
Environmental Benefits of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA-EB) – BMZ with MoRD	This German Government-supported project from 2013 to 2019 through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supported the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India and three states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan on establishing innovative models for holistic watershed and landscape based MGNREGA activities, using remote-sensing Geographic Information System (GIS) for Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) planning by 10,000 Gram Panchayats for MGNREGA (since the scheme mandates 60 per cent of its total expenditure every year (to be on NRM including water harvesting and conservation, afforestation, plantation, land and soil development.	Although the project was focused on NRM and not biodiversity, lessons can be learnt on how the MGNREGA scheme was leveraged, and the power of landscape-wide planning. The project was successful in afforestation of barren hillocks and renewal of cascade tanks in Andhra Pradesh, and block plantations preventing soil erosion in Chhattisgarh, with legal usufruct rights granted to SHGs. Other technical innovations included groundwater recharge wells, root zone water harvesting systems, drainage line treatments and participatory irrigation management.
Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions– UNEP with NBA	The project on Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Provisions, carried out from 2014 to 2015, was implemented by the MoEFCC through the National Biodiversity Authority, received USD3,5 million in funding from the GEF and supported by UNEP. The objective was to increase the institutional, individual and systemic capacities of stakeholders to effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Rules 2004 to achieve biodiversity conservation through implementing ABS agreements in India. This project was implemented in 10 states: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Odisha, Telangana, Tripura, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, with collaboration with the 10 State Biodiversity Boards.	A total of 244 ABS agreements have been signed in India, with the most well-known ones being for commercial use of Red Sanders wood, Neem leaves and Pepsico's agreement with coastal communities in Tamil Nadu to pay for access to seaweed and traditional knowledge on its uses. The BD project Activity 2.2.7 aspires to add two more agreements through the BD project, potentially including *Citrus spp.* from Meghalaya.
Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) – IFAD with MBMA	The Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP) is a state-wide project of Govt. of Meghalaya supported by a loan of USD 50 million from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). Running	The Megha-LAMP project has registered 300 Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) and trained them to run loan businesses and run aggregation

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
	from 2015 to end of 2022, implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, it aims at improving family incomes and quality of life in rural Meghalaya through expanded and sustainable livelihood opportunities adapted to the hill environment and effects of climate change. Megha-LAMP has had positive results in 1,350 villages in 18 blocks across all 11 districts - supporting new livelihood opportunities linked to markets (e.g. piggery, aromatic plants, beekeeping, spices); establishing Integrated Village Cooperative Societies; and implementing Natural Resource Management Plans on land (erosion control, degraded land reclamation); water (check dams, ring wells, spring tap chamber, irrigation canals); catchments (contour trenching and bunding, terracing, afforestation, desiltation).	centres. The services offered by successful IVCS can be tapped into by the BD project beneficiaries to expand businesses once established through the project.
Part II: Initiatives running concurrently with the GEF project – for coordination and synergy		
Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project- **World Bank and State of Meghalaya**	The Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP), being implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) from 2018 to 2023, utilizes a USD 48 million concessional loan from the World Bank (IBRD). The project supports communities across the State on preparing and implementing community landscape plans for restoring degraded forest, springs and water bodies, soil and water conservation, nature-based tourism, agro-forestry and homestead forestry. So far Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs) have been established in 445villages and have implemented 3,734 interventions over 18,126 hectares. The MCLLMP is also rolling out a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme supporting villages, communities, clans or individuals who commit to conserve and protect an area of over 5 hectares of Natural Forest for a minimum of 30 years – Rs 8,000 (USD 100) per ha per year for 5 years, and additional amounts if registered as a Community Reserve, or if very dense forest, a Sacred Grove, or in an eco-sensitive zone around a Protected Area.	Despite little or no overlap in the official implementation periods of the MCLLMP and BD projects, the PES scheme set up through MCLLMP will continue. Coordination with the PES scheme and supporting BD project beneficiary communities to access it will be an important incentive and will contribute to the BD project's goal of unlocking finance for conservation. The MCLLMP project has also highlighted a key reform in the forest sector which the BD project can build on: (i) Strengthening Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in forest management by working on traditional forest laws to align with state forest plans and updating based on landscape planning, (ii) bringing convergence between forests plans of the State and Village NRM plans, and (iii) bringing ADCs, State Forest and other stakeholder departments together at the institutional level platform to discuss convergence.
Community-Based Forest Management and	The Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihoods Improvement Project (MeCFLIP) is	Coordination with the MeCFLIP project will be essential for the BD

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

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
	fuel wood extraction, and (f) sharing experiences, learnings and success models with the public through workshops and meetings. The initial goals are to protect a total of 2,000 ha through community-run reserves; restore 170 ha through 125,000 native trees; hire three watchers from local communities and bring a total of 15,000 ha under biodiversity-friendly community plans.	
Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance – UNEP & IUCN with MoEFCC	This GEF 7 project (ID 10204), from 2022-2027, Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance, is supported by UNEP and has multiple executing entities including the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW); and (MoEFCC); The project aims to reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains and public- private finance.	While there is a priori no geographic overlap, this mainstreaming project also includes multi-stakeholder coordination and plans to work with Gram Panchayat in SLM and biodiversity conservation in micro-production landscapes and extrapolated to the landscape level. It also entails strengthening producer organizations, financial instruments, public-private partnerships and sustainable production systems.
Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in India, UNDP with MoEFCC	The Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in India, UNDP from 2021 to 2026 plans to have interventions in a number of States, including Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, and notably in Khasi Hills, nearby one of the target landscapes. The project will bring important learning in terms of community small grants to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, stimulating agro-ecological practices by small farmers, biodiversity-based organic green product developments, creation of stakeholder platforms, landscape governance arrangements, private-civil society partnerships, etc.	This programme plans interventions in one of the landscape sites in Meghalaya providing opportunities for learning and sharing lessons on using small grants to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, stimulating agro-ecological practices by small farmers, biodiversity-based organic green product developments. Potential exists for learning exchanges through Activity 3.3.2 of the BD project.
Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) – UNDP with Government of India	The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is a UNDP-managed global partnership with funding from the European Commission and the governments of Germany, Switzerland, Norway, and Flanders seeking to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner. The aim is to define biodiversity finance needs and gaps with greater precision through detailed national-level assessments, to determine challenges and opportunities for resource mobilization, and to build a stronger case for increased biodiversity investment. BIOFIN India is anchored in MoEFCC and hosted	The BD project will take forward the three prioritized biodiversity finance solutions of BIOFIN India through Activity 2.1.3 in which champion villages will develop resource mobilization strategies focused on a. Central and state government schemes and missions, b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements, and c. Corporate Social Responsibility. For the latter, BIOFIN's detailed review of 60

Title	Objectives/Results/Outcomes	Implications for GEF project
	in the National Biodiversity Authority, collaborating with UNDP and other partners to implement the BIOFIN methodology at the national level, and pilot it in the States of Maharashtra and Uttarakhand – with 5 other states and 1 Union territory to follow. The project has supported the government in assessment of the national level finance gap for implementing the National Biodiversity Action Plan and identified 12 country specific finance solutions in a national biodiversity finance plan. Three solutions are being piloted to demonstrate its potential to leverage finance for biodiversity in the country: mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance (in agriculture sector), Corporate Social Responsibility and Access and Benefit Sharing.	public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation will be drawn upon. The project's Output will also apply BIOFIN method and approaches in supporting local governance institutions, communities and officials to develop their capacity to access additional financial resources, and also to track biodiversity-relevant expenditure.

Risks

50. A complete Risk Register is included in Annex 5 of this project document. In a nutshell, the following key risks could be identified:
    i. Lack of support for the project by government institutions
    ii. Turnover in government agencies
    iii. Complex fund flow mechanisms and low capacity for efficient disbursement
    iv. Inadequate capacity for integrated natural resource planning and management
    v. Enforcement of biodiversity conservation actions could restrict access to natural and cultural resources
    vi. Potential exclusions of marginalized / vulnerable groups from participatory processes
    vii. Potential to inadvertently height social tensions leading to GBV
    viii. Potential discrimination against or exclusion of women leading to resistance of the local traditional structures to women empowerment
    ix. Low buy-in from local communities on sustainable livelihood activities
    x. Risk of land-related conflicts due to issues relating to land use, forest activities and benefit sharing
    xi. Risk of increase in Human Wildlife Conflict
    xii. Risk of ill-adapted conservation measures generating inadvertent perturbation to the local ecosystem
    xiii. Risk of businesses and forest-based enterprises supported by project leading to unsustainable use of natural resources
    xiv. Risk of misuse of traditional knowledge
    xv. Potential to inadvertently increase vulnerability to climate change.

51. In addition, the project has integrated an analysis of the Social and Environmental Safeguard risks. The project is classified Substantial Risk according to the Social and Environmental

Screening Procedure (SESP) which was conducted during PPG. A list of 11 risks, detailed in the SESP (*Annex 4*) was identified. The following principles and standards are triggered:

- **Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind**
  - ✓ Human Rights
  - ✓ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
  - ✓ Accountability

- **Standards**
  - ✓ 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
  - ✓ 2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks
  - ✓ 3. Cultural Heritage
  - ✓ 4. Displacement and Resettlement
  - ✓ 5. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
  - ✓ 6. Labour and Working Conditions

52. The Environmental and Social Management Framework and a Social Inclusion Planning Frame work including a gender-responsive and culturally sensitive Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol have been designed during PPG. This ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines, and procedures for screening, assessing, and managing the potential social and environmental impacts of forthcoming interventions of the project. It contains measures and plans to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, reduce, mitigate, and/or offset adverse risks and impacts. It specifies the most likely applicable social and environmental policies and requirements, as well as how those requirements will be met through procedures for the screening, assessment, approval, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting of social and environmental risks and impacts associated with the activities to be supported. It ensures that the activities are screened and assessed, and that appropriate management measures are in place prior to implementation. The procedures have been designed to ensure compliance with relevant social and environmental policy frameworks, including India's legal, policy, and institutional framework, as well as with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. The ESMF aims to effectively address risks through thorough application of the environmental and social measures, including time-bound action plans for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating, and managing adverse impacts related to the future activities or policies/regulations.

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

Environmental and social elements	Description
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	In accordance with UNDP's SES policy, high-risk projects require comprehensive forms of assessment. An ESIA assesses the full range of social and environmental impacts, including alternatives analysis. It will be developed and carried out by independent experts in a participatory manner with stakeholders during the inception phase. The ESIA will further identify and assess social and environmental impacts of the project and its area of influence; evaluate alternatives; and design appropriate avoidance,

	mitigation, management, and monitoring measures. It will address all relevant issues related to the SES Overarching Principles and Project-level Standards.
Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)	A key output of the ESIA is an ESMP, prepared within the first six months of project implementation, to further refine risk identification and mitigation strategies, as well as to establish a system for monitoring these risks. Based on the findings, required management plans (e.g. Indigenous Peoples Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan) will be developed and implemented as appropriate.
Development of specific plans	In order to address specific high risks, the project's ESMP will be complemented by: • Livelihood Action Plan (LAP) • Social Inclusion Peoples Plan (IPP) • Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
Operationalization of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)	The full details of the GRM will be agreed upon during the ESIA phase and the project will establish a project-level GRM at the start of implementation. Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time with the Project Management Office, the government party, UNDP, or the GEF.
Operationalization of the Gender Action Plan	A Gender Action Plan has been developed during the project's design phase. It will guide all actions pertaining to SES implementation and gender-mainstreaming. It offers specific activities, from capacity-building to specific consultation activities, allowing all women to fully engage with the project and decision-making processes.
Operationalization of the Social Inclusion Planning Framework and development of an associated FPIC protocol	A Social Inclusion Planning Framework including a gender-responsive and culturally sensitive Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol have been designed during PPG. It will guide all actions pertaining to SES implementation. The FPIC protocol for each of the landscapes has been developed together with the local communities, thereby enabling them to get extensive information about the project and associated possible positive and negative consequences. The FPIC protocol will be applied to each activity of the project, as communities will be allowed to provide their consent to be part of them, ask for modifications, or withdraw their consent.

Stakeholder engagement and south-south cooperation

54. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (*Annex 9b*) outlines the manner in which stakeholders will be engaged during project implementation. This includes a wide range of government stakeholders to be engaged at national, state and district level, as well as local governance institutions and community organizations. It also outlines a process for ensuring the inclusion of socially marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes[29].The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (*Annex 9b*) also sets out the mechanisms through which various stakeholder groupings will input into the project governance and coordination structures (see also Section VII: Governance, Coordination and Management Arrangements).

55. In addition, to bring the voice of India to global and regional fora, and to support south-south cooperation, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on mainstreaming biodiversity into local governance. Component 3 of the project involves

[29]The Constitution of India recognizes three legal categories of historically disadvantaged people in India – Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes.

disseminating documentaries showcasing results in and capturing learning from project landscapes, and disseminating these via social media, and through all partners' own websites, the Food and Land Use Coalition's India Country Platform, donor and technical partners and co-financiers, UNDP, BES-Net, BIOFIN and the Global Environment Facility. This component will also see the development of policy guidance notes with application in and beyond India (e.g. on OECMs, scheme access and private sector engagement for blended finance, and nature-based enterprises) and lessons learnt, and project champions will present these at relevant forums for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, and forest landscape restoration, e.g. BIOFIN, Conferences of the Parties to CBD and UNCCD, GEF Assembly, World Parks Congress, Global Landscapes Forum, UN Decade on Restoration etc.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

56. A full gender analysis and gender action plan is included as *Annex 11*. The major recommendation of the gender analysis and action plan is that the project needs to address three key gender gaps, all of which were found through the gender analysis to apply to a significant degree in the Sathyamangalam-Nilgiri landscape in Tamil Nadu, and in the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape (Garo Hills) in Meghalaya (for a detailed context-specific analysis, see *Annex 11*):i) Unequal access to and control of natural resources; ii) Unbalanced participation and decision-making in environmental planning and governance at all levels; and iii) Uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services.

57. The project's gender mainstreaming strategy is cognizant of differences between men and women in terms of needs, priorities, the division of labor and access to knowledge and resources that have been identified in the gender analysis. Its objective is to make a framework for the project team to ensure that women and men are equally involved in the project and receive equitable social and economic benefits, and that any gender-related risk in the project is avoided, minimised and/or mitigated. It supports the GEF's ambition to shift from a gender-aware, "do no harm" approach to a gender-responsive, "do good" approach, and includes the following entry points:

58. **Gender training and gender manuals to strengthen capacities of stakeholders:** It was observed during the various stakeholder consultations as well as the meeting with the RIRD&PR that the government officials and even the master trainers lack capacity to meaningfully address gender issues. For this, the project will develop and deliver gender training for both the landscapes' coordination committees/PMU as well as the master trainers. These gender trainings will be targeted at both men and women and not just women, to sensitize everyone about gender issues. This builds on the understanding that 'gender' issues do not mean 'women' issues, and how men need to be allies in mainstreaming gender in project activities.

59. Additionally, to address the gap mentioned in the RIRD gender manual, the project will also develop relevant gender-responsive training manuals, including for women in leadership, gender and NRM, which will also further be used by SIRD and NIRD.

60. **Ensuring women's representation and meaningful participation in decision-making:** Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and the National Green Tribunal's mandate of a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) in every local governing body with not less than one third should be women has enabled the formation of BMCs in the Gram Panchayats and villages that the PPG Team visited. However, those BMCs needs to be strengthened and their capacities needs to be built up. While the project will directly work with the local self-governance institutions to revive and strengthen these BMCs in order to support them in validating and updating their People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR), it will also work towards ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment via their proper representation and meaningful participation, and also by including women's traditional knowledge in the PBRs.

61. The role of women is essential in management of biological and natural resources. Despite reservation, their level of engagement as well as participation in decision-making, planning and implementation of development and conservation plans is relatively low. In addition, women representatives often also fail to attend or understand the institutionalized training. To support meaningful participation of women in decision-making, the project will facilitate leadership programmes/training to strengthen and enhance the capacities of the women members of the selected champion Gram Panchayats and VECs/Nokma Village Councils.

62. The project will also carry out leadership support and gender-responsive training for men and women participants from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes who are granted special access to communal land in Sathyamangalam landscape for project activities, ensuring social inclusion in biodiversity conservation. Field visits and interactions with women revealed that women who are associated with SHGs and wherever the SHGs movement is good, the awareness of women, communication level and participation in various social and business activities is high. The project will promote women in the landscape to associate with one or the other groups. Additionally, the project will also strengthen the capacities of the SHGs so that biodiversity conservation awareness can then be taken up via them.

63. **Participatory land-use planning to meet the needs of all:** Since the project is mainly about strengthening the capacities of the local self-governance institutions to secure biodiversity conservation commitments, it will not directly work towards increasing access to land for men or women. However, since both the project landscapes have communal areas that can be restored to achieve the project target of restoration of land/forest areas, land use planning is an important output. The project will thus undertake a participatory approach involving inputs from both men and women including the marginalised sections of the community as part of the development planning and restoration process to take collective action on the communal land so that it is able to meet the needs of all and not just a selected few. In this, social inclusion is a significant component of the project.

64. **Gender-responsive communication strategy to spread awareness:** Many communities are directly dependent on the forests for their livelihoods and incomes, as a result of which they are attached to them. They understand their importance and are also first-hand experiencing the negative impacts of climate change as their forest-dependent livelihood options are deteriorating. However, if given the option to choose between affording the basic necessities of life for survival even if it requires ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, and

biodiversity conservation without any incentives, many will choose the former, as is evident from the example of the Baladingre village in West Garo. The community consultations have highlighted that there is a general lack of awareness about biodiversity conservation amongst the communities. Therefore, to address this, the project will develop a targeted and gender-responsive communications strategy to sensitize as well as spread awareness. The strategy will build on how men and women access and process information differently.

65. **Sustainable livelihoods to enable access to socio-economic benefits and services:** Lack of livelihood opportunities has been reiterated by the communities as well as the DFOs and DCs of the regions. It is also one of the major reasons why communities exploit natural resources. Opportunities to generate additional income are powerful incentives for both genders, yet women are more likely to respond to them because women in both the landscapes are well aware about the importance of good education and health for their children. The project will therefore facilitate promotion of women-led/women-dominant livelihoods based on their hobbies and interests as mentioned in the gender analysis. The project will also facilitate skill and capacity building training on 'Women in Business' for the participants of SHGs, including those from lower castes.

66. It is important to understand that the intersection of gender with other social categorizations and identities, especially caste in India, increases vulnerability, making it difficult for them to access resources and income. The project will therefore also facilitate and promote activities focusing on their empowerment. Through this, the project will enable women's access to socio-economic benefits, services and markets which is important for their financial independence as well as empowerment. This will further help deliver global environment benefits in areas of protection of natural resources and restoration.

67. The project will focus on incentivising conservation by promoting sustainable, forest-based, eco-friendly enterprises or a set of enterprises in a value chain for the communities. Keeping in mind how facilitating only women-led livelihoods can present a potential safeguard risk in terms of an increase in internal conflicts due to the strict gender roles followed in some hamlets and villages as mentioned above in the gender analysis, the project will also support mixed-gender livelihoods specifying the roles and activities for women and men for their optimum representation, participation, and empowerment.

68. A full Gender Plan giving practical form to the above strategy is outlined in Annex 11, together with the gender budget. This includes a number of any gender-responsive measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. In particular, capacity building interventions targeted at building women's practical governance and business skills will address both improving women's participation and decision making; and generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. The project's results framework (outcome level indicators) includes gender-sensitive indicators.

Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up

69. The project is innovative in bringing together two elements of local governance in India – on the one hand the biodiversity conservation system with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs),

and on the other hand the system of local development planning and budgeting – to unlock biodiversity-positive actions at village level in two high biodiversity landscapes, providing a model for replication elsewhere in India.

70. The model piloted and the lessons learnt in the landscapes will be shared across the States of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, and with the other States of India through the SBBs that are convened together regularly through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The project will help to improve the implementation of the provisions of India's Biological Diversity Act 2002 in the two target States, by empowering not only the SBBs at state level, but also the BMCs at the local and district levels. The project will further help in digitizing the PBRs.

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

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

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

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

75. The project also includes a sustainability strategy for the forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises, which are themselves key to providing incentives for long term biodiversity conservation. Component 2 supports communities in champion villages on establishing, operating, and putting on a sound business footing by project end, at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts. Hands-on support will be provided by full-time Community Facilitators, managing the work of specialized NGO partners and business incubation service providers. Through Activity 2.2.5 they will deliver a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment and accessing central and State Schemes and Missions, developing full business plans, including sustainability plan that involves phasing out subsidization of input supply through the project, as cash flow increases. Securing the long-term survival of the forest-based and eco-friendly enterprises by placing them on a sound business footing is crucial for the continuation of the incentive they provide for biodiversity conservation, and the model they provide for replication within and beyond the project landscapes.

IV. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17					
Strategic Plan Outcome: #3 Resilience built to systemic uncertainty and risk.					
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNSDF/CPD): By 2027, Government of India, state governments, communities, private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of relevant actions across sectoral programmes, policies and plans.					
	Objective and Outcome Indicators		**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use/management into local development planning and budgeting systems in two high biodiversity landscapes in India, and create platforms for replication.	1	**Indicator 1***(GEF Core indicator 11)*:*Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)*	0 women 0 men	3,000 people - 1,500 women participating in training or livelihoods activities - 1,500 men participating in training or livelihoods activities	8,000 people - 4,000 women participating in training or livelihoods activities - 4,000 men participating in training or livelihoods activities
	2	**Indicator 2***(GEF Core Indicator 1)*: *Total area of terrestrial protected areas to be under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)*	0 hectares	68,000 hectares	200,528 hectares
	3	**Indicator 3** *(GEF Core Indicator 3)*:*Total area of land to be restored (ha)*	0 hectares	1,350 hectares	4,000 hectares
	4	**Indicator 4***(GEF Core Indicator 4)*:*Total area of land to come under improved land use practices (ha)*	0 hectares	91,000 hectares	272,000 hectares
	5	**Indicator 5***(GEF Core indicator 6)*:*tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions which will be avoided or reduced as a result of project interventions (t)*	0 tonnes	2,000,000 tonnes	5,349,603 tonnes
Project Component 1	**Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India**				
Outcome 1	**Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes developed and implemented**				
Outcome 1 Indicators	6	**Indicator 6:***Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 200,528 hectares improved by at least 15 points from the baseline (out of a maximum possible score of 100)*	Baseline METT scores (based on two yearly MEE): Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 66 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 67	METT scores (based on two yearly MEE) of at least: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 69 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 72	METT scores (based on two yearly MEE) of at least: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 76 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 77 Nokrek National Park 62

			Nokrek National Park 52 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 35 Balpakram National Park 55	Nokrek National Park 57 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 40 Balpakram National Park 60	Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 45 Balpakram National Park 65
	7	**Indicator 7:** *Improved institutional capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)*	14 points	17 points	21 points
	8	**Indicator 8:***Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into at least 445 Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans*	0 local development plans with biodiversity integrated	150 local development plans with biodiversity integrated	445 local development plans with biodiversity integrated
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	**Output 1.1** Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes **Output 1.2** Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development **Output 1.3** Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for rural development **Output 1.4** Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting **Output 1.5** Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level **Output 1.6** Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions				
Project Component 2	**Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes**				
Outcome 2	**Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on the lessons and learning from BIOFIN**				
Outcome 2 Indicators	9	**Indicator 9:** *Number of new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes*	0 new instruments	1 new instrument	3 new instruments
	10	**Indicator 10:***Total amount of new funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in 40 champion village clusters*	Little to no relevant funding or goods and services per champion village cluster	Funding (or goods and services to the value) of at least $10,000 per champion village cluster	Funding (or goods and services to the value) of at least $50,000 per champion village cluster
	11	**Indicator 11:***Increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard) with baseline established in Year 1*	Baseline score to be determined during Year 1 and log frame updated through PIR	At least 15% increase on baseline	At least 30% increase on baseline
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	**Output 2.1** Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed for landscape and local plans **Output 2.2**Establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use **Output 2.3** Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments				

Project Component 3	**Knowledge and data management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India**				
Outcome 3	**Improved understanding of stakeholders on benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation**				
Outcome 2 Indicators	12	**Indicator 12:***Level of awareness of value of and threats to biodiversity, and options for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development amongst sample of residents across 445 villages, as indicated by score on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey*	Baseline score to be determined during Year 1 and log frame updated through PIR	At least 20% increase on baseline	At least 40% increase on baseline
	13	**Indicator 13:***At least 20 good practices of integrated conservation, sustainable resource use and access and benefit sharing captured and disseminated at the state and national level*	0 good practices	5 good practices	20 good practices
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	**Output 3.1** Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes **Output 3.2** Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning **Output 3.3** Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums **Output 3.4** Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India				

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

76. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP India Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.

77. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[30]. The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

78. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management, as well as biophysical and/or socio-economic monitoring of results, will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Project monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Workshop and Report

79. A project inception workshop will be held within 2 months from the First disbursement date. This will involve three events – at central level in New Delhi, and at state/landscape level in either Chennai or Erode and either Shillong or Tura for the Tamil Nadu / Sathyamangalam landscape and the Meghalaya / Garo Hills landscape respectively. These workshops will aim to:
    a. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
    b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including central PMU and State/ landscape coordination teams, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
    c. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
    d. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify who will carry out biophysical and/or socio-economic monitoring of results during and beyond the project lifetime; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
    e. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework (where relevant) and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
    f. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
    g. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan. Finalize the TOR of the ProjectBoard and State/Landscape Coordination Committees.
    h. Formally launch the Project.

[30] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)

80. The annual GEF PIR, covering the reporting period from July of the previous year up to June of the current year, will be completed for each year of project implementation. UNDP will undertake quality assurance of the PIR before submission to the GEF. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. UNDP will conduct a quality review of the PIR, and this quality review and feedback will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent annual PIR.

GEF Core Indicators

81. The GEF Core indicators, included as *Annex 15*, will be used to monitor global environmental benefits, and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to the Mid-term review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE). The Technical Coordination Unit the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status (see *Annex 7)*. The updated monitoring data should be shared with the MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so that this data can be used for subsequent ground-truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website. The required Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METTs) have been prepared and the scores included in the GEF Core Indicators.

82. **Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):** An independent mid-term review (MTR) will be completed by the mid-point of the project. The terms of reference, the MTR process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and MTR guidance for UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. The MTR must be submitted to the GEF by the mid-point of the project but no later than 48 months after CEO Endorsement. To meet the submission deadline, final MTR reports must be completed and submitted to BPPS NCE team no later than 2 months in advance of the submission deadline to allow sufficient time for internal review/clearance that is required prior to submission. Provisions must be taken to complete and submit the MTR within the submission deadline. Therefore, the MTR process must start no later than 8 months before expected date of submission of the MTR.

83. The MTR will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluator(s) that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be reviewed. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

84. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the MTR process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/Environment team.

85. The final MTR report will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by the MTR submission date included on cover page of this project document. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's submission to the GEF.

86. **Terminal Evaluation (TE):** An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and TE guidance for UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. TE must be submitted to the GEF no later than 6 months after the Completion Date. This is a hard deadline that, if not met, can only be extended through a formal extension request. To meet the submission deadline, final TE reports must be completed and submitted to BPPS Environment team no later than 2 months in advance of the deadline to allow sufficient time for internal review/clearance that is required prior to submission. Provisions must be taken to complete and submit the TE within the submission deadline. Therefore, TE must start no later than 8 months before the expected date of submission of the TE (or 11 months prior to the estimated operational closure date).

87. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluator(s) that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

88. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from BPPS Environment team.

    The final TE report will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by the TE submission date included on cover page of this project document. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report submission to the GEF.

    Per the GEF Terminal Evaluation requirements, for cancelled full-sized projects, Terminal Evaluations are required if the GEF grant expenditure exceeds more than US$ 2 million.

89. **Final Report:** The project's final GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans.

90. **Monitoring Plan:** The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored by the Project Management Unit annually, and will be reported in the GEF PIR every year, and will be evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. Project risks, as outlined in the risk register, will be monitored quarterly.

Results Monitoring	Indicators	Targets	Description of indicators and targets	Data source/Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsible for data collection	Means of verification	Risks/Assumptions
Project objective from the results framework	**Indicator 1**: # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	*Mid-term:* 3,000 people, i.e. 1,500 women and 1,500 men participating in training or livelihoods activities *Project end:* 8,000 people, i.e. 4,000 women and 4,000 men participating in training or livelihoods activities	The direct beneficiaries of the project are all those individuals who receive training, participate in capacity development programmes, or are members of self help groups or cooperatives receiving support on enterprise development	The targets are based on project design work done during the PPG. Registers will be kept for every project meeting, workshop and training course, as well as lists of members of new governance structures benefitting from enterprise support – all disaggregated by gender	Annually Reported in DO tab of the GEF PIR	Registers to be kept and annual beneficiary reports to be assembled by the two State & Landscape Experts and aggregated by the Consultant: M&E, Safeguards and Gender	Annual beneficiary reports (fed into PIR)	Assumption: it will be possible to involve men and women equally in all activities. Risk: It may emerge that some activities, for example, training of governance officials (in Output 1.3) are skewed towards men because of the existing composition of local governance institutions. If so, then some of the livelihoods support (in Output 2.2) will need to be deliberately skewed towards women in

								order to meet this overall project target.
	Indicator 2*(GEF Core Indicator 1): Total area of terrestrial protected areas to be under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)*	*Mid-term:* 68.000 ha *Project end:* 200,528 ha	This indicator will track interventions carried out through the project in the five core PAs in the two landscapes that will contribute to improved management. These include 3 Protected Areas in Meghalaya covering 27,268 hectares (Nokrek National Park – 4,748 hectares, Balpakram National Park – 22,000 hectares and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary – 520 hectares) and 2 PAs in Tamil Nadu covering 173,260 hectares (Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve of 141,161 hectares and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve of 32,099 hectares).	Protected Areas Progress Report by each of the two by Forest Departments (with GHADC in Meghalaya) on achievement of joint forest management actions, protocols developed, community training completed and results achieved in relation to project targets and landscape plans.	Annually Reported in DO tab of the GEF PIR	Two State & Landscape Coordinators in collaboration with two State Forest Departments (Field Directors of the two Tiger Reserves, and District Forest officials for West and South Garo Hills Districts who cover Nokrek and Balpakram&Siju respectively)	Annual Protected Areas Progress Report (fed into PIR)	Assumption: Project activities in Output 1.6"Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions" contribute significantly to improved management effectiveness of the five core PAs in the two landscapes. Risk: Agreement will not be reached timeously in the relevant Forest Departments on what constitutes improved management for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
	Indicator 3*(GEF Core Indicator 3):Total area of land to be*	*Mid-term:* 1,350 ha *Project end:*	This indicator will track restoration activities to be carried out over a	Forest Department tracking tool for each landscape, to track progress	Annually Reported in DO tab of	Two State & Landscape Coordinators in collaboration	Summary of progress on restoration targets (using	Assumption: Sufficient areas of degraded forest land will be identified and

	restored (ha)	4,000 ha	total of 4,000 hectares (across the two landscapes) of forested land or degraded forest land, restoring ecosystem functioning and biodiversity, through natural regeneration, clearing of invasive alien vegetation, enrichment planting, and intensive mixed-use agroforestry.	towards landscape plan, and towards project target for area of restored	the GEF PIR	with District Forest Officials in each of 6 project districts (plus support from Foresters of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council)	tracking tool) in annual Project Implementation Report	agreement reached in communities on restoration targets, and future use of restored lands. Risk: Insufficient funds will be successfully accessed through relevant schemes to undertake restoration activities.
	Indicator 4*(GEF Core Indicator 4):Total area of land to come under improved land use practices (ha)*	*Mid-term:* 91,000 ha *Project end:* 272,000 ha	This indicator will track the area of project landscapes outside PAs that comes under improved management to benefit biodiversity through two distinct sets of project activities (a: 6,000 + b: 266,000 = total: 272,000 ha) as follows: (a) Improved management practices in 6,000	Improved Management Progress Report and completed Forest Department tracking tool for each landscape, to track progress towards landscape plan, and towards project target for area under improved management: (a) in communal GP/village lands (6,000 ha) (b) in Reserve Forests (266,000 ha) i.e. Reserve Forests in Sathyamangalam -Nilgiri landscape	Annually Reported in DO tab of the GEF PIR	Two State & Landscape Coordinators in collaboration with District Forest Officials in each of 6 project districts	Improved Management Progress Report (a targets and b targets) and completed Forest Department tracking tool fed into annual Project Implementation Report	Assumption a: Actions undertaken in communal forests or village lands through Activity 1.5.1 "Champion village clusters' biodiversity priority actions" will involve improved land and forest management that benefits biodiversity. Assumption b: Project Activity 1.6.3 "Mainstream biodiversity into Reserve Forest working plans", which involves supporting the updating of Working Plans for Reserve

			hectares of communally owned land in the 40 champion village lands (b) Improved management practices in 266,000 hectares of state-owned Reserve Forests (OECMs rather than strict PAs) through integration of biodiversity and ecosystem 62pprox.62ation into forest working plans	covering 62pprox..*256,709 ha*(in Erode Forest Division 82,144 ha, in North and South Nilgiris Divisions 62 approx.. 51,294 ha, in Coimbatore Forest Division 123,265 ha) and Reserve Forests in Nokrek-Balpakram landscape covering 9,297 *ha*(Tura Peak 419 ha,Emangiri 829 ha,Rewak 647 ha, Baghmara 4,391 ha,Angratoli 3,011 ha). *256,709 ha + 9,297 ha* = 266,000 ha				Forests toincorporate biodiversity management, will lead to improved land and forest management that benefits biodiversity. Risk: Clarity will not be reached between the PMU and the relevant Forest Departments on what constitutes improved land use practices.
	Indicator 5*(GEF Core indicator 6):Number of tons of CO_2-equivalent emissions which will be avoided or reduced as a result of project interventions (t)*	*Mid-term:* 2,000,000 t *Project end:* 5,349,603 t	This indicator will track avoided emissions as a result of : a) areas of degraded forest land that are restored (4,000 ha in total, outside PAs) and b) slowing deforestation through better	Forest Department applies FAO Ex-ACT carbon tool for each landscape, to track progress towards emissions reduction / avoidance target	Twice – Project Midpoint and Project End	M&E, Safeguards and Gender Consultant supporting the central PMU in collaboration with District Forest Officials in each of 6 project districts, and additional	Summary of progress on ER targets (using Ex-ACT Tool) fed into Mid Term Evaluation, and Terminal Evaluation	Assumptions:A number of assumptions have been made in completing the estimations for GHG emissions reductions, and are captured in *Annex 15b* and *15c*

			management of 200,528 ha inside PAs (of which 143,096 ha are forested); and 266,000 ha of forest outside PAs (of which 187,134 ha are forested)			specialist expertise if necessary		
Project Outcome 1 Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes developed and implemented (3 indicators)	***Indicator 6:*** *Management effectiveness of 5 protected areas covering 200,528 hectares improved by at least 15 points from the baseline* Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 66 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 67 Nokrek National Park 52 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 35 Balpakram National Park 55	*Mid-term:* METT scores (based on two yearly MEE) of at least: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 69 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 72 Nokrek National Park 57 Siju Wildlife Sanctuary 40 Balpakram National Park 60 *Project end:* METT scores (based on two yearly MEE) of at least: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve 76 Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve 77 Nokrek National Park 62 Siju Wildlife	This indicator will track trends in management effectiveness of the five core Protected areas in the two landscapes: Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nokrek National Park, Balpakram National Park and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary	Overall score for each PA as per Management Effectiveness Evaluation, conducted in 2020-2021 (Baseline); 2024-2025 (Mid-Term) and 2026-2027 (Endpoint), carried over into METT Tracking Tool	Biennial	Wildlife Institute of India, in support of Forest Department in each PA	Biennial Management Effectiveness Evaluation, with information fed into METT Tracking Tool for Mid Term Evaluation, and Terminal Evaluation	Assumption: It will be possible to attribute improvements in management effectiveness directly to project interventions to a measurable degree Risk: Some of the PAs might not achieve the desired improvements in management effectiveness

		Sanctuary 45 Balpakram National Park 65						
	Indicator 7:*Improved institutional capacities for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning (as measured by at least 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline score)*	*Mid-term:* 17 points *Project end:* 21 points (out of a maximum possible of 45)	This indicator will track improvements in capacity by the key government agencies and local governance structures involved in the project, as assessed using the UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Twice – Project Midpoint and Project End	M&E, Safeguards and Gender Consultant in the PMU	Scorecard Forms, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, Terminal Evaluation	Assumption: The PMU will be in a good position to assess capacity, and changes over time Risk: Some of the key stakeholders might not achieve the desired improvements in capacity
	Indicator 8: *Biodiversity Conservation outcomes integrated into at least 445 Gram Panchayat (GP) and Village Employment Council (VEC) Development Plans*	*Mid-term:* 130 local development plans with biodiversity integrated *Project end:* 445 local development plans with biodiversity integrated	This indicator will track the number of local development plans (for Gram panchayats and Village Employment Councils) that have biodiversity actions successfully integrated into them	Report to PMU by State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRD)	Twice – Project Midpoint and Project End	M&E, Safeguards and Gender Consultant in the PMU, in collaboration with the two State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRD)	Annual landscape reports, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, and Terminal Evaluation	Assumption: The SIRD trainers will maintain contact with trainees following the completion of the training, to assess the medium-term results in terms of development planning Risk: Some local governance institutions will not succeed in producing local development plans with biodiversity integrated, despite the training

Project Outcome 2 Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on the lessons and learning from BIOFIN (3 indicators)	***Indicator 9:****At least three new biodiversity-friendly financial instruments developed and tested in the two landscapes*	*Mid-term:* 1 new instrument *Project end:* 3 new instruments	This indicator will track the number of new financial instruments accessed and utilized as a result of project interventions	Report by financial experts under contract with the project	Twice – Project Midpoint and Project End	National Project Officer and financial experts under contract with the project	Financial progress tracking tool, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, and Terminal Evaluation	Assumption: The project will be successful at least in accessing central and state government schemes, and Corporate Social Responsibility, hopefully also in concluding Access and Benefit Sharing agreements
	Indicator 10:*Total amount of new funding for biodiversity conservation and activities that focus on sustainable use and management of natural resources in 40 champion village clusters*	*Mid-term:* Funding or goods and services to the value of at least $10,000 per champion village cluster *Project end:* Funding or goods and services to the value of at least $50,000 per champion village cluster	This indicator will track the new funding accessed by the 40 champion villages to support undertaking of biodiversity actions in local development plans	Report to Landscape Coordinators by NGOs supporting champion villages, using tracking tool developed by financial experts under contract with the project	Twice – Project Midpoint and Project End	Two State & Landscape Experts	Financial progress tracking tool, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, and Terminal Evaluation	Assumption: The new funds received as a result of project interventions will be carefully racked and reported upon Risk: Insufficient funds will be successfully accessed through relevant schemes to undertake biodiversity priority actions in local development plans
	Indicator 11: *Increase in capacity of block and district officials to effectively use new financial instruments (as measured using UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard) with*	*Mid-term:* At least 15% increase on baseline score *Project end:* At least 30% increase on baseline score	This indicator will track improvements in capacity by the key government agencies and local governance structures involved in the project, as assessed using the UNDP Capacity	UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Three times: Year 1 of project (to establish baseline), Project Midpoint and Project End	M&E, Safeguards and Gender Consultants, supported by financial experts under contract with the project	Scorecard Forms, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, Terminal Evaluation	Assumption: The financial experts will be in a position to make an accurate assessment of block and district officials' capacity, and changes over time Risk: Some of the officials might not achieve the desired improvements in

	baseline established in Year 1		Development Scorecard					capacity
Project Outcome 3 Improved understanding of stakeholders on benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation	***Indicator 12:****Level of awareness of value of and threats to biodiversity, and options for mainstreaming biodiversity into rural development amongst sample of residents across 445 villages, as indicated by score on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey*	*Mid-term:* At least 20% increase on baseline score *Project end:* At least 20% increase on baseline score	This indicator will track improvements in residents' awareness on the links between biodiversity conservation and rural development, through a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey conducted with a sample of the 445 villages participating in the training programme (Output 1.3)	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey forms and reports on results	Three times: Year 1 of project (to establish baseline), Project Midpoint and Project End	M&E, Safeguards and Gender Consultants, supported by survey firm	Survey reports, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, Terminal Evaluation	<u>Assumption:</u> Significant amounts of knowledge and understanding will filter through to the villagers whose leadership participate in the training programme to integrate biodiversity into local development planning <u>Risk:</u> Significant improvements in awareness might be limited to the 40 champion villages where more intensive technical support is provided through the project
	Indicator 13:*At least 20 good practices of integrated conservation, sustainable resource use and access and benefit sharing captured and disseminated at the state and national level*	*Mid-term:* 5 good practices *Project end:* 20 good practices	This indicator will track the number of good practices captured in short lessons learnt documents with photos or video clips from 40 champion village clusters, recording and analyzing at least one good practice each – where biodiversity	Lessons learnt products, produced by communities and NGOs supporting champion villages, with help from media firm	Twice – Project Midpoint and Project End	NGOs supporting champion villages, with help from media firm	NGOs' progress reports, with results reflected in Mid Term Evaluation, and Terminal Evaluation	<u>Assumption:</u> Each of the 40 champion villages will be able identify at least one relevant good practice, based on their experience in the project

			management is contributing to socio-economic development					

The budget below indicates how the various project Monitoring and Evaluation costs are covered in the Total Budget and Work Plan (see Section IX).

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

VII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

91. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)[31], a statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India will implement the project. The Project Board (Project Steering Committee - PSC), the apex governing body for providing oversight and monitoring to the project, will be chaired by the Additional Secretary(Biodiversity)of the MoEFCC. The Chairperson, NBA will act as the co-chair of the PSC as well as the National Project Director. The Member Secretary NBA will act as the Member Convener for the PSC. The implementation modality proposed for the project is National Implementation (NIM).

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

93. The results of the 2023 assessment contained in the *Report on Micro Assessment of National Biodiversity Authority as per HACT Guidelines*,[32] indicated an overall Moderate risk rating, including moderate risk rating relating to activities and Sub-partners. Low risk relating to all the following categories: Organization, People and Behaviors, Reporting and Accountability, Assets and Inventory, Procurement, and Systems. UNDP India also conducted the Partner Capacity Assessment Tool (PCAT) for NBA, which resulted in a rating of Medium Risk.

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

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

95. The NBA, a statutory body under the MoEFCC will be responsible for implementing the project. Specific tasks of the IP include:
    - Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The IP will carry out project-level M&E, thus ensuring that this is undertaken by national

[31]The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is an autonomous and statutory body of the MoEFCC, established by central government in 2003 to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The NBA uses the processes and systems for finance, procurement, accounting, reporting and auditing, issued by the Government of India in this regard. The NBA's accounts are audited annually by the Office of the Auditor and Comptroller General, and audited accounts presented to the Indian Parliament. NBA performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, and fair equitable sharing of benefits of use. The NBA is also responsible for India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and the country's reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). With its Headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, the NBA delivers its mandate through a structure that is comprised of the Authority, secretariat, Expert Committees, State Biodiversity Steering Committee (SBBs) across 28 States, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level across India. NBA has previously acted as Implementing Partner on two GEF-financed projects: one carried out in 2011-2015 and supported by UNEP, on "Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Provisions"; and the other carried out from 2017-2021 and supported by UNDP, on "Strengthening human resources, legal framework and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol". NBA also carried out a project in 2009 with UNDP support on Strengthening institutional structures to implement the Biological Diversity Act; and NBA implemented the Biodiversity Samrakshan internship programme in conservation in 2020, which has been successful in training new entrants to the biodiversity conservation sector.

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

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.

96. **Responsible Parties:** Responsible parties for the project will be identified at the time of the implementation of the project.

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

98. **Project stakeholders and target groups**: The project involves a wide range of government and community stakeholders and spans the sectors of rural development and development planning on the one hand, and forest and biodiversity conservation on the other. Stakeholders also include those in central government, state government, tribal authorities, districts, block as and villages, as a result of this broad horizontal and vertical span of influence / interest, the governance and management arrangements are set up to facilitate involvement of a large number of stakeholders but are also designed for maximum efficiency. The following eight coordination structures, their roles and composition are detailed in Section 2 below:
    - State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee – Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam (1)
    - State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee – Meghalaya and Garo Hills (1)
    - District Coordination Mechanisms in three Tamil Nadu Districts (3)
    - District Coordination Mechanisms in three Meghalaya Districts (3)

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

Section 2: Project governance structure

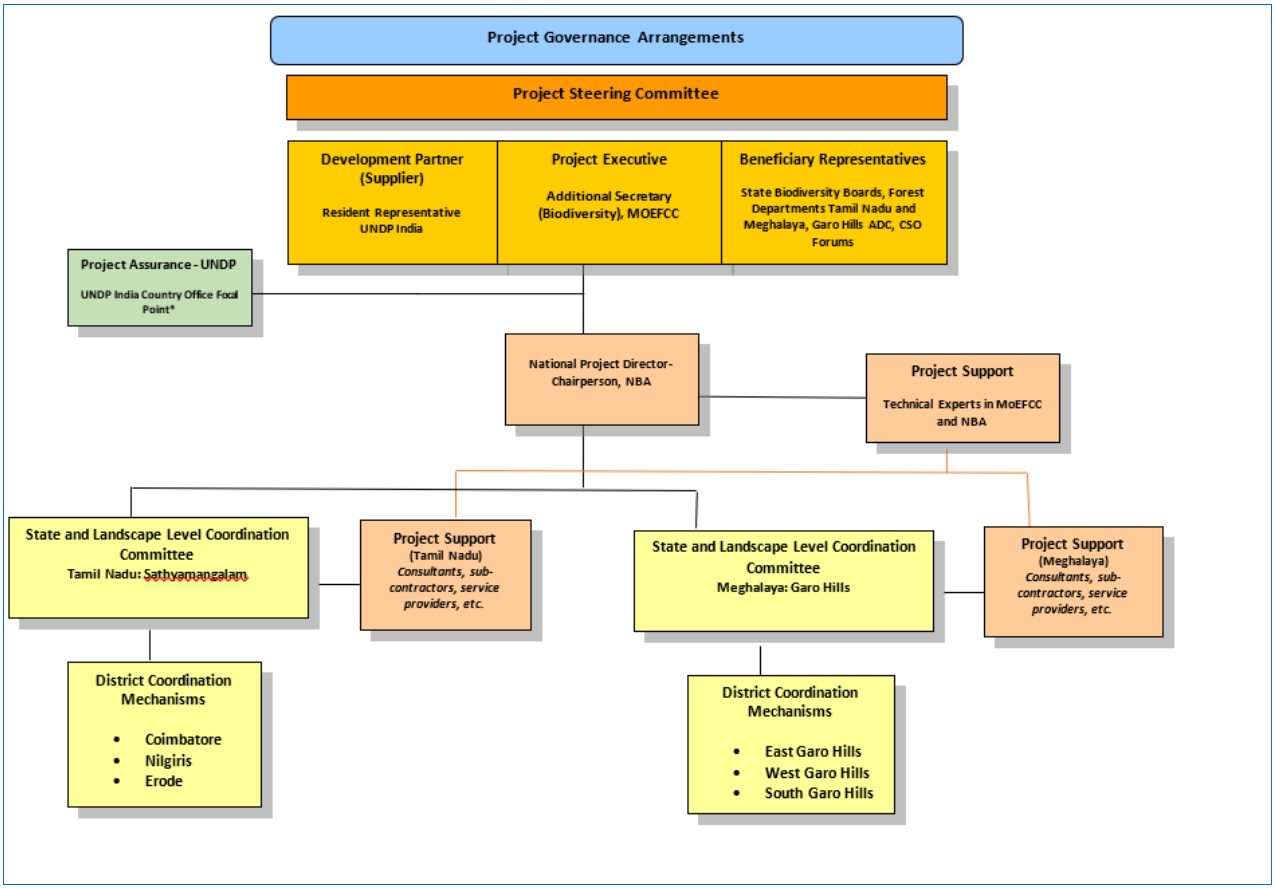


Diagram 1: *Proposed project governance, coordination and management structures*

Second line of defense

- Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office Complianceat portfolio level.
- BPPSRTA oversees technical quality assurance and GEF compliance. BPPS Environment PTA oversees RTA function.
- UNDPGEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/ cancel/ suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

100. 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.

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

101. As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant projectdocument a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

102. In this case, UNDP is only performing an implementation oversight role in the project vis-à-vis our role in the project board and in the project assurance function and therefore a full separation of project implementation oversight and execution duties has been assured.

Section 4: Roles and Responsiblities of the Project Organization Structure

a) Project Board:

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

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

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

105. **Requirements to serveon 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.

106. **Responsibilities of the Project Board**:

- ✓ Consensus decision making:
  - 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.
- ✓ Oversee project execution:

- 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.

✓ Risk Management:

- 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 co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
- Address project-level grievances.

✓ Coordination:

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

107. **Composition of the Project Board**: Given the cross-cutting nature of the project, the Project Board will have cross-sectoral representation led by MoEFCC, and will involve the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Other participants can be invited as and when required to enhance the efficacy of the Project Board meetings. The composition of the Project Board 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):** These are representatives of government and civil society organizations who will ultimately benefit from the project, who will help ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. The Beneficiary representatives are proposed to include:
  - Ministry of Panchayati Raj
  - Ministry of Rural Development
  - Ministry of Tribal Affairs
  - State Biodiversity Board, Tamil Nadu
  - State Biodiversity Board, Meghalaya
  - National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)
  - Department of Forests, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu
  - Department of Forests and Environment Department, Meghalaya
  - Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Tamil Nadu
  - Department of Community and Rural Development, Meghalaya

- Civil society representative (national level)

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

b) **Project Assurance:**

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

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

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

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

110. 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.

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

d) **Sub-national Coordination Structures:**

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

i. State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee – Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam
ii. State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee – Meghalaya and Garo Hills
iii. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Tamil Nadu Districts
iv. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Meghalaya Districts

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

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

114. This committee will meet twice a year, called by the State and Landscape Expert for Tamil Nadu and Sathyamangalam (see *Annex 6: Terms of reference for project governance structures,* technical experts *and coordination roles*). The Expert will be located in Erode District and will help to guide and coordinate activities in all three components of the project at state and landscape level. The committee will be chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu. Other institutions to be represented[33] on the coordinating committee are as follows:

- Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board
- State Institute for Rural Development, Tamil Nadu
- Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu (ECC&F)
- Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, ECC&F
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (Southern Region), ECC&F
- Field Directors, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves, ECC&F
- District Collectors, Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Erode District
- Civil society forums, e.g., Tamil Nadu Alliance
- Non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

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

115. This committee will meet twice a year, called by the State and Landscape Expert for Meghalaya and Garo Hills. The Expert will be located in West Garo District and will help to guide and coordinate activities in all three components of the project at state and landscape level. The committee will be chaired by the Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment Department, Meghalaya / Principal Secretary Community and Rural Development, Meghalaya (Garo Hills landscape / Meghalaya State). Other institutions to be represented[34] on the coordinating committee are as follows:

- Meghalaya State Biodiversity Board
- State Institute for Rural Development, Meghalaya
- Meghalaya Basin Development Authority
- Department of Community and Rural Development, Meghalaya
- Garo Hills Autonomous District Council
- Department of Forests and Environment, Meghalaya
- Divisional Field Officer responsible for Nokrek National Park, Balpakram National Park and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary
- Garo Hills Council of Nokma
- Deputy Commissioners, West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills District and South Garo Hills Districts
- Representatives of civil society forums, e.g., Confederation of Meghalaya Social Organization
- Representatives of non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

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

iii. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Tamil Nadu Districts

116. These three committees will meet twice each year and will help to guide and coordinate activities in the relevant areas of Sathyamangalam project landscape (see TORs in Annex 6). Each of the three committees will be chaired by the District Collector of the relevant District. Institutions / organizations to be represented are proposed[35] to include:

- District representatives of State Departments, for example:
  - Forestry Department
  - Agriculture and /or Horticulture Department
  - Tribal Welfare Department
  - Women's Development Corporation
  - Additional Director, Panchayat and District Rural Development Agency
- Block Development Officers from relevant blocks
- 3 Representatives of champion Gram Panchayats
- 3 Representatives of Block level Biodiversity Management Committees
- 1 representative each of Self-Help Group federations, Eco Development Committees/Village Forest Committees
- 2 Representatives of non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods

iv. District Coordination Mechanisms in three Meghalaya Districts

117. These three committees will meet twice each year and will help to guide and coordinate activities in the relevant areas of Sathyamangalam project landscape (see TORs in *Annex 6*). Each of the three committees will be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of the relevant District. Institutions / organizations to be represented are proposed to include[36]:

- District representatives of Garo Hills Council of Nokmas
- ADC Chief Forest Officer / Forestry Department
- District office of MBDA
- District representatives of State Departments, for example:
  - Forestry Department
  - Agriculture Department
  - Horticulture Department
  - Water Resources Department
  - Tourism Department
  - Planning Department
- Block Development Officers from relevant blocks
- 3 Representatives of champion Village Employment Councils
- 3 Representatives of Biodiversity Management Committees
- 1 Representative each of Self Help Group Voluntary Organization, Joint Forest Management Committees

[35] To be finalized at first meeting of State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee – Tamil Nadu & Sathyamangalam
[36] To be finalized at first meeting of State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committee – Meghalaya & Garo Hills

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

VIII. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

118. The total cost of the project is **USD 34,506,279**.This is financed through a GEF grant of USD 4,880,000 administered by UNDP, and additional co-financing support of USD 29,626,279from the central and state Governments. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to project bank account only.

119. **Co-financing**: The actual realization of project co-financing amounts will be monitored by the UNDP Country Office and the NPO on an annual basis in the GEF PIR and will be reported to the GEF during the mid-term review and terminal evaluation process as follows:

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount (USD)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	Public Investment	6,744,307
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	In-kind	400,000
Government of Tamil Nadu	Public Investment	9,940,041
Government of Tamil Nadu	In-kind	355,000
Government of Meghalaya	Public Investment	11,686,931
UNDP	Grant	400,000
UNDP	In-kind	100,000
Total Co-financing		**29,626,279**

120. **Budget Revision and Tolerance**: As per UNDP POPP, the project board may agree with the project manager on a tolerance level for each detailed plan under the overall multi-year work plan. The agreed tolerance should be written in the project document or approved project board meeting minutes. It should normally not exceed 10 percent of the agreed annual budget at the activity level, but within the overall approved multi-year work plan at the activity level. Within the agreed tolerances, the project manager can operate without intervention from the project board. Restrictions apply as follows:

121. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager/IP through UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the BPPS/VF team to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF. It is strongly encouraged to maintain the expenditures within the approved budget at the budgetary account and at the component level:

a) Budget reallocations must prove that the suggested changes in the budget will not lead to material changes in the results to be achieved by the project. A strong justification is required and will be approved on an exceptional basis. Budget re-

allocations among the components (including PMC) of the approved Total Budget and Work Plans (TBWP) that represent a value greater than 10% of the total GEF grant.

b) Introduction of new outputs/activities (i.e. budget items) that were not part of the agreed project document and TBWP that represent a value greater than 5% of the total GEF grant. The new budget items must be eligible as per the GEF and UNDP policies.

c) Project management cost (PMC): budget under PMC component is capped and cannot be increased.

122. UNDP is not in a position to increase the total budget above the amount approved by the donor, therefore any over-expenditure would have to be absorbed from non-GEF resources by the Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity)

123. **Project extensions:** The UNDP-BPPS-VF Unit Executive Coordinator must approve all requests for extension of the Project Completion Date and for other milestone extensions with hard deadlines. All extensions impose additional time and cost burdens at all levels and the GEF project budget cannot be increased beyond its originally approved amount. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis and subject to the conditions and maximum durations set out in the UNDP POPP. The project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs shall be covered by non-GEF resources; the additional UNDP oversight costs during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources, in accordance with UNDP's policy as set out in UNDP POPP.

For any extension request, UNDP CO and IP will consult and jointly present a clear plan indicating how and from which specific sources the additional oversight costs that will be incurred by UNDP will be covered during the extended period. The BPPS-VF Executive Coordinator will consult the Regional Bureaux (RBX) and may reject the extension request if no (external co-financing by the IP or internal UNDP CO resources) can be identified.

All extension requests, along with all supporting documentation, shall be submitted by the IP to the UNDP CO in line with the requirements and within the deadlines set out in the UNDP SOPs and policies in UNDP POPP.

124. **Audit:** The project will be audited as per UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. Audit cycle and process must be discussed during the Inception workshop. If the Implementing Partner is an UN Agency, the project will be audited according to that Agencies applicable audit policies.

125. **Transfer or disposal of assets**: In consultation with the Implementing Partner and other parties of the project, UNDP is responsible for deciding on the transfer or other disposal of assets. Transfer or disposal of assets is recommended to be reviewed and endorsed by the project board following UNDP rules and regulations. Assets may be transferred to the government for project activities managed by a national institution at any time during the life of a project, however must be done before the operational closure date. In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file[37]. The transfer should be done before Project Management Unit complete their assignments.

126. **Completion Date:** The project completion date is the date of Project Document Signature plus project duration. This date can only be extended through a formal extension request. Prior to completion date, all UNDP-financed inputs must be provided and related activities for the Project completed. No activities,

[37] See https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PPM_Project%20Management_Closing.docx&action=default.

except for the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report and the corresponding management response and the end-of-project review Project Board Meeting should take place after the Completion Date.

127. **Project Closure**: Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. All costs incurred to close the project must be included in the project closure budget and reported as final project commitments presented to the Project Board during the final project review. The only costs a project may incur following the final project review are those included in the project closure budget.

- **Operational Closure**: **Operational closure must happen within 9 months from project completion date.** Prior to operational closure, the Terminal Evaluation must have been submitted and the corresponding TE management response and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting must have been completed. The Implementing Partner through a Project Board decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. Before Operational Closure, the project must have completed the transfer or disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.
- **Financial Closure: Financial closure must happen within 6 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation.** The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) the project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) the Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP; c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project; d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

  Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to BPPS/VF unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Quantum by the UNDP Country Office.

128. **Cancellation and Suspension:** All projects considering going through cancellation or suspension must follow UNDP and GEF requirements. Guidance can be found in the UNDP POPP (SOPs for management actions of Vertical Fund projects escalated to the Executive Coordinator and Guidance for GEF project revisions).

129. **Refund to GEF**: Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the BPPS/NCE team Directorate in New York. No action is required by the UNDP Country Office on the actual refund from UNDP project to the GEF. Unspent project balance is not permitted to be transferred to any other projects.

IX. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Total Budget and Work Plan			
Quantum Business Unit	UNDP-IND		
Quantum Project ID:	00127645	Quantum Project Title:	Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments
Quantum Award ID:	00127645.1	Quantum Award Title:	Securing biodiversity conservation commitments
UNDP-GEF PIMS No.	6593		
Implementing Partner	National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change		

Quantum Outcome (GEF Component)	**Quantum Output (GEF Outcome)**	**Quantum Activity (GEF Output)**	**Quantum Responsible Party**	**Quantum Fund ID**	**Quantum Donor ID**	**Quantum Budgetary Account Code**	**Quantum Budget Account Description**	**Amount Year *{2024}* (USD)**	**Amount Year *{2025}* (USD)**	**Amount Year {2026} (USD)**	**Amount Year {2027} (USD)**	***Amount Year {2028} (USD)***	**Total (USD)**	**See Budget Note:**
Component 1 Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India	*Outcome 1: Enabling and coordination framework for planning, management and decision-making for high-biodiversity landscapes developed and implemented*	*Output 1.1 Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes*	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*75700*	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	100,208.8	9,310.8	9,310.8	9,310.8	9,310.8	137,452.0	1
						71300	*Local Consultants*	3,000.0	4,000.0	3,000.0	-	-	10,000.0	2
						71600	*Travel*	10,569.6	819.6	819.6	819.6	819.6	13,848.0	4
			Total NBA					**113,778.4**	**14,130.4**	**13,130.4**	**10,130.4**	**10,130.4**	**161,300.0**	
		Total Output 1.1						**113,778.4**	**14,130.4**	**13,130.4**	**10,130.4**	**10,130.4**	**161,300.0**	
		Output 1.2 Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71300*	*Local Consultants*	31,480.5	39,430.5	-	-	-	70,911.0	2
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	45,454.5	45,454.5				90,909.0	5
			Total NBA					76,935.0	84,885.0	-	-	-	161,820.0	

		development												
		Total Output 1.2						**76,935.0**	**84,885.0**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**161,820.0**	
		Output 1.3 Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for rural development	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71800*	*Contractual Services-Implementing Partner*	11,040.0	37,014.0	37,014.0	11,040.0	11,040.0	107,148.0	3
						71300	*Local Consultants*	-	38,952.0	38,952.0	38,952.0	-	116,856.0	2
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	-	162,197.0	162,197.0	-	-	324,394.0	5
			Total NBA					**11,040.0**	**238,163.0**	**238,163.0**	**49,992.0**	**11,040.0**	**548,398.0**	
		Total Output 1.3						**11,040.0**	**238,163.0**	**238,163.0**	**49,992.0**	**11,040.0**	**548,398.0**	
		Output 1.4 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*75700*	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	-	25,000.0	25,000.0	-	-	50,000.0	1
						71300	*Local Consultants*	-	15,000.0	15,000.0	-	-	30,000.0	2
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	-	81,250.0	81,250.0	81,250.0	81,250.0	325,000.0	5
						71800	*Contractual Services-Implementing Partner*	20,000.0	39,986.0	30,986.0	10,000.0		100,972.0	3
			Total NBA					**20,000.0**	**161,236.0**	**152,236.0**	**91,250.0**	**81,250.0**	**505,972.0**	
		Total Output 1.4						**20,000.0**	**161,236.0**	**152,236.0**	**91,250.0**	**81,250.0**	**505,972.0**	
		Output 1.5 Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71300*	*Local Consultants*	-	60,833.0	60,833.0	60,833.0	60,833.0	243,332.0	2
						75700	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	-	22,500.0	22,500.0	22,500.0	22,500.0	90,000.0	1
						71600	*Travel*	-	22,500.0	22,500.0	22,500.0	22,500.0	90,000.0	4
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*		81,250.0	81,250.0	81,250.0	81,250.0	325,000.0	5
						72300	*Materials & Goods*	-	80,000.0	100,000.0	70,000.0	-	250,000.0	6
			Total NBA											

								-	267,083.0	287,083.0	257,083.0	187,083.0	998,332.0	
		Total Output 1.5						**-**	**267,083.0**	**287,083.0**	**257,083.0**	**187,083.0**	**998,332.0**	
		Output 1.6 Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*75700*	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	9,000.0	14,000.0	14,000.0	14,000.0	9,000.0	60,000.0	1
						71300	*Local Consultants*	-	32,500.0	32,500.0	-	-	65,000.0	2
			Total NBA					**9,000.0**	**46,500.0**	**46,500.0**	**14,000.0**	**9,000.0**	**125,000.0**	
		Total Output 1.6						**9,000.0**	**46,500.0**	**46,500.0**	**14,000.0**	**9,000.0**	**125,000.0**	
	Total Outcome 1							**230,753.4**	**811,997.4**	**737,112.4**	**422,455.4**	**298,503.4**	**2,500,822.0**	
Total Component 1								**230,753.4**	**811,997.4**	**737,112.4**	**422,455.4**	**298,503.4**	**2,500,822.0**	
Component 2 Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes	*Outcome 2: Enhanced financing and engagement by public and private sectors to implement actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use by building on lessons from BIOFIN*	*Output 2.1 Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed for landscape and local plans*	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71300*	*Local Consultants*	26,000.0	76,000.0	46,000.0	16,000.0	16,000.0	180,000.0	9
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	10,000.0	20,000.0	20,000.0	-	-	50,000.0	10
			Total NBA					**36,000.0**	**96,000.0**	**66,000.0**	**16,000.0**	**16,000.0**	**230,000.0**	
		Total Output 2.1						**36,000.0**	**96,000.0**	**66,000.0**	**16,000.0**	**16,000.0**	**230,000.0**	
		Output 2.2 Establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*75700*	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	-	32,500.0	32,500.0	32,500.0	22,500.0	120,000.0	7
						71600	*Travel*	-	23,500.0	23,500.0	23,500.0	23,500.0	94,000.0	8
						71300	*Local Consultants*	-	30,000.0	30,000.0	30,002.0	-	90,002.0	9
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	-	198,000.0	188,000.0	124,000.0	-	510,000.0	10

		for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use				*72300*	*Materials & Goods*	-	25,000.0	40,000.0	27,844.0	10,000.0	102,844.0	11
			Total NBA					**-**	**309,000.0**	**314,000.0**	**237,846.0**	**56,000.0**	**916,846.0**	
		Total Output 2.2						**-**	**309,000.0**	**314,000.0**	**237,846.0**	**56,000.0**	**916,846.0**	
		Output 2.3 Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71300*	*Local Consultants*	-	7,500.0	7,500.0	7,500.0	7,500.0	30,000.0	9
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	-	10,000.0	10,000.0	10,000.0	9,998.0	39,998.0	10
			Total NBA					**-**	**17,500.0**	**17,500.0**	**17,500.0**	**17,498.0**	**69,998.0**	
		Total Output 2.3						**-**	**17,500.0**	**17,500.0**	**17,500.0**	**17,498.0**	**69,998.0**	
	Total Outcome 2							**36,000.0**	**422,500.0**	**397,500.0**	**271,346.0**	**89,498.0**	**1,216,844.0**	
Total Component 2								**36,000.0**	**422,500.0**	**397,500.0**	**271,346.0**	**89,498.0**	**1,216,844.0**	
Component 3 Knowledge and data management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India	*Outcome 3: Improved understanding of stakeholders across and beyond Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya on the benefits of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development planning*	*Output 3.1 Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes*	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71600*	*Travel*	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	10,000.0	12
						71300	*Local Consultants*	-	10,000.0	10,000.0	10,000.0	10,000.0	40,000.0	14
						71800	*Contractual Services-Implementing Partner*	6,000.0	6,000.0	6,000.0	6,000.0	6,000.0	30,000.0	15
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	-	-	15,000.0	20,000.0	20,000.0	55,000.0	16
			Total NBA					**8,000.0**	**18,000.0**	**33,000.0**	**38,000.0**	**38,000.0**	**135,000.0**	
		Total Output 3.1						**8,000.0**	**18,000.0**	**33,000.0**	**38,000.0**	**38,000.0**	**135,000.0**	
		Output 3.2 Communication strategy developed and implemented in project	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71600*	*Travel*	-	-	-	65,000.0	50,000.0	115,000.0	12
			Total NBA					-	-	-	65,000.0	50,000.0	115,000.0	

		landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning												
		Total Output 3.2						**-**	**-**	**-**	**65,000.0**	**50,000.0**	**115,000.0**	
		Output 3.3 Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*71600*	*Travel*	-	-	5,000.0	10,000.0	13,334.0	28,334.0	12
						72100	*Contractual Services-Companies*	-	-	-	20,000.0	20,000.0	40,000.0	16
						74200	*Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs*	-	-	-	7,000.0	8,000.0	15,000.0	17
			Total NBA					**-**	**-**	**5,000.0**	**37,000.0**	**41,334.0**	**83,334.0**	
		Total Output 3.3						**-**	**-**	**5,000.0**	**37,000.0**	**41,334.0**	**83,334.0**	
		Output 3.4 Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India	*NBA*	*62000*	*10003*	*75700*	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	-	-	-	170,000.0	205,000.0	375,000.0	13
						71800	*Contractual Services-Implementing Partner*	-	-	-	-	5,000.0	5,000.00	15
			Total NBA					-	-	-	**170,000.0**	**210,000.0**	**380,000.0**	
		Total Output 3.4						**-**	**-**	**-**	**170,000.0**	**210,000.0**	**380,000.0**	
	Total Outcome 3							**8,000.0**	**18,000.0**	**38,000.0**	**310,000.0**	**339,334.0**	**713,334.0**	
Total Component 3								**8,000.0**	**18,000.0**	**38,000.0**	**310,000.0**	**339,334.0**	**713,334.0**	
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	*M&E*	*M&E*	*UNDP*	*62000*	*10003*	*71200*	*International Consultants*	-	-	30,000.0	-	30,000.0	60,000.0	18
						71300	*Local Consultants*	-	-	25,000.0	-	25,000.0	50,000.0	19
						71600	*Travel*	-	-	20,000.0	-	20,000.0	40,000.0	20
			Total UNDP					**-**	**-**	**75,000.0**	**-**	**75,000.0**	**150,000.0**	

			NBA	*62000*	*10003*	*75700*	*Training, Workshops and Confer*	26,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	2,000.0	34,000.0	21
						71600	*Travel*	7,000.0	7,000.0	7,000.0	7,000.0	7,000.0	35,000.0	22
			Total NBA					33,000.0	9,000.0	9,000.0	9,000.0	9,000.0	69,000.0	
Total M&E								**33,000.0**	**9,000.0**	**84,000.0**	**9,000.0**	**84,000.0**	**219,000.0**	
Project Management Cost (PMC)	*PMC*	*PMC*	*UNDP*	*62000*	*10003*	*74100*	*Professional Services*	10,117.8	10,117.8	10,117.8	10,117.8	10,117.8	50,589.0	23
			Total UNDP					10,117.8	10,117.8	10,117.8	10,117.8	10,117.8	50,589.0	
			NBA	*62000*	*10003*	*71800*	*Contractual Services-Implementing Partner*	28,425.2	31,617.2	31,617.2	31,617.2	31,617.2	154,894.0	24
						72800	*Information Technology Equipmt*	6,000.0	-	-	-	-	6,000.0	25
						72500	*Supplies*	3,000.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	-	12,000.0	26
						74200	*Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs*	2,000.0	1,317.0	1,100.0	1,100.0	1,000.0	6,517.0	27
			Total NBA					39,425.2	35,934.2	35,717.2	35,717.2	32,617.2	179,411.0	
Total Project Management Cost								**49,543.0**	**46,052.0**	**45,835.0**	**45,835.0**	**42,735.0**	**230,000.0**	
Total Project Grant								**357,296.4**	**1,307,549.4**	**1,302,447.4**	**1,058,636.4**	**854,070.4**	**4,880,000.0**	

Budget Notes

S.no	Description
	Component 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity across two productive and protection landscapes in India
A.	**NBA**
1.	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** i) Annual meetings of state and landscape coordinating committees (Output 1.1) = 10 meetings * USD 7,59.3 = **USD 7,593** (Year 1 to Year 5) ii) Training workshops on Gender Responsiveness in GPDP in two states (Output 1.1) = **USD 50,000** in Year 1 iii) Consultations for establishment of six coordination committees in two states (Output 1.1) = **USD 7,792** in Year 1 iv) Bi-annual meetings of the 6 District Coordination Committees (Output 1.1) = 60 meetings * **USD 649.35** = **USD 38,961** (Year 1 to Year 5) v) 5 Training sessions for local self-governance institutions on Gender (Output 1.4) = **USD 20,000** in Year 2 and Year 3 vi) 6 Training sessions on integration of biodiversity actions in development plans (Output 1.4) = **USD 30,000** in Year 2 and Year 3 vii) Focus group consultations for implementation of costed biodiversity actions (Output 1.5) = 60 consultations ***USD 1,500** = **USD 90,000** (Year 2- Year 5) viii) Organizing Meghalaya Joint Foresters' Forum (Output 1.6) = 3 meetings ***USD 5,000** = **USD 15,000** (Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4) ix) Training workshops on Forest Management for community and officials (Output 1.6) = 10 workshops * **USD 4,500** = **USD 45,000** (Year 1 – Year 5) x) Consultations for establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms at state level (Output 1.1) = 10 consultations * 2 states * **USD 1,265.75/consultation** = **USD 25,315** in Year 1 xi) Training workshop on Gender Responsiveness in two states (Output 1.1) = **USD 2,596** in Year 1 xii) Women Leadership Support Workshop (Output 1.1) = **USD 5,195** (Year 1) **Total = USD 337,452**
2.	**Local Consultants** i. 8 Community Mobilizers for implementation of actions on Biodiversity, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Soil and Water Conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing for implementation of actions outlined in Activity 1.5.1 (Output 1.5) = **USD 16,666.50**/each mobilizer for a period of 48 months = **USD 133,332** spread across Year 2, 3, 4, 5 ii. 1 Gender Specialist for delivering Gender Responsive Trainings (Outputs 1.1 and 1.4) – **USD 10,000** spread across Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 iii. 1 Ecological Landscape Planning Expert for development of landscape plans and spatial planning (Output 1.2) – **USD 1,623.375**/month for 24 months = **USD 38,961**spread across Year 1 and Year 2 iv. 1 Governance Specialist for capacity building of stakeholders and updating the PBR and GPDP guidelines (Output 1.3) – **USD 3,246**/month for 36 months = **USD 116,856**spread across Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 v. 1 Community Engagement Specialist for undertaking participatory resource mapping and identifying degraded community lands (Output 1.4) = **USD 1,250**/month = **USD 30,000** spread across Year 2 and Year 3 vi. 4 National Consultants (Biodiversity, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Soil and Water Conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing) for actions outlined in Activity 1.5.1 (Output 1.5) = **USD17,500**/each consultant = **USD 70,000** spread across Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 vii. 1 National Consultant for monitoring progress of tracking tools through forest department for Activity 1.5.2 (Output 1.5) = **USD 40,000** for a period of 48 months across Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 viii. 1 National Consultant (Forest Restoration) for implementation of Activity 1.6.1 and Activity 1.6.3 (Output 1.6) = **USD 65,000** for a period of 24 months across Year 2 and Year 3 ix. 2 National Consultants (Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu) for designing Tracking Tools to monitor progress against implementation of landscape management plans (Output 1.2) = **USD 15,975** x 2 = **USD 31,950**spread across Year 1 and Year 2 **Total = USD 536,099**

3.	**Contractual Services – Implementing Partner** i) 1 Biodiversity Specialist (Curriculum Development) for developing customized training course material (Output 1.3) = **USD 51,948** for a period of 24 months spread across Year 2 and Year 3 ii) 1 Public Finance Specialist for implementation of Activity 1.4.7 (Output 1.4) = **USD 15,000** for a period of 24 months spread across Year 1 and Year 2 iii) 1 Safeguards Specialist for ensuring compliance with social and environmental standards of GEF/UNDP/Government (Output 1.4) = **USD 30,000** for a period of 24 months spread across Year 2, 3 and 4 iv) 1 Biodiversity Specialist (Tracking Tool) for developing the Tracking Tools and monitoring progress (Output 1.2 and Output 1.4) = **USD 55,972** for a period of 36 months spread across Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 v) 2 Landscape Experts (one for each state) for implementation of Component 1 (**USD 5,520**/year = **USD 27,600** for five years x 2= **USD 55,200** **Total = USD 208,120**
4.	**Travel** i) For facilitating implementation of costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 1.5) = **USD 90,000** (Year 2 – Year 5) ii) For establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms in two states (Output 1.1) = **USD 9,750** in Year 1 iii) For annual meetings of State and Landscape Coordinating Committees (Output 1.1) = **USD 4,098** (Year 1 – Year 5) **Total = USD 103,848**
5.	**Contractual Services – Companies** i) Contract to 2 technical agencies (Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu) for multi stakeholder engagement for landscape level plans (Output 1.2) = **USD 40,000** (Tamil Nadu) + **USD 50,909** (Meghalaya) for a period of 24 months = **USD 90,909** spread across Year 1 and Year 2 ii) Contract to 2 technical agencies for development of gender-responsive training courses/tools developed and customized for two States for integration and institutionalisation in the SIRD training system (Output 1.3) = **USD 126,300** (Tamil Nadu) + **USD 198,094** (Meghalaya) = **USD 324,394** spread across Year 2 and Year 3 iii) Contract to 2 technical agencies for designing and implementation of costed priority actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in 40 champion villages in the 2 states (Output 1.4 and Output 1.5) = **USD 325,000** (Tamil Nadu) + **USD 325,000** (Meghalaya) =. **USD 650,000** spread across Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 **Total: USD 1,065,303**
6.	**Materials and Goods** Purchase of goods (camera traps, GPS devices, soil and water testing kits, fencing material/wires creating fenced plots, low impact mechanized agriculture tools for ploughing/harrowing) for implementation of costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 1.5) = **USD 250,000** in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 **Total = USD 250,000**
	Total: USD 2,500,822
	Component 2: Improved blended financing and incentives for biodiversity positive practices in the two landscapes
A.	**NBA**
7.	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** i) 12 Consultations with local communities in two states to identify at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts (2 each); to identify specific activities along each value chain for women and men, including beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, with special attention paid to opportunities for youth (Output 2.2) = **USD 50,000** (Year 2 to Year 5) ii) 7 training and capacity building workshops (1 National level, and 3 each at state level) held for communities towards establishment of identified eco-friendly enterprises (Output 2.2) = **USD 70,000** (Year 2 to Year 5) **Total = USD 120,000**
8.	**Travel**

	For organizing 10 consultations in the 2 states (5 each) for developing biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods (Output 2.2) = **USD 94,000** spread across Year 3 to Year 5 **Total: USD 94,000**
9.	**Local Consultants** i) 1 Technical Expert for development of tracking tools to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans (Output 2.1) = **USD 80,000**for a period of 60 months spread across Year 1 to Year 5 ii) 2 Technical Experts for developing biodiversity finance gap report for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 2.1) = USD 60,000 (Tamil Nadu) + USD 40,000 (Meghalaya) = **USD 100,000** (Year 1 to Year 3) iii) 2 Technical Experts for establishing a Cooperative Society/other Governance structure (Output 2.2) = **USD 12,001** (Tamil Nadu) + **USD 18,001** (Meghalaya) = **USD 30,002** for a period of 36 months (Year 2 to Year 4) iv) 2 Technical Consultants for conducting customized training and incubation support programme for enterprises (Output 2.2) = **USD 35,000** (Meghalaya) + **USD 25,000** (Tamil Nadu) = USD 60,000 for a period of 36 months (Year 3- Year 5) v) 1 Technical Consultant for curriculum development for training on budgeting on biodiversity action (Output 2.3) = **USD 30,000** for a period of 48 months (Year 2 – Year 5) **Total: USD 300,002**
10.	**Contractual Services – Companies** i) Contract to 2 technical agencies for developing biodiversity finance gap report for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (Output 2.1) = **USD 30,000** (Tamil Nadu) + **USD 20,000** (Meghalaya) = **USD 50,000** (Year 1 to Year 3) ii) Contract to 2 technical agencies for conducting a feasibility study on existing value chains, potential buyers, equipment needs, environmental sustainability, gender and social inclusion potential, possible funding sources; and developing a business concept for each BMC (Output 2.2) = **USD 55,000** (Meghalaya) + **USD 45,000** (Tamil Nadu) = **USD 100,000** (Year 2 to Year 4) iii) Contract to 2 technical agencies for conducting women in business leadership programme (Output 2.2) = **USD 40,000** (Tamil Nadu) + **USD 50,000** (Meghalaya) = **USD 90,000** (Year 2 to Year 4) iv) Contract to 2 technical agencies for conducting a business execution support programme (Output 2.2) = **USD 130,000** (Meghalaya) and **USD 120,000** (Tamil Nadu) = **USD 250,000** (Year 3 to Year 5) v) Contract to 2 technical agencies for facilitating agreements with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and for roll out of marketing and branding strategy for each of the 6e forest-based / eco-friendly enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain (Output 2.2) = **USD 30,000** (Tamil Nadu) **+ USD 40,000** (Meghalaya) = **USD 70,000** (Year 3 to Year 5) vi) Contract to a technical agency for developing curriculum for training on budgeting for biodiversity priority actions, accessing biodiversity-relevant schemes, and new financial instruments (Output 2.3) = **USD 39,998** (Year 2 to Year 5) **Total = USD 599,998**
11.	**Materials and Goods** i) Training kits for business execution support programme (Output 2.2) = **USD 40,000** (Year 3 to Year 5) ii) Knowledge products for women in business leadership programme (Output 2.2) = **USD 62,844** (Year 2 to Year 4) **Total = USD 102,844**
	Total: USD 1,216,844
	Component 3: Knowledge management, communication and digital information management for improving integration of biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting across India
	NBA
12.	**Travel**

	i) Participation in awareness campaigns and workshops organized under Output 3.1 = **USD 10,000** (Year 1 to Year 5) ii) Participation in LearningProgramme for State Biodiversity Boards (Output 3.2) = **USD 115,000** (Year 4 and Year 5) iii) Participation in state and landscape exchanges (Output 3.3) = **USD 10,000** (Year 3 and Year 5) iv) Participation in international conferences and forums for sharing best practices (Output 3.3) = **USD 18,334** (Year 4 and Year 5) **Total = USD 153,344**
13.	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** i) Two state level workshops in Chennai and Shillong, co-hosted by State Biodiversity Boards and State Institutes for Rural Development on lessons learnt and outcomes on biodiversity integration in development planning and budgeting processes (Output 3.4) = **USD 100,000** (Year 4 and 5) ii) Two international workshops to disseminate lessons learnt on strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and local governance institutions for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use in high-biodiversity landscape (Output 3.4) = **USD 275,000** (Year 4 and Year 5) **Total = USD 375,000**
14.	**Local Consultants** 1 Local Expert to support National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for uploading training material and tools related to mainstreaming biodiversity into village, block and district development planning and budgeting, for access by all States of India (Output 3.1) = **USD 40,000**for a period of 48 months(Year 2 to Year 5) **Total = USD 40,000**
15.	**Contractual Services – Implementing Partner** i) Engagement of 1 Communication Specialist for development and implementation of project communication strategy (Output 3.1) = **USD 30,000**for a period of 60 months (Year 1 to Year 5) ii) Engagement of 1 Technical Expert for developing National Replication Strategy (Output 3.4) = **USD 5,000** for a period of 12 months (Year 5) **Total = USD 35,000**
16.	**Contractual Services – Companies** i) Contract to 2 technical agencies for digitization of spatial plans (Output 3.1) = **USD 30,000** (Meghalaya) + **USD 25,000** (Tamil Nadu) = **USD 55,000** (Year 3 to Year 5) ii) Contract to a technical agency for developing short documentaries on lessons learnt from 40 villages (Output 3.3) = **USD 40,000** (Year 4 to Year 5) **Total: USD95,000**
17.	**Audio-visual and print production costs** Two landscape documentaries and dissemination through social media/websites etc. (Output 3.3) = **USD 15,000** (Year 4 and Year 5) **Total = USD 15,000**
	Total: USD 713,334
	Project Monitoring and Evaluation
	UNDP
18.	**International Consultants** i) Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Mid-term review = **USD 30,000** (Year 3) ii) Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Terminal Evaluation = **USD 30,000** (Year 5) **Total = USD 60,000**

19.	**Local Consultants** i) Engagement of 1 National Consultant for undertaking Mid-term review of the project (Activity 4.4.1) = **USD 25,000**(Year 3) ii) Engagement of 1 National Consultant for undertaking Terminal Evaluation of the project (Activity 4.4.2) = **USD 25,000** (Year 5) **Total = USD 50,000**
20.	**Travel** i) Travel for MTR to both the landscapes (Activity 4.4.1) = **USD 20,000** ii) Travel for TE to both the landscapes (Activity 4.4.2) = **USD 20,000** **Total = 40,000**
	Sub-total UNDP = USD 150,000
	NBA
21.	**Training, Workshops and Conferences** i) Organize 3 Inception Workshops at national and state level (Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya) = **USD 24,000** (Year 1) ii) Organize annual stakeholder workshop and data collection to prepare project reports. = **USD 10,000** (Year 1 to Year 5) **Total = USD 34,000**
22.	**Travel** i) For yearly M&E visits for tracking GEF core indicators (Activity 4.2.1) = **USD 5,000**/year = **USD 25,000** (Year 1 to Year 5) ii) For yearly technical monitoring visits (Activity 4.2.4) = **USD 2,000**/year = **USD 10,000** (Year 1 to Year 5) **Total = USD 35,000**
	Sub-total NBA = USD 69,000
	Total NBA + UNDP: USD 219,000
	Project Management Costs
	UNDP
23.	**Professional Services** Annual audit = **USD 10,117.8** in Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 and Year 5 = **USD 50,589** **Total = USD 50,589**
	Sub-total UNDP = USD 50,589
	NBA
24.	**Contractual Services – Implementing Partner** **i)** 1 National Project Officer = **USD12,000**/year = **USD 60,000** **ii)** 1 Procurement and Admin Officer = **USD 14,291.50**/year = **USD 66,166** iii) 1 Admin, Operations and Finance Officer (Meghalaya) = **USD 1,596**/year in Y1 and **USD 3,192**/year in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 = **USD 14,364** iv) 1 Admin, Operations and Finance Officer (Tamil Nadu) = **USD 1,596**/year in Y1 and **USD 3,192**/year in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 = **USD 14,364** **Total = USD 154,894**
25.	**Information Technology Equipment** 7 Laptops = **USD 6,000** in Year 1

	Total = USD 6,000
26.	**Supplies** i) Printers, printer cartridges, paper and stationery = **USD 3,000** in Year 1 ii) Printers, printer cartridges, paper and stationery = **USD 3,000**/year = **USD 9,000** in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 **Total = USD 12,000**
27.	**Audio visual and print production costs** Printing of project document, project brochures, safeguards documents and other KPs with stakeholders including PMU = **USD 6,517** (Year 1 to Year 5) **Total = USD 6,517**
	Sub-total NBA = USD 179,411
	Total NBA + UNDP: USD 230,000
	GRAND TOTAL: USD 4,880,000

X. LEGAL CONTEXT

130. The project document shall be the instrument envisaged and defined in the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document, attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof, as "the Project Document".

131. This project will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

XI. RISK MANAGEMENT

132. Consistent with the Article III of the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document, the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:
   a. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
   b. assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

133. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

134. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List, and that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used for money laundering activities. The United Nations Security Council Consolidated Sanctions List can be accessed via https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/un-sc-consolidated-list.

135. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.
   (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth

in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

(b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. SH may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, SH may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.

136. a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;
ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;
iii. Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;
iv. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and
v. Promptly and confidentially, record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

137. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

138. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

139. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

140. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds.

141. In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, UNDP places reasonable reliance upon the Implementing Partner for it to apply its laws, regulations and processes, and applicable international laws regarding anti money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, to ensure consistency with the principles of then in force the UNDP Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy.

142. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption, anti-fraud and anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

143. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a)UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b)UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

144. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes in accordance with UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

145. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

146. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

147. UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud, corruption or other financial irregularity, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

148. Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the Implementing Partner agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to the Implementing Partner for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud, corruptionor other financial irregularity, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

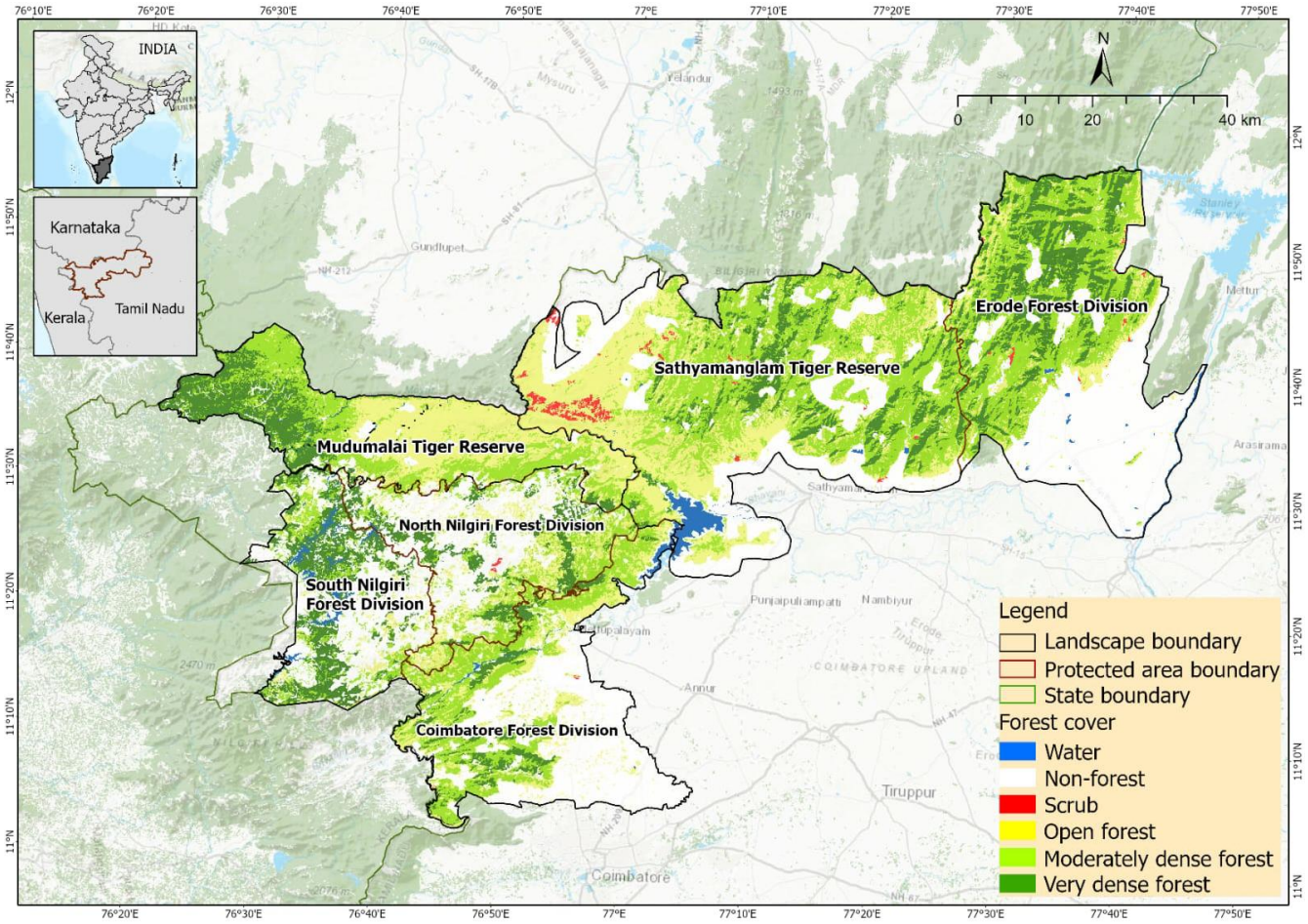
149. Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

150. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

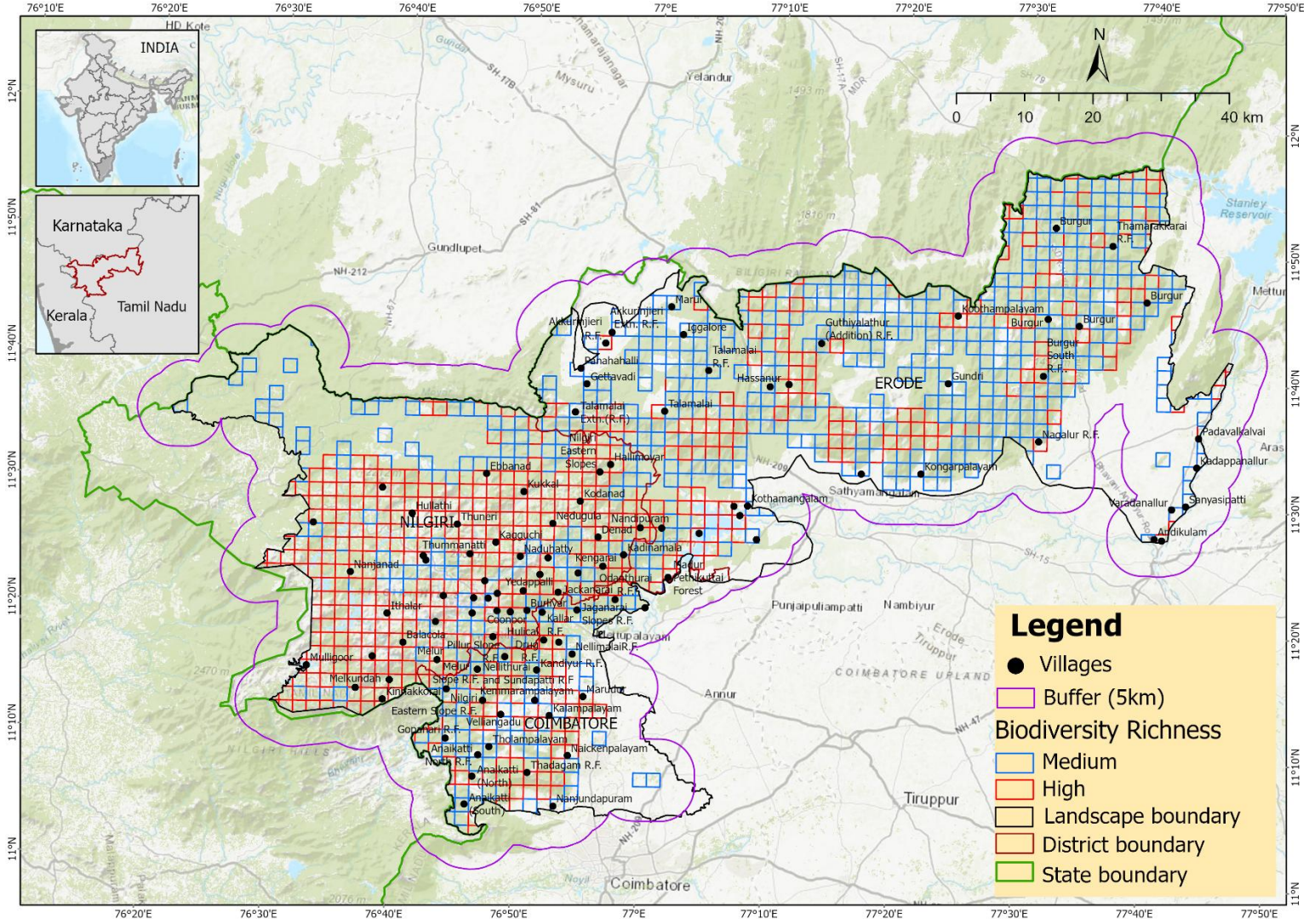
151. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, mutatis mutandis, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

Annex 2: Project Maps

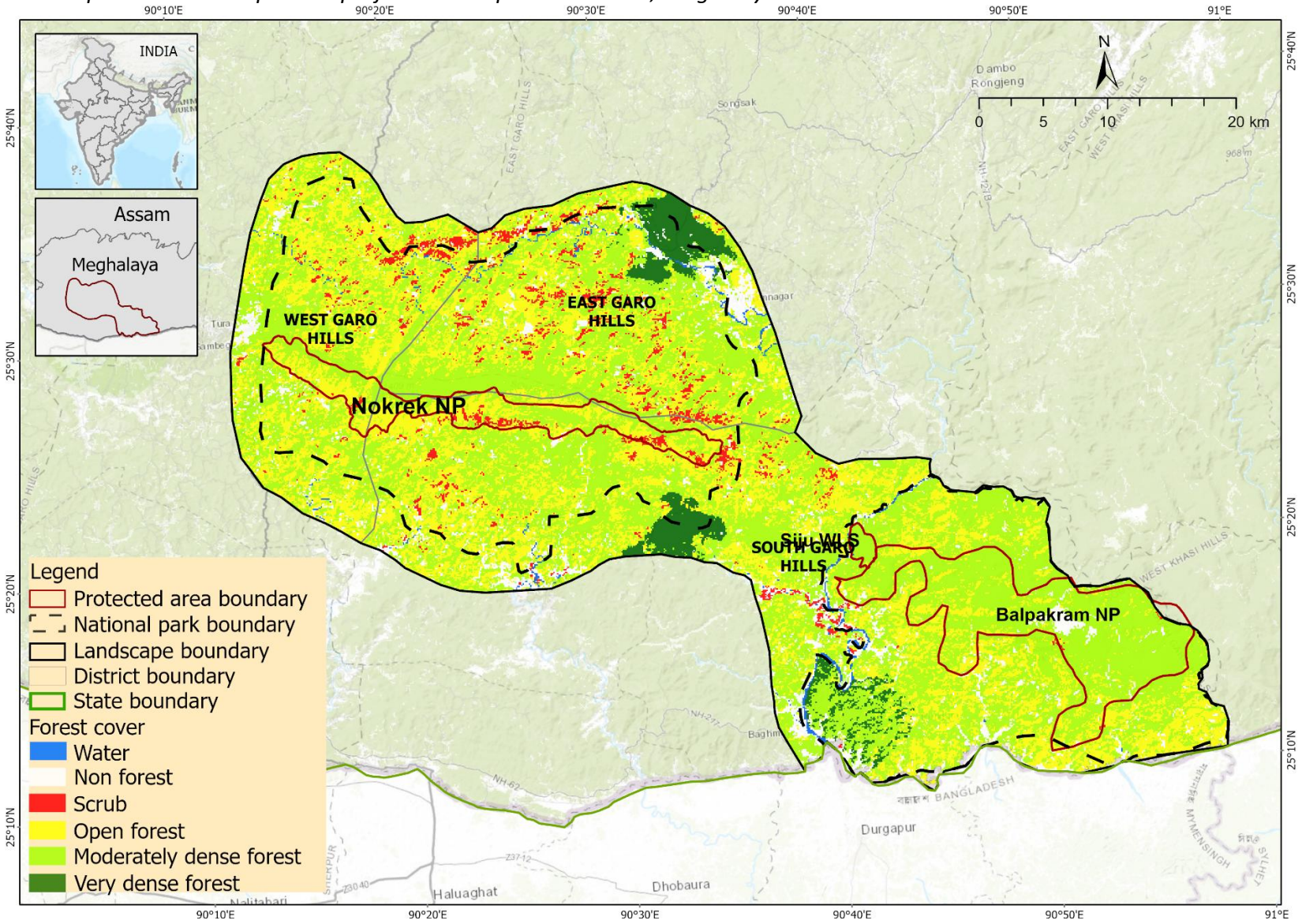
Landscape 1: Sathyamangalam-Nilgiri project landscape, Tamil Nadu State (***Map disclaimer:*** *The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal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



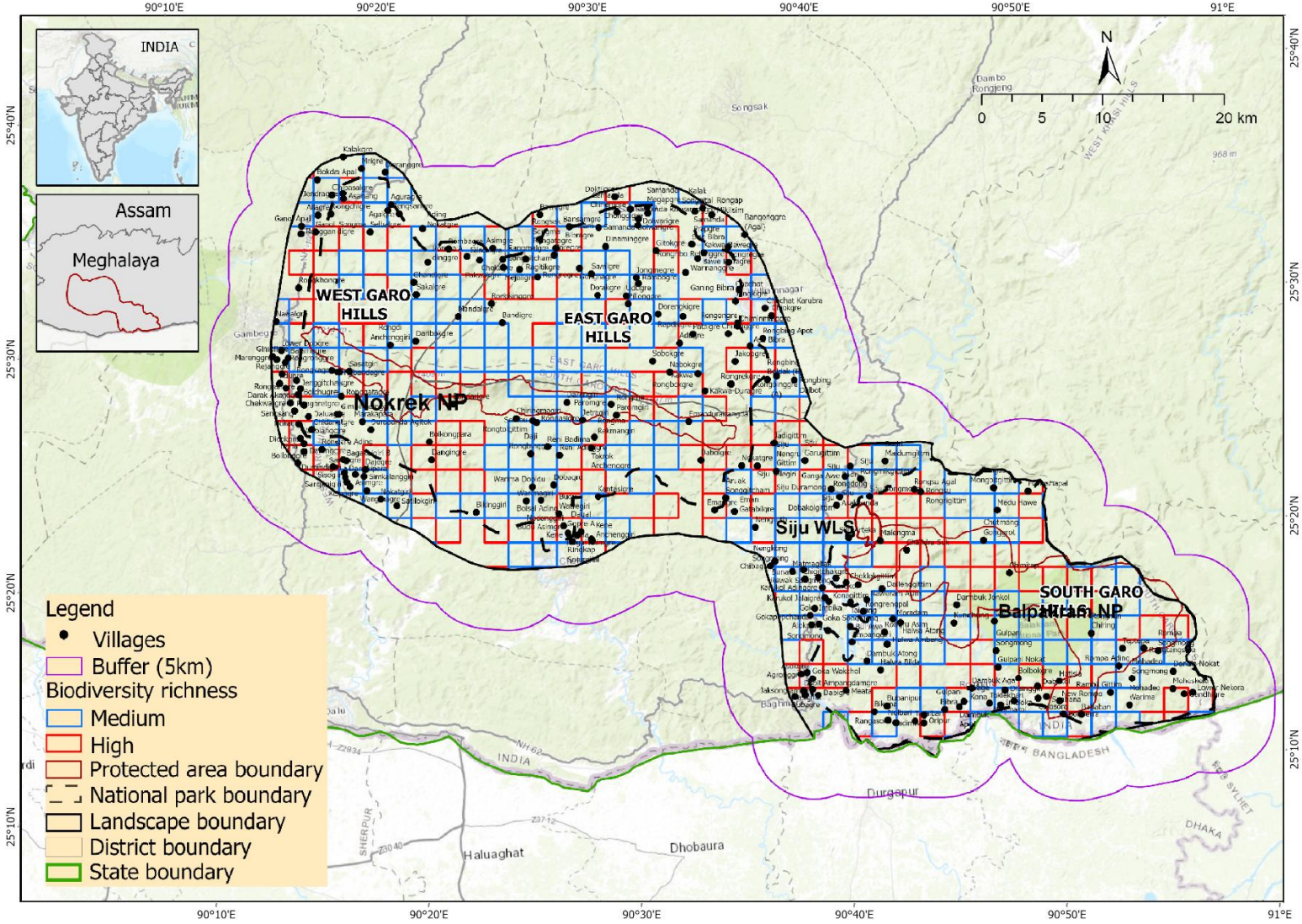
Landscape 1: Identified priority villages of the landscape (with high and medium biodiversity)



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



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



Annex 3 Multi Year Workplan

Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1.1 Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes																				
Output 1.2 Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development																				
Output 1.3 Institutional and technical capacities strengthened through mainstreaming biodiversity into capacity development system for rural development																				
Output 1.4 Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting																				
Output 1.5 Conservation and sustainable resource use models developed and implemented at landscape level																				
Output 1.6 Strengthened Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions																				
Output 2.1 Resource gap assessed, and financial solutions and resource mobilisation strategy developed for landscape and local plans																				
Output.2 Establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use																				
Output 2.3 Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments																				
Output 3.1 Improved capacity and tools for convergence of planning at local level to support analysis, synthesis and integration for improved decision-making in support of biodiversity outcomes																				
Output 3.2 Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning																				
Output 3.3 Results from project sites documented and disseminated, learning and experiences shared in national and international forums																				
Output 3.4 Replication of best practices at regional and national level in India																				
Output M&E.1 Inception of project																				
Output M&E.2 Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation of project outputs, outcomes and results																				
Output M&E.3 Monitoring of safeguards and gender compliance																				
Output M.E.4 Independent evaluations of project																				

Annex 4:UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document at the design stage. Note: this template will be converted into an online tool. The online version will guide users through the process and will embed relevant guidance.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments
2. Project Number (i.e. Quantum project ID, PIMS+)	6593
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	India (Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu)
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	06/09/2022

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

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach
The project takes a human-rights-based approach that adheres to Free Prior Informed Consent principles and purposefully respects the international declarations and conventions ratified by the Republic of India[38]. This approach applies through all stages of project development, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation, and is mainstreamed through a close working relationship with all key stakeholders. Efforts to conduct field missions, to engage with local civil society and to train local CSOs have been deployed to ensure careful consultations and appropriate participatory approaches, to the best extent possible. Importantly, all project interventions will follow the UNDP Guidelines on equity, fairness and equal distribution of benefits among beneficiaries, and have been developed together with various stakeholders to ensure that no rights or laws are infringed by the proposed activities. This project will ensure that the principles of accountability and the rule of law, participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination are taken into account by ensuring that there is an effective communication for the various stakeholders to share their insights and suggestions on the project, as well as their complaints if the project is not aligned with human-rights' principles. The human-rights based approach has also been mainstreamed during the project preparation through consultations with the stakeholders. Consultations were held on the intervention sites in August 2020 in order to identify local key stakeholders such as beneficiaries, communities, locally elected officials, Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zila

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

Panchayat staff, civil society, and other key stakeholders. Stakeholders proposed several project sites; however, the final site selection was completed in consultation after this first mission. Additional engagement will be conducted throughout the project, supported by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Social Inclusion Plan.This will be done through consultations with community representativeson the basis of environmental and social criteria integrating participatory approaches to encourage local communities and local governments to integrate UNDP's human rights based approaches into their practices (for instance, pertaining to women's empowerment and to communities' rights). Reports of stakeholder consultations will be made available as required upon request by the UNDP-CO.

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

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

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

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

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

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience
Securing environmental sustainability and protecting biodiversity is a critical part of this project's design.The strategy involves mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use into the existing system of village, block and district level planning for rural development in the two States based on Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu and in Meghalaya based on traditional village councils inputting into Village Employment Councils, with higher level structures as well. This integration will be achieved in the context of landscape level multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together local communities and district government, supported by the Forest and Rural Development Departments, to establish a common vision and land use plan for these two landscapes which include five major Protected areas, as well as Reserve Forest and community-owned forest in their buffer zones. A landscape plan will thus form the basis for developing capacity to mainstream biodiversity into local development planning, and carrying out priority biodiversity actions in terms of the landscape plans that maximize benefits for communities and for biodiversity (Component 1). Incentives for such biodiversity actions in 40 champion village lands will be created through accessing new sources of biodiversity finance, building on the BIOFIN approach; and through support to local biodiversity-based or eco-friendly enterprises (Component 2). The model piloted and the lessons learnt will be shared across Tami Nadu and Meghalaya states, and with the other States of India through the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs), and the central government departments supporting panchayat raj institutions, rural development and forest conservation.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders
The project will increase the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions that are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm). The Government of India, as the Implementing Partner, is obligated to realize the human rights of communities or people living in an area. It will be responsible for ensuring that the project avoids any forms of discrimination of different communities in natural resource use in the area. The government as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project 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. All stakeholders have been actively engaged from the project design phase so that they are empowered to engage in implementation and monitoring. This will also enable them to request accountability and raise grievances if necessary. Validation of all plans and designs by all stakeholders including community representatives, as requested by UNDP SES Policy, and availability of all key information (including SEP and GAP summaries) in languages understood by these representatives, will be done. The summary in languages understandable by all stakeholders of key documents (ProDoc, SESP, GAP, SEP, ESMF) will be made available at the local level at least 120 days before project approval, according to UNDP stakeholder engagement guidelines. These documents will also be presented and discussed during the validation and inception workshop, to be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement. This will ensure both active participation and accountability.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? *Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.*	**QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?** *Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5below before proceeding to Question 5*	**QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High**

Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments (optional)*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
Risk 1 **The project supports the enforcement of biodiversity conservation actions, including landscape plans and support to Forest Reserves, which could restrict access to natural and cultural resources, and potentially lead to economic and even physical displacement of local communities, including Schedules Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.** *Human Rights (P4, P5, P6)* *Accountability (P13)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9)* *Displacement and Resettlement (5.1, 5.2, 5.4)*	I = 5 L = 2	**Substantial**	Output 1.1 (Functional multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and governance mechanisms facilitate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in two multiple use landscapes) includes the establishment of two State & Landscape Coordination Committees chaired by the Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya State Governments, as well as 6 district coordination mechanisms, who will discuss and enact land-use planning decisions. The project will support landscape-level plans which will identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development. The landscape plans and well as the spatial planning that will be produced may actually negatively affect the communities' interests as they could restrict their access and most of all their uses of the lands. Areas identified for conservation and restoration[39]	- An ESMF is available as an Annex to the Project Document, outlining steps required during project implementation - A Social Inclusion Planning Framework[41]has been prepared to plan for appropriate processes to consult with Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, integrate their rights and interests in the project, and develop appropriate plans - As per the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment will be carried out for the project. This will lead to the development on an Environmental and Social Management Plan, with 3 key associated plans to target this particular risk: ○ Two Social Inclusion Plans[42] (one per landscape) to plan adequate measures in order to avoid, minimize, mitigate and/or compensate any negative impact on Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes ○ Two Livelihood Action Plans, assessing the situation of all local groups and planning for adequate measures to maintain or enhance their livelihood ○ Two Resettlement Action Plans, specifying the clear legal framework and conditions to manage the risk of physical displacement. Physical displacement should be avoided and no forced displacement will occur through this project. - A strong (and independent from the project management) Grievance Redress Mechanism will be established in the project area to mitigate potential adverse impact of increased law enforcement and inappropriate planning on

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

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

			activities for instance could overlap with existing land uses such as farming and/or sacred sites. Such restrictions could also inadvertently impact the access to cultural heritage sites, especially as those have not yet been mapped by the project. Consultations will need to identify key locations for all local communities. A similar impact could be observed in particular through the spatial planning to be conducted in 40 champion village clusters: 10 Gram Panchayats[40] and 10 tribal communities in Sathyamangalam landscape, and 20 Village A'king Lands in Garo Hills landscape.	marginalized local people as a risk group. It will be made available before moderate to high risk activities start, and its functionality will be assessed after one year, opening up for potential revisions. - To control appropriate support of human rights during the project implementation all monitoring and evaluation missions for the project will be designed using a fully participatory approach with opportunity for all marginalized groups to ensure their voices are heard and taken in account in the project management. - Purposeful application of a human-rights approach to social and environmental sustainability is central to minimizing social and cultural impacts. Through trained representatives, local communities are reported to have actively and meaningfully engaged in decisions about how to conserve and sustainably use their natural resources, so that the risk that they will purposefully impinge on their rights or adversely impact their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing is minimized. - A human-rights-based approach was applied during project formulation and will continue to be applied during implementation. - Stakeholder mapping was done as part of project development and included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. - The project has planned to undertake a socially inclusive participatory mapping exercise (including women, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other discriminated / vulnerable groups) applying FPIC principles, for communally owned village lands, spatially mapping current land uses and identifying the spatial extent of potential future uses as per the landscape plan (preparation for Activity 1.4.1 identifying priority biodiversity actions). - Where changes in land use are envisaged, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied. For

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

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

				example, if a new area in the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is proposed to become a Community Reserve[43], involving curtailing of community use rights, this will involve in-depth discussions with various local governance and community structures in the relevant Village A'king Lands, on whose communally owned forest decisions are ultimately taken by the Nokmas[44] on behalf of their communities. Wherever sacrifices are made in favour of biodiversity conservation, the Community Facilitators will work to support the introduction of incentives in the form of support to livelihoods activities (see Output 2.2), or through the new Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme introduced through the parallel MCLLMP project[45].

Risk 2 **Gender-Based Violence is a prominent issue in both landscapes – the support to women groups may exacerbate GBV within the community if they create power struggles at the household or village level** *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (P12)* *Accountability (P15)*	I = 3 L = 3	**Moderate**	Sexual violence in Meghalaya continues to be a devastating phenomenon with destructive repercussions for victims and their families and whole communities.[46] Even in the Garo tribes who follow the matrilineal system and where women have a special position and role in society, progressive degeneration of moral values has resulted in an escalation of crimes against women and gender-based violence. The risk of GBV js higher for women in STs, SCs and OBCs, as women's vulnerability to violence is related to their	• In line with national policies as well as UNDP and GEF guidelines, the project will adopt the following principles in its day-to-day management: (1) Demonstrate gender responsiveness in all interactions with project stakeholders; (2) No use of language or behaviour denoting bias and disrespect for any individual based on gender or ethnicity; (3) Avoid gender stereotyping in project documents, and communication outputs; (4) Support zero tolerance for sexual harassment, gender-based violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse of men, women, girls and boys that may occur in connection with any of its supported activities. • The project will organise a training for the PMU on gender-integrated planning and project implementation and on risks related to gender inequalities including Gender-based Violence. There are a few courses available: NAP-Ag course focuses on adaptation planning[49], and UNDP also produced

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

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

[45]The World Bank-funded Meghalaya Community Led Landscape Management Project (MCLLMP), being implemented by the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) from 2018 to 2023, is rolling out a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme from 2022 supporting villages, communities, clans or individuals who commit to conserve and protect an area of over 5 hectares of Natural Forest for a minimum of 30 years – paying them Rs 8,000 (USD 100) per ha per year for 5 years, and additional amounts if the area is registered as a Community Reserve, or if very dense forest, a Sacred Grove, or in an eco-sensitive zone around a Protected Area.

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

			general vulnerability in socio-economic systems[47]. In Tamil Nadu, considered a more progressive state, the National Family Health Survey still found that 44,7% of married women experienced physical or sexual violence in their household, and 81% of them never sought any help.[48]The project will provide Women's leadership support (1.1.6), through the form of women leadership support programme for women participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries. However, this activity could foster changes in social dynamics, which in turn could lead to a temporary increase in GBV.	with GEF a free online course on Gender and Environment. • To address the risk of Gender-based Violence highlighted in the SESP and in the Gender analysis, the project will establish a process in the Stakeholder Response Mechanism to record GBV cases and related complaints and decide how to respond in collaboration with local CSOs and existing institutional mechanisms in place (if any) • For a project focused on land management, it is necessary to understand social dynamics in terms of GBV. To gather information, regular visits and interviews in the area would be essential, as well as the collection of data on gender (in)equalities. A dedicated Gender Focal Point within the CO should ensure data collection in a gender-responsive manner in the field (e.g. conduct key informant interviews focused on gender-related issues (i.e. barriers to access and control resources, sexual and reproductive health and rights, political representation and participation, gender-based violence, etc.), focus group discussions with women's groups, and with groups of people of different age and ethnicities, etc.).
Risk 3 **The project may create existing land-related conflicts among communities around issues related to land-use, forest activities and benefit-sharing.** *Human Rights (P5, P7)* *Accountability (P13)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)*	I = 3 L = 2	**Moderate**	The project will strengthen Protected Area management to improve habitat connectivity and enhance community collaboration in joint forest management actions. However, if some communities are less engaged than others in these actions, this could create inequities and subsequent conflicts between communities. The monitoring and enforcement of conservation	- An ESMF has been prepared as an annex to the Project Document, and requires that an ESIA/ESMP be undertaken to manage this risk and all others. - A Grievance Mechanism will be designed (see ESMF) and will be implemented by the project, allowing communities to request intervention when they have a grievance. - Careful planning of activities in consultation with all stakeholders was done during project preparation and will continue during implementation in order to ensure that conservation efforts actually contribute to development objectives for all communities according to their interests. - Additional technical expertise will be brought on board as needed, for example to negotiate Access and Benefit

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

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

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

			activities could also be detrimental for the livelihood of certain communities who may currently be encroaching some Reserve Forests and/or conducting other prohibited activities. Even if joint patrols are made of community members (1.6.4), there is a risk that this would create problems within the community in between those enrolled in the patrols and those who are conducting their activities in these areas. Conflicts could also arise around benefit-sharing, if the governance structures (2.2.3) and the Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements (2.2.7) are not representatives of all communities and subsets of these communities, including STs, SCs and OBCs.	Sharing agreements or small-scale processing facilities for agroforestry produce. Where changes in land use are envisaged, for example, intensive cultivation of communal lands previously left fallow, the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be applied, and full consultations conducted.
Risk 4 **Local districts and community associations might not have the capacity to implement project activities successfully, or to monitor the impacts, leading to ill-adapted management decisions and poor accountability to the beneficiaries.** *Accountability (P13, P14)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)*	I=3 L=2	**Moderate**	The project will support activities with local communities, community associations and local institutions at project sites. These might not be fully capacitated to discharge project activities. Lack of capacity to implement these activities could limit success of project activities or result in unintended negative consequences. Existing marginalization dynamics may also affect the ability of duty-bearers to effectively address gender-based conflict and adequately respond to potential grievances raised by women or socially marginalized groups in the project sites.	• In order to reinforce the capacities of the duty-bearers to conduct the project effectively and meet their obligations, output 1.4 is specifically dedicated to capacity-building. These activities will be complemented by specific capacity-building activities on Safeguards Management, Gender equity, FPIC implementation and Stakeholder Engagement, as planned in the ESMF • Alignment of national priorities and coordination of environment policy between the national and the local level will be key. The project board will be in charge of ensuring this alignment. It is key that that local authorities at the district level are empowered in safeguards management, as planned in the ESMF, to make sure that the SES policy is adequately applied. • The projectwill include professionals with expertise in all technical aspects of the project. A Safeguards consultant, present full-time for the first year and ad hoc throughout the rest of the project cycle, will support the project. Project staff will be supported on a continual basis

				through training and refresher courses, and hands-on support during the initial part of the project, as per the ESMF and with the help of the national safeguard consultant. • These measures will ensure that technical staff and implementing partners are well equipped to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties and that project management and administration are handled professionally and meet both GEF and UNDP standards and requirements • The GRM will be gender-sensitive and socially inclusive, and may, if deemed necessary, differ from one landscape to another, in order to be made accessible to all.
Risk 5 **As women are traditionally excluded from decision-making processes, they could be excluded from the support planned to local communities, including STs, SCs and OBCs. This could inadvertently reproduce existing discrimination against women in project implementation. Dynamics among social groups could also lead to exclusion of certain women from the support provided to women groups.** *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (P9, P10, P11)* *Accountability (P13, P14, P15)* *Labour and Working Conditions (7.5)*	I = 4 L = 4	**Substantial**	Inappropriate stakeholder engagement measures may potentially limit women's participation in the project discussions, worsening their social position and access to critical resources. Within the project area, differentiated and uneven roles and needs exist between women and men but also among women (young/old, non-married/married, rural/urban, from one ethnic group to another, etc.). This situation can lead to an over-representation of the elites' interests in the community-based structures to the detriment of others, and to a capture by men of the benefits provided by the project, especially if women, or subgroups of women (i.e. widows / female household heads) are excluded from project consultations and local governance structures. Stakeholder engagement structures mixing men and women representatives, or all women, even women	• To ensure appropriate support for women's rights and gender equality during the project implementation, all monitoring and evaluation missions for the project will be designed using the most participatory approach possible, continuously looking for opportunities for women to ensure their voices are heard and taken into account in the project management. • During project development, a Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAAP) was developed, and gender aspects are now integrated in the project document. The GAAP was developed with particular attention to establishing mechanisms to reduce the risk that existing discriminations against women are inadvertently reproduced in project implementation. • Additionally, Gender Mainstreaming is woven into the project results framework, with specific activities dedicated to empowering women (namely, 1.4.1, 1.4.3, 1.4.4, 2.2.4) • Strong Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be established in the project landscapes to mitigate potential adverse impact of increased law enforcement on marginalized local people as a risk group, including women. • Gender responsive and inclusive women mobilization and capacity building activities will precede all interventions, according to the gender-responsive Social Inclusion Planning Framework, FPIC protocols and the two Social Inclusion Plans.

			community-based organizations, may inadvertently reproduce marginalization dynamics. Similarly, capacitation of State master trainers (1.3.2) and training for local governance institutions (1.3.3) may reproduce gender imbalance dynamics and benefit to men staff only or mostly. Women could also be excluded from joint patrolling and other conservation actions on the basis of cultural taboos, as they may be prohibited from participating in certain type of activities.	
Risk 6 **Better conservation measures could actually lead to an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict** *Accountability (P14)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.1)*	I=3 L=2	**Moderate**	The implementation of biodiversity actions is expected to generate better conditions for wildlife conservation in the two landscapes. This could, however, generate an increase in Human Wildlife Conflict, as free-roaming elephant, leopard and wild boar frequently cause injuries and deaths among community members, while crops are destroyed (in an area where food supplies almost entirely depend on these crops). If not managed adequately, these conflicts could lead to a significant decrease in communities' livelihoods, and cause growing resentment towards the project and the elephants and other wildlife. Some community members are recruited by illegal wildlife traffickers to act as guides and poachers. The motivation for local people is money, particularly where the conflict	• The ESIA/ESMP and the Livelihood Action Plan will take into account the Human Wildlife Conflict on the basis of a list of incidents gathered during safeguards consultations. • A forensic analysis of the incidents may be planned in addition if the problem increases despite the implementation of management measures. • The State government of Meghalaya is already providing Payment for Compensation for Depredation by Wild Animals, and the State government of Tamil Nadu is erecting Solar Fences to protect the Farm Land from the Wild Animals • Through activity 1.5.1, the project will provide solutions to reduce HWC (i.e. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g., elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences) in the champion village clusters.

			has destroyed their livelihoods, or where they have become socially outcast to some degree. The decrease of livelihoods and growing resentment could become another motivation for some community members to engage in poaching activities.	
Risk 7 **Ill-adapted conservation measures could actually generate inadvertent perturbation to the local ecosystem, in particular if new species are introduced, as they could prove to be invasive** *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management (1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.8)*	I = 3 L = 3	**Moderate**	The project output 1.5 includes enrichment planting in Sacred Groves[50], demarcated by Gram Panchayats or tribal communities for protection, planting indigenous tree species cultivated in local nurseries with seed collected form the forest. Rehabilitation of degraded areas (reforestation, plantation) may lead to perturbation of the local ecosystem if all species are not indigenous, something that has happened in the past[51]. Tree plantations may also be done at the expense of other species, hence inadvertently harming local biodiversity.	• The Prodoc clearly states that planting should involve only indigenous tree species in both landscapes. Care will be taken to use locally appropriate and suitable tree species and to avoid inadvertent negative ecological impacts. • The ESIA/ESMP will also provide a frame to acceptable practices, on the basis of the selection of biodiversity actions to be carried out. • Restoration activities under Output 1.5 will include clearing of invasive alien vegetation (such as *Lantana camara* and *Prosopis julifora*) from Reserve Forests, guided by the Forest Department nd working with tribal communities to clear the biomass and process it as fuel, biochar or furniture[52].
Risk 8 **Businesses and forest-based enterprises supported by the project could lead to an unsustainable use of natural resources, generation of waste and negative impacts on the environment**	I=3 L=2	**Moderate**	**Output 2.2** plans to establish biodiversity-friendly business enterprise ventures to improve community livelihoods and build support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. These ventures will be supported by support to buyer agreements and marketing, as well as business studies and	• Output 2.2 states that the enterprises ventures should be biodiversity-friendly. Examples of livelihoods include fodder production and processing, beekeeping and honey, agroforestry combining medicinal plants and fruit trees, bamboo and cane furniture, essential oils from flowers, adding value to existing tree crops e.g. cashew roasting, orange pulp, broom grass broom-making[53]. Conditions preceding the selection of these ventures should include social and environmental criteria to frame what "eco-

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

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

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

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

Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management (1.1, 1.2, 1.2, 1.3) *Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency (8.2)*			plans. The value-chains concerned could use natural resources in an unsustainable way, generate waste, and prove to be harmful to biodiversity as they expand.	friendly" means for the project, in light of environmental and social safeguards. These conditions will be included in the ESMP. • Also included in the ESMP conditions will be a requirement that any expansion of cultivation as the basis for the enterprises will be done on already transformed land and will not involve the clearing of native forest.
Risk 9 **There is the risk that the project misuses traditional knowledge, as it will be used for commercialization purposes. This could in turn prove to be harmful to STs, SCs and OBCs cultural values.** *Cultural Heritage (4.5)* *Indigenous Peoples (6.5)*	I=3 L=2	**Moderate**	The two State Medicinal Plants Boards[54] will be key partners in identifying opportunities for cultivation and commercialization of medicinal species, and potential for Access and Benefit Sharing for local endemic species on which communities hold the traditional knowledge. The business feasibility studies and plans will explore the potential for value-chains intrinsically linked with traditional knowledge to be the basis of eco-friendly business ventures. This could lead to a misrepresentation of traditional knowledge, and to be harmful for local communities' cultural values.	• The two Social Inclusion Plans, as per the Social Inclusion Planning Framework, will detail appropriate measures to account for traditional knowledge. • The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates the establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local and district levels, who are responsible for the development of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) for each Gram Panchayat or Village, detailing biological resources and traditional knowledge at the local level. Project Activity 1.3.4 will involve capacity development through the State Institute for Rural Development, and additional support through tertiary institutions to 445 villages in the two project landscapes (identified as biodiversity hotspots) to produce or validate and update their People's Biodiversity Registers, including traditional knowledge of women as well as men. • All activities linked to the development of eco-friendly business ventures will be subject to consultations according to the FPIC protocol, in order to make sure that they respect all cultural values linked to the use and commercial use of traditional knowledge. • In accordance with the articles of the Nagoya Protocol, India's National Biodiversity Authority has published Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These

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

				regulations promote and govern the development of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements[55] benefiting custodians of traditional knowledge on forest products. • Where potential exists in the project landscapes for commercial use of an indigenous forest species of which local communities are the traditional stewards and knowledge holders, specialized technical support will be provided throughActivity 2.2.7 to support enterprise cooperatives to conclude ABS agreements with commercial partners who are willing to channel monetary and non-monetary benefits to the communities in exchange for access to the biological or genetic resource. Sharing regimes will be guided by the ABS regulations and also FPIC consultations.
Risk 10 **Both landscapes are highly vulnerable to climate change. Some of the biodiversity actions implemented could actually increase the communities' vulnerability to climate change.** *Climate change and Disaster Risks (2.1, 2.3)*	I=3 P=1	**Low**	Over 16 years to 2016, nearly half of Meghalaya's forests experienced an "increase in disturbance", and around a quarter are now "highly vulnerable" to the impact of climate change, found a 2018 study commissioned by the state government.[56] Tamil Nadu is highly prone to extreme weather events in India, intensified by climate change. Most of its districts' risk and vulnerability assessment have been done. For example, 22 districts in Tamil Nadu are critically water-stressed. Twelve coastal districts are prone to cyclones, sea level rise and other climate change-induced disasters.[57]	

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

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

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

			However, given the project's activities, which aim at implementing medium scale biodiversity solutions and do not undertake any infrastructure building or land conversion activities, the increase in vulnerability is extremely unlikely.	

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

	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
	Is assessment required? (check if "yes")	☐			***Status? (completed, planned)***
	if yes, indicate overall type and status		☐	Targeted assessment(s)	
			X	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	Planned
			☐	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
	Are management plans required? (check if "yes)	☐			
	If yes, indicate overall type		X	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	Gender Action Plan: planned Stakeholder Engagement Plan: planned Social Inclusion Planning Framework: completed 2 Social Inclusion Plans: planned 2 Resettlement

					Action Plans: Planned 2 Livelihood Actions plans: planned
			X	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	Planned
			X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		**Comments (not required)**		
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
	Human Rights	X			
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X			
	Accountability	X			
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	X			
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	X			
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	☐			
	4. Cultural Heritage	X			
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	X			
	6. Indigenous Peoples	X			
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	X			
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	X			

Final Sign Off

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

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

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.		
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind **Human Rights**		**Answer (Yes/No)**
P.1	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2	Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	**Yes**
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	**Yes**
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.4	adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	**Yes**
P.5	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?[58]	**Yes**
P.6	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	**Yes**
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	**Yes**
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	**Yes**
P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	**Yes**
P.11	limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? *For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being*	**Yes**
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? *For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc*.	**Yes**
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		
Accountability		

[58] Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority.References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
P.13	exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	**Yes**
P.14	grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	**Yes**
P.15	risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
Project-Level Standards		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
1.1	adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? *For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes*	**Yes**
1.2	activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	**Yes**
1.3	changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	**Yes**
1.4	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No
1.5	exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6	introduction of invasive alien species?	**Yes**
1.7	adverse impacts on soils?	No
1.8	harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	**Yes**
1. 9	significant agricultural production?	No
1. 10	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11	significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? *For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction*	No
1.12	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms?[59]	No
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)[60]	No
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
Would the potentially involve or lead to:		
2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	**Yes**
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change? *For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events*	No
2.3	direct or indirect increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disasters now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? *For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding*	**Yes**

[59] See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

[60] See the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Would the potentially involve or lead to:		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and non-communicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.4	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.8	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.9	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.10	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	**Yes**
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	**Yes**
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	**Yes**
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	**Yes**
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	**Yes**
5.3	risk of forced evictions?[61]	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	**Yes**
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		

[61] Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	**Yes**
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	**Yes**
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? *If the answer to screening question 6.3 is "yes", then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk*	**Yes**
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	**Yes**
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	**Yes**
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? *Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above*	**Yes**
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	**Yes**
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? *Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.*	**Yes**
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	No
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	**Yes**
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	No
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	**Yes**
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? *For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention*	No
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex 7Overview of Project Support and Technical Consultancies

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
	For Project Management		
Contractual Services – Implementing Partner			
1	National Project Officer	Full-time 5 years	The National Project Officer, under the leadership of the National Project Director, will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> a. Manage the overall conduct of the project. b. Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved workplan. c. Execute activities by managing personnel, goods and services, training and capacity development, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors' work. d. Supervise the work of and receive regular reportbacks from the Meghalaya State &Landscape Project Officer and the Tamil Nadu State & Landscape Project Officer on Components 1 and 2. e. Directly oversee and coordinate the national level work of the project, including the following high-level elements of Components 1 and 2, in collaboration with the Landscape Project officers: Activity 1.1.1 to set up the state / landscape level structures, Output 1.3 especially the curriculum development in Activity 1.3.1, Activity 1.4.7 to help provide access to central schemes for funding actions, Activity 1.6.6 facilitating registration at state and central level of Community Reserves and OECMs, Output 2.1 developing resource mobilization strategies, and Output 2.3 strengthening financial capacities, f. Taking responsibility for delivery on Component 3 as a whole, facilitating the work of consultants and technical service providers, and cooperating with the two Landscape Project Officers on Activity 3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3 and 3.4.1; g. Supervise the work of the Procurement, Finance and Admin Officer and the Gender and Safeguards Specialists , both servicing the project as a whole. h. Monitor events as determined in the project monitoring plan, and update the plan as required. i. Provide support for completion of assessments required by UNDP, spot checks and audits. j. Manage requests for the provision of UNDP financial resources through funding advances, direct payments or reimbursement using the FACE form. k. Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports. l. Monitor progress, watch for plan deviations and make course corrections when needed within project board-agreed tolerances to achieve results. m. Ensure that changes are controlled and problems addressed. n. Perform regular progress reporting to the project board as agreed with the board, including measures to address challenges and opportunities. o. Prepare and submit financial reports to UNDP on a quarterly basis.

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			p. Manage and monitor the project risks – including social and environmental risks - initially identified and submit new risks to the Project Board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log; q. Capture lessons learned during project implementation. r. Prepare revisions to the multi-year workplan, as needed, as well as annual and quarterly plans if required. s. Prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. t. Ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the GEF PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the GEF PIR. u. Prepare the GEF PIR each year; v. Assess major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF; w. Monitor implementation plans including the gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan, and any environmental and social management plans; x. Monitor and track progress against the GEF Core indicators. y. Support the Mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation process.
2	Procurement and Admin Officer	Full-time 5 years	The Procurement and Admin Officer will report to the National Project Officer and will help to service the project as a whole, with particular attention to Component 3 of the work (which includes national level work). <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> <u>Procurement</u> a. Procure goods and equipment needed for the Component 3 of the project b. Procure goods and equipment needed for Component 1 and 2, in collaboration with the Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu Admin, Operations & Finance Officers c. Procure the services of Consultants for Component 1: (i) Gender Specialist, (ii) Ecological Landscape Planning Expert, (iii) Governance Specialist, (iv) Community Engagement Specialist, (v-viii) National Consultants (Biodiversity, Human-Wildlife Conflict, Soil and Water Conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing), (ix) Consultant for designing Tracking Tools to monitor progress against implementation of landscape management plans, (x) Forest Restoration Consultant d. Procure the services of Consultants for Component 2: (i) Technical Expert for development of tracking tools, (ii) Technical Expert for establishing Cooperative Societies, (iii)Technical Experts for developing biodiversity finance gap report, (iii) Technical Consultant for conducting customized training and incubation support programme for enterprises, (iv) Technical Consultant for curriculum development for training on budgeting on biodiversity action e. Procure the services of Consultants for Component 3: (i) Local Expert for uploading training material and tools related to mainstreaming, (ii) Communication Specialist for development and implementation of project communication strategy, (iii) Technical Expert for developing National Replication Strategy f. Procure the services of Consultants for Project Management / M&E: (i) International Consultant for Mid-term Review, (ii) International Consultant for Terminal Evaluation, (iii) Additional part-time support from Gender and Safeguards Specialist, (iv) National Consultant for Mid-term Review, (v) National Consultant for

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			Terminal Evaluation g. Procure the contractual services of Companies / Organizations for Component 1: (i) Multi stakeholder engagement for landscape level plans, (ii) Development of gender-responsive training courses/tools & institutionalization with SIRDs, (iii) Updating PBR guidelines and supporting communities to update 445 PBRs, (iv) Supporting 40 champion villages on designing and implementing costed priority actions, (vi) Conducting Women Leadership Programme h. Procure the contractual services of Companies / Organizations for Component 2: (i) Developing biodiversity gap report for 40 champion villages, based on costed biodiversity priority actions, (ii) Conducting a feasibility study on existing value chains and developing a business concept for each of the 6 forest-based / eco-friendly enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain, (iii) Conducting women in business leadership programme, (iv) Conducting a business execution support programme, (v) Facilitating agreements with buyers and marketing & branding strategy for 6 enterprises / enterprise clusters i. Procure the contractual services of Companies / Organizations for Component 3: (i) Digitization of spatial data, (ii) Developing short documentaries on lessons learnt from 40 villages <u>Administration</u> a. Assist theNational Project Officer in day-to-day management and oversight of project activities, including liaison with the Meghalaya State &Landscape Project Officer and the Tamil Nadu State & Landscape Project Officer on Components 1 and 2 b. Assist the Gender and Safeguards Specialistswhere necessary c. Assist the National Project Officer in matters related to M&E and knowledge resources management; d. Assist in the preparation of progress reports; e. Ensure all project documentation (progress reports, consulting and other technical reports, minutes of meetings, etc.) are properly maintained in hard and electronic copies in an efficient and readily accessible filing system, for when required by PB, TAC, UNDP, and project consultants; f. Provide administrative and logistical assistance.
3	Landscape Experts (Meghalaya & Tamil Nadu)	Full-time 5 years (Budgeted in Component 1)	Each of the two Landscape Experts will be responsible for coordinating day-to-day activities on the ground , both limited activities in at state level , and multiple activities at district and local level, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> a. To oversee the work at the relevant state/landscape levelsupervising one Admin, Operation and Finance Officer each, three Community Mobilizers each; b. Cooperate with the central PMUto supervise and sign off on the work of multiple landscape level consultants and contractors (recruited and paid by the central PMU); c. Establish, capacitate and coordinate the multi-stakeholder State & Landscape Level Coordinating Committee, as an ongoing forum for support to the process of mainstreaming biodiversity into local governance and development planning and budgeting; d. Establish, capacitate and coordinate the six District Coordination Mechanisms, as an ongoing forum for support to the process of mainstreaming biodiversity into district and local governance and development

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			planning and budgeting; e. Provide both state and landscape level reporting to the central Project Management Unit on activities carried out and results achieved, including completing relevant tracking tools; f. Plan the activities of the project, especially Components 1 and 2 at state and landscape level, and also Activities 3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, and 3.4.1, together with the National Project Officer (Project Manager) g. Monitor progress against the approved workplan, in coordination with the central PMU; h. Execute activities by managing on a day-to-day basis the personnel, goods and services, training and capacity development, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors' work, in coordination with the central PMU.
4	Admin, Operations and Finance Officers (Meghalaya & Tamil Nadu)	Full-time 4,5 years	Each of the two Admin, Operations and Finance Officers will be based in the relevant states/landscapes , and will report to the Landscape Expert, and support him/her on administrative needs in coordinating day-to-day activities on the ground, both limited activities in at state level and multiple activities at district and local level, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> <u>Administration</u> a. Assist the Landscape Expertin day-to-day management and oversight of project activities, largely on Components 1 and 2 b. Assist in gathering information and reporting data for the Gender and Safeguards Specialists and the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; c. Assist in the preparation of progress reports; d. Ensure all project documentation (progress reports, consulting and other technical reports, minutes of meetings, etc.) are properly maintained in hard and electronic copies in an efficient and readily accessible filing system, for when required by PB, TAC, UNDP, and project consultants; e. Provide administrative and logistical assistance. <u>Finance & Accounting</u> a. Keep records of project funds and expenditures, and support the Procurement, Finance and Admin Officer;Review annual budgets and project expenditure reports, as necessary and notify the Procurement, Finance and Admin Officer if there are any discrepancies or issues; b. Liaise and follow up with consultants and contractors for implementation of project activities in matters related to project funds and financial progress reports, as necessary.
5	Community Mobilizers (Erode, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, West Garo Hills,	Full-time 4 years (Budgeted in Component 1)	EightCommunity Mobilizers will be recruited for the two landscapes. All eightwill report to the respective Landscape Expert, and support him/her on working with the community in carrying out day-to-day activities on the ground, and in liaising with and briefing relevant consultants and contractors, and helping to facilitate their work with the

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
	East Garo Hills, South Garo Hills)		communities, particularly on Outputs 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, and 2.2, with limited support also to mobilization for Outputs 1.3 and 1.6. <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> a. Assist the Landscape Expert to facilitate and record meetings of the relevant District Coordination Mechanism; b. Support the Landscape Experton Output 1.2, including selection of champion villages, and working with Forest department and communities on landscape plans; c. Support the Landscape Experton Output 1.3, mobilizing the leadership of all the target villages in the district (from the total of 445 villages) to participate in the biodiversity mainstreaming capacity development process through the SIRDs and satellite institutions, and the updating of People's Biodiversity Registers; d. Help to facilitate access for project staff, consultants and contractors to the relevant communities for Component 1 and 2 activities on the ground; e. Support the Landscape Experton Output 1.4, including supporting champion villages in an inclusive process to develop costed biodiversity priority actions in terms of the landscape plans, to include socially marginalized groups, to mobilize participants for gender and women's leadership training, and to integrate actions into develop plans and budgets; f. Support the Landscape Experton Output 1.5, including carrying out biodiversity priority actions on the ground in champion villages, and tracking and monitoring progress; g. Support the Forest Department on Output 1.6, facilitating communication with communities where necessary, and helping to develop capacity for joint forest management actions; h. Support the Landscape Experton Output 2.2, including selection from amongst the champion village clusters of at least six (likely one per district) opportunities for building cooperative forest-based or eco-friendly enterprises, and supporting contractors to strengthen governance structures and provide business incubation support; i. Support the National Project Officer and Landscape Experton Output 3.3, helping to mobilize communities to participate in knowledge exchanges and making videos showcasing progress.

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
For Technical Assistance			
Outcome 1			
Local Consultants			
6	Gender Specialist	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Develop and deliver training for project Activities 1.1.3 (landscape structures), 1.1.6 (district structures) and 1.4.3 (village leadership), cooperating with National Project Officer and both Landscape Experts, as well as

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			theSafeguards Specialist on: ○ **Activity 1.1.3 Training on gender responsiveness:** Develop and deliver training for government officials and civil society participating in state/landscape and district coordination structures on how project aims to be gender-responsive and promote women's empowerment, and equipping participants to facilitate this. ○ **Activity 1.1.6 Women's leadership support:**Develop and deliver women leadership support programme for women participants in district coordination mechanisms, ensuring they have the necessary technical skills and confidence to participate fully and give voice to the interests and concerns of women project beneficiaries • **Activity 1.4.3 Gender training for self-governance institutions:** Undertake gender training for leadership of champion village clusters (Gram Panchayats, Village Employment Councils and traditional village councils, Biodiversity Management Committees, Self Help Groups and CBOs involved in planning) on how project aims to be gender-responsive and promote women's empowerment, and equipping participants to facilitate this. Overall Roles and Responsibilities • Monitor progress in implementation of the project Gender Action Plan ensuring that targets are fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled; • Oversee/develop/coordinate implementation of all gender-related work; • Review the Gender Action Plan annually, and update and revise corresponding management plans as necessary; • Work with the M&E Specialist and Safeguards Specialist to ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluation fully address the gender issues of the project; • Support the National Project Officer in overseeing the work of all gender-related consultants and contractors.
7	Ecological Landscape Planning Expert	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Output 1.2, "Landscape-level plans identify areas with potential for actions on biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable resource use and socio-economic development" • Cooperate with Landscape Experts and Community Mobilizers, guided by State and Landscape Level Coordinating Committees, and contractors for landscape plans (see ToR 20 and 21) to ensure delivery on: ○ **Activity 1.2.1 Landscape plans:** Undertake landscape-scale participatory mapping exercise to establish a shared vision for each landscape and identify areas where conservation and restoration[62] are needed for connectivity, and where biodiversity-based livelihoods and HWC mitigation can be promoted[63], producing two landscape plans. ○ **Activity 1.2.2 Multi stakeholder engagement for landscape level plans:** Conduct sessions for forest officials, frontline staff, CBOs, NGOs, local communities, and other development partners for strengthening

[62] To meet project target of 4,000 hectares for restoration / natural regeneration of forest
[63] To meet project target of 60,000 hectares under new biodiversity-friendly forest and land management practices, including conservation for improved connectivity

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			landscape level plans in select landscapes of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya. ○ **Activity 1.2.3 Champion village identification:** Identify/confirm 40 champion village clusters: 10 Gram Panchayats[64] and 10 tribal communities in Sathyamangalam landscape, and 20 Village A'king Landsin Garo Hills landscape, with forest cover and potential to undertake actions for biodiversity conservation, restoration, or sustainable use, HWC mitigation or PA connectivity. ○ **Activity 1.2.4 Spatial planning for champion village lands:** Undertake a socially inclusive participatory mapping exercise[65], applying FPIC principles, for communally owned village lands, spatially mapping current land uses and identifying the spatial extent of potential future uses as per the landscape plan (preparation for Activity 1.4.1 identifying priority biodiversity actions).
8	Governance Specialist	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Activity 1.3.4, cooperating with National Project Officer and both Landscape Experts and the relevant contracted organization / tertiary institution (see ToR 23) to ensure delivery on: ○ **Activity 1.3.4 People's Biodiversity Registers:** Update current guidelines for PBR development (building on GIZ templates) to be more user-friendly for mapping and monitoring biological resources, traditional knowledge, conservation planning and implementing ABS agreements; and provide support from a tertiary institution in each State to the 445 Gram Panchayats / Village Councils following completion of training, to produce or validate and update their People's Biodiversity Registers, including traditional knowledge of women as well as men.
9	Community Engagement Specialist	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	○ Support delivery of project Output 1.4, "Mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable natural resources into local, block and district-level rural development planning and budgeting" ○ Cooperate with Landscape Experts and Community Mobilizers, and the technical agencies / NGOs (see ToR 24) to ensure delivery on: ○ **Activity 1.4.1 Costed biodiversity priority actions:** Involve men and women from local governance institutions in 40 champion village clusters, with relevant block and district officials, in developing costed biodiversity priority actions, drawing on People's Biodiversity Registers where relevant, and building on the landscape planning and village spatial planning in Output 1.2, with plans specifying goals/targets, spatial extent, monitoring mechanisms, and roles of men and women, as well as beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes. ○ **Activity 1.4.2 New opportunities for social inclusion:** Involve local governance institutions and potential beneficiaries in champion Gram Panchayats in Sathyamangalam landscape to identify suitable underutilized /degraded communal lands and grant special access for men and women participants from Scheduled Castes to these lands for cultivation and processing activities (see Output 2.2). ○ **Activity 1.4.5 Biodiversity into development planning:** Integrate biodiversity actions and targets from

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

[65] The participatory mapping process will include women (including female headed households), youth, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other discriminated / vulnerable groups.

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			champion village clusters into the relevant annual and 5-year Development Plans at Village, Block and District Levels, with costings and deadlines, and with roles of men and women specified, as well as beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes. ○ **Activity 1.4.6 Monitoring progress against targets:** Prepare monitoring tools for village/block/district level to track progress against indicators of success for biodiversity actions, for periodic re-evaluation and feeding back into development planning and budgeting, as well as feeding back into landscape plan updates. ○ **Activity 1.4.7 Accessing new funding sources:** Following completion of Output 2.1, access state and central schemes, and other funding, to undertake biodiversity priority actions, based on resource mobilization strategies, with communities and local governance institutions supported by Forest Department, block and district officials. ○ **Activity 1.5.1 Champion village clusters' biodiversity priority actions:** Implement biodiversity priority actions on communal land in 40 champion village clusters, involving men and women, initially using co-financed government seed funding to their Biodiversity Management Committees, and accessing schemes and other funding as they continue (see Output 2.1), including MG-NREGS, and undertaking monitoring of participation, methods and results. ○ *Example actions:* a. Biodiversity conservation, e.g. through surveying and demarcation of existing Community Reserves, or establishment of new reserves[66] b. Forest restoration, e.g. through clearing of alien vegetation, allowing forest to regenerate on jhum lands, or protecting Sacred Groves or Sacred Waterbodies c. Sustainable use of forest products or cultivation of forest species for livelihoods and other purposes d. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g., elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences
10	National Consultant: Biodiversity	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	National Project Officer to develop detailed terms of reference, as required, for specialist consultants to support Landscape Experts and Forest Departments on: ○ **Activity 1.5.1 Champion village clusters' biodiversity priority actions:** Implement biodiversity priority actions on communal land in 40 champion village clusters, involving men and women, initially using co-financed government seed funding to their Biodiversity Management Committees, and accessing schemes and other funding as they continue (see Output 2.1), including MG-NREGS, and undertaking monitoring of participation, methods and results.
11	National Consultant: Human-Wildlife Conflict		
12	National Consultant: Soil and Water Conservation		
13	National Consultant:		

[66] Existing community reserves in East, West and South Garo Hills Districts (where the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is located) total 3,136 ha. In some cases these can be strengthened through surveying and demarcation, and new Community Reserves can be created in priority area for connectivity and buffer zones for HWC. This is a policy priority for the Government of Meghalaya – see, for example, https://www.syllad.com/govt-seeks-to-increase-community-reserve-forests-in-meghalaya/

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
	Access and Benefit Sharing		○ *Example actions:* a. Biodiversity conservation, e.g., through surveying and demarcation of existing Community Reserves, or establishment of new reserves[67] b. Forest restoration, e.g., through clearing of alien vegetation, allowing forest to regenerate on jhum lands, or protecting Sacred Groves or Sacred Waterbodies c. Sustainable use of forest products or cultivation of forest species for livelihoods and other purposes d. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g., elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences ○ **<u>Activity 2.2.7</u> Access & Benefit Sharing agreements** Support at least two enterprise cooperatives / other structures to identify potential for, research structure of, facilitate, negotiate and conclude Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements, with sharing guided by FPIC consultations.
14	Tracking expert for landscape plans	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes* (Could be merged with ToR no. 6, and potentially 21)	• Support delivery of project Activity 1.5.2, cooperating with Project Officer (Natural Resource Management)and both Landscape Project Officers and the Forest Departments in both Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya on: • **<u>Activity 1.5.2</u> Monitor progress with tracking tool:** Apply tracking tool developed in Output 1.2.5 annually through Forest Departments (Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and ADC) to track progress through (i) project-funded activities, (ii) other activities of government with communities, and (iii) donor-funded related initiatives – towards fulfilment of landscape plan.
15	Forest Management Expert	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Activity 1.6.1, cooperating with the Forest Department, Tamil Nadu, Forest Department: Meghalaya, and Forest Department: Garo Hills Autonomous District Council in both Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya on: ○ **<u>Activity 1.6.1</u> Protocols for joint SFM interventions:** Develop protocols for site-specific priority forest management actions inside PAs or in Reserve Forests (including alien invasive removal, restoration / regeneration, human wildlife conflict reduction, habitat connectivity, PA demarcation, and sustainable harvesting of minor forest produce).
16	Forest Planning Expert	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes* (Could be merged with ToR no. 14)	• Support delivery of project Activity 1.6.31, cooperating with the Forest Department, Tamil Nadu, Forest Department: Meghalaya, and Forest Department: Garo Hills Autonomous District Council in both Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya on: ○ **<u>Activity 1.6.3</u> Mainstream biodiversity into Reserve Forest working plans:** Support the updating of Working Plans for each of the state Forest Divisions (especially for Reserve Forest) to support the fulfilment

[67] Existing community reserves in East, West and South Garo Hills Districts (where the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is located) total 3,136 ha. In some cases these can be strengthened through surveying and demarcation, and new Community Reserves can be created in priority area for connectivity and buffer zones for HWC. This is a policy priority for the Government of Meghalaya – see, for example, https://www.syllad.com/govt-seeks-to-increase-community-reserve-forests-in-meghalaya/

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			of the landscape plans and integrateactions forbiodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use; surveillance, monitoring and enforcement; and mitigation of human wildlife conflict.
Contractual Services – Implementing Partner			
-	Biodiversity Specialist (Tracking Tool)	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• See Section below on Monitoring & Evaluation, Gender and Safeguards for detailed duties and responsibilities
17	Biodiversity Specialist: Curriculum and Course Developer	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Activity 1.3.1, cooperating with National Project Officer and both Landscape Experts and the State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs) in both Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya (similar curricula but customized to state-specifics) on: ○ **<u>Activity 1.3.1</u> Development of training materials:** Gender-responsive training courses/tools developed and customized for two States for integration and institutionalisation in the SIRD training system on, (including simplified versions of GIZ modules): (i) Effective BMC governance by men and women; (ii) Participatory People's Biodiversity Registers; (iii) Mainstreaming priority biodiversity actions into integrated development planning and budgeting; (iv) Participatory land use planning and management for forest and biodiversity conservation and climate resilience; (v) One Heath approach to resource management; (vi) Promotion of sustainable nature-based and eco-friendly businesses; (vii) Gender, social inclusion and biodiversity mainstreaming; (viii) Outcome based monitoring for measuring integration of biodiversity in local plans. • Advise contractors on delivery of curses to Master Trainers and 445 target village leadership (see ToR 222)
18	Safeguards Specialist	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	For ensuring compliance with social and environmental standards of GEF/UNDP/Government See Section below on Monitoring & Evaluation, Gender and Safeguards for detailed duties and responsibilities
19	Public Finance Specialist		• Support delivery of project Activity 1.4.7, cooperating with National Project Officer and both Landscape Experts and BIOFIN India on: ○ **<u>Activity 1.4.7</u> Accessing new funding sources:** Following completion of Output 2.1, access state and central schemes, and other funding, to undertake biodiversity priority actions, based on resource mobilization strategies, with communities and local governance institutions supported by Forest Department, block and district officials.
Contractual Services – Companies / Organizations			
20	Revision and Multi stakeholder engagement for landscape plans	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies (Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu) for revision and Multi stakeholder engagement for landscape level plans, working in Output 1.2 withEcological Landscape Planning Expert(ToR7) on: ○ **<u>Activity 1.2.2</u> Multi stakeholder engagement forlandscape plans:** Conduct sessions for forest officials, frontline staff, CBOs, NGOs, local communities, and other development partners for strengthening landscape level plans in select landscapes Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.
21	Delivery of BD mainstreaming capacity	See *Annex 1c -*	• Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies for delivery of training courses/tools on biodiversity mainstreaming into development budgeting and planning and customized for two States for integration and institutionalization in

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
	development programme with SIRDs	*Budget Notes*	the SIRD training system through Activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 delivered to leadership of 445 target village leadership, as well as all State Master Trainers • Guided by the Project Officer (Natural Resource Management)and the two Landscape & State Level Coordinating Committees, and supported by the two Project Landscape Officers, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Governance Specialist B: Curriculum and Course Developer o **<u>Activity 1.3.2</u> Capacitation of State master trainers: Training** of all Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya master trainers (male and female) involved with village/block/district level development planning system, and male and female district master trainers of Biodiversity Management Committees (in TN case already created under GIZ) across all districts in each of the two states through SIRD. **<u>Activity 1.3.3</u> Training for local governance institutions:** Training courses delivered through two State SIRDs, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy and district institutions (see *Annex 17b*) to male and female participants: a) Gram, Block and District level Leadership, Biodiversity Management Committees, Self Help Groups and CBOs involved in planning in 200 Gram Panchayats including villages with forest cover in Sathyamangalam landscape; b) Leadership of Village Employment Councils and traditional village councils, BMCs and SHGs of 200 Village Employment Councils/Nokma-village councils in Garo Hills landscape; c) Relevant block officials and line departments at district level in both the landscapes, with focus on facilitating convergence and unlocking schemes for BC and integrating in local plans.
22	Supporting 40 champion villages on designing and implementing costed priority actions	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	o Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies (e.g., NGOs) for designing and implementation of costed priority actions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in 40 champion villages in the 2 states (Output 1.4 and Output 1.5), supporting the work of the Community Engagement Specialist (TOR 8), and with the help of the 3 Community mobilizers in each landscape: o **<u>Activity 1.4.1</u> Costed biodiversity priority actions:** Involve men and women from local governance institutions in 40 champion village clusters, with relevant block and district officials, in developing costed biodiversity priority actions, drawing on People's Biodiversity Registers where relevant, and building on the landscape planning and village spatial planning in Output 1.2, with plans specifying goals/targets, spatial extent, monitoring mechanisms, and roles of men and women, as well as beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes. o **<u>Activity 1.4.2</u> New opportunities for social inclusion:** Involve local governance institutions and potential beneficiaries in champion Gram Panchayats in Sathyamangalam landscape to identify suitable underutilized /degraded communal lands and grant special access for men and women participants from Scheduled Castes to these lands for cultivation and processing activities (see Output 2.2). o **<u>Activity 1.4.5</u> Biodiversity into development planning:** Integrate biodiversity actions and targets from champion village clusters into the relevant annual and 5-year Development Plans at Village, Block and District Levels, with costings and deadlines, and with roles of men and women specified, as well as beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes.

TOR No.	Consultant / Staff	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
			○ **<u>Activity 1.4.6</u> Monitoring progress against targets:** Prepare monitoring tools for village/block/district level to track progress against indicators of success for biodiversity actions, for periodic re-evaluation and feeding back into development planning and budgeting, as well as feeding back into landscape plan updates. ○ **<u>Activity 1.4.7</u> Accessing new funding sources:** Following completion of Output 2.1, access state and central schemes, and other funding, to undertake biodiversity priority actions, based on resource mobilization strategies, with communities and local governance institutions supported by Forest Department, block and district officials. ○ **<u>Activity 1.5.1</u> Champion village clusters' biodiversity priority actions:** Implement biodiversity priority actions on communal land in 40 champion village clusters, involving men and women, initially using co-financed government seed funding to their Biodiversity Management Committees, and accessing schemes and other funding as they continue (see Output 2.1), including MG-NREGS, and undertaking monitoring of participation, methods and results. ○ *Example actions:* a. Biodiversity conservation, e.g. through surveying and demarcation of existing Community Reserves, or establishment of new reserves[68] b. Forest restoration, e.g. through clearing of alien vegetation, allowing forest to regenerate on jhum lands, or protecting Sacred Groves or Sacred Waterbodies c. Sustainable use of forest products or cultivation of forest species for livelihoods and other purposes d. Reduction of human wildlife conflict through, e.g. elephant trenches, rings of beehives, or bamboo fences
23	Conducting Women Leadership Programme	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to 2 institutions for Activity 1.4.4 conducting champion women leadership programme in two states, guided by the Project Landscape Officers and the Gender and Safeguards Specialist: ○ **<u>Activity 1.4.4</u> Champion women leadership programme:** Conduct leadership programme with women participants in champion village clusters, developing confidence in public speaking and giving reportbacks, use of smartphone and digital applications, taking photographs and notes to record activities and results, and undertaking basic bookkeeping, as well as skills in life planning for family and business.

[68] Existing community reserves in East, West and South Garo Hills Districts (where the Nokrek-Balpakram landscape is located) total 3,136 ha. In some cases these can be strengthened through surveying and demarcation, and new Community Reserves can be created in priority area for connectivity and buffer zones for HWC. This is a policy priority for the Government of Meghalaya – see, for example, https://www.syllad.com/govt-seeks-to-increase-community-reserve-forests-in-meghalaya/

Outcome 2			
Local Consultants			
24	Technical expert for development of tracking tool	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support on delivery of Activity 2.1.4, and Activity 2.3.4, guided by National Project Officer, Project Landscape Experts and Public Finance Specialist on: ○ **Activity 2.1.4 Tracking tool for biodiversity finance:** Develop simple tracking tool (building on project *Annex 23)* for measuring new sources of finance coming into fund priority biodiversity actions in champion villages, and for use by the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans. ○ **Activity 2.3.4 Tracking progress on biodiversity finance:** Apply tracking tool with leadership of champion villages to measure new sources of finance coming into fund priority biodiversity actions, and with the Forestry Departments and District Coordination Mechanisms to track new sources of finance for actions contributing to the landscape plans.
25	Technical Expert for developing biodiversity finance gap report	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• 2 technical experts– one for each landscape – to support on Activity2.1.1, 2.1.2, and 2.1.3for developing biodiversity finance gap report for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions: ○ **Activity 2.1.1 Landscape Resource gap analyses & mobilization strategies**: Working through S&L committees, undertake resource gap analysis to identify and cost actions beyond the scope of the project to achieve the shared vision for each landscape as indicated by the landscape plans – with optimal conservation and restoration for connectivity, balanced with maximizing biodiversity-based livelihoods and HWC mitigation. ○ **Activity 2.1.2 Champion village resource gap analyses**: Produce biodiversity resource gap report for 1 year and for 5 years, for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (see Output 1.4) for both short and medium-term. ○ **Activity 2.1.3 Champion village resource mobilization strategies:** Research and report on opportunities for financing of costed actions, and prepare a resource mobilisation strategy, including clear actions to pursue initial funds in the short term, as well as over five years, for the 40 champion village lands, including the following financing mechanisms: a. Central and state government schemes and missions b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements c. Corporate Social Responsibility (including liaison with the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative[69])
26	Technical Expert for	See *Annex 1c -*	• 2 technical experts – one for each landscape – to support on Activity 2.2.3, supported by the two technical

[69] The Confederation of Indian Industries hosts the IBBI as a platform to engage businesses inconservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with 48 companies as members. This work will also draw on BIOFIN India's detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation.

	establishing cooperative societies	*Budget Notes*	agencies providing business incubation support (see ToR 32), and working closely with the Landscape Experts and the Community Mobilizers ○ **Activity 2.2.3 Creation / strengthening of governance structures:** Support the strengthening or creation of an appropriate cooperative society or other governance structure/s, including men and women, to oversee each operation, hire the necessary personnel, manage the finances and share the profits, registered and with a bank account
27	Technical Consultant for identifying potential enterprises	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• 2 technical experts – one for each landscape – to support on Activity 2.2.1, guided by the Project Landscape Experts, and in consultation with the 8 Community Mobilizers, on: ○ **Activity 2.2.1 Identify eco-friendly / forest-based enterprises:** Conduct consultations with communities in champion villages (following FPIC principles especially where change in land use involved) to identify / confirm at least one forest-based or eco-friendly enterprise, or set of enterprises in a value chain, in each of the 6 districts, identifying specific activities along each value chain for women and men, including beneficiaries from Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, with special attention paid to opportunities for youth, and planning appropriate governance structures
28	Technical Consultant for curriculum development for training on budgeting on biodiversity action	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support on delivery of Activity 2.3.1, guided by National Project Officer and Public Finance Specialist (see ToR 19) and alsoBiodiversity Specialist: Curriculum and Course Developer (ToR 17) on: ○ **Activity 2.3.1 Curriculum on financing for development:** Develop curriculum for training of male and female village, block, district officials including key line departments on budgeting for biodiversity priority actions, accessing biodiversity-relevant schemes, and new financial instruments (like CSR, ABS) and feed into training in Output 1.3.
Contractual Services – Companies / Organizations			
29	Developing biodiversity gap analyses and resource mobilization strategies	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies (one in each landscape) to deliver on Output 2.1, including Activities 2.1.1. 2.1.2 and 2.1.3, guided by State & Landscape Level Coordinating Committees, and the National Project Officer in coordination with the two Landscape Experts, and the Public Finance Specialist (see ToR 19) on: ○ **Activity 2.1.1 Landscape Resource gap analyses & mobilization strategies:** Working through S&L committees, undertake resource gap analysis to identify and cost actions beyond the scope of the project to achieve the shared vision for each landscape as indicated by the landscape plans – with optimal conservation and restoration for connectivity, balanced with maximizing biodiversity-based livelihoods and HWC mitigation. ○ **Activity 2.1.2 Champion village resource gap analyses:** Produce biodiversity resource gap report for 1 year and for 5 years, for 40 champion Gram Panchayats and Village Employment Councils/traditional village councils, based on emerging costed biodiversity priority actions (see Output 1.4) for both short and medium-term. ○ **Activity 2.1.3 Champion village resource mobilization strategies:** Research and report on opportunities for financing of costed actions, and prepare a resource mobilisation strategy, including clear actions to pursue initial funds in the short term, as well as over five years, for the 40 champion village lands, including the following financing mechanisms: a. Central and state government schemes and missions

			b. Access and Benefit Sharing agreements c. Corporate Social Responsibility (including liaison with the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative[70])
30	Conducting a feasibility study on existing value chains and developing a business concept for each 6 forest-based / eco-friendly enterprises / value chains	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies (one in each landscape) to deliver on Activity 2.2.2, guided by the Project Landscape Experts, on: o **Activity 2.2.2 Business studies and plans:** Complete detailed desktop and in-field feasibility study for each of the 6 (or more) livelihoods: link to biodiversity, existing value chains, potential buyers, input and equipment needs, environmental sustainability, gender and social inclusion potential, possible funding sources – and work with community to develop a basic business concept for each, with Biodiversity Management Committee regulating sustainable harvesting where relevant.
31	Conducting women in business leadership programme	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes* (Could be in same contract as ToR 25)	• Sub-contract to 2 institutions for Activity 2.2.4 conducting champion women leadership programme in two states, guided by the Landscape Experts and the Gender and Safeguards Specialists: o **Activity 2.2.4 Women in business leadership programme: C**onduct leadership programme on Women in Business with women participants in Self Help Groups, and women in new enterprise ventures supported by the project in champion village clusters, covering basic business skills, as well as financial and digital literacy.
32	Conducting a business incubation support programme	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies (one in each landscape) to deliver on Activity 2.2.5, guided by the LandscapeExperts, on: o **Activity 2.2.5 Business incubation support:** Run a customized training and incubation support programme for each enterprise and its governance group/s, including support on installing processing equipment[71] / accessing Schemes (see Output 2.1), developing full business plans, including sustainability plan that involves phasing out subsidization of input supply through the project, as cash flow increases.
33	Facilitating agreements with buyers and marketing & branding strategy for 6 enterprises / enterprise clusters	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to 2 technical agencies (one in each landscape) to deliver on Activity 2.2.6, supporting the work of the 2 technical agencies providing business incubation support (see ToR 32), and guided by the Landscape Experts, on: o **Activity 2.2.6 Buyer agreements and marketing:** Put agreements in place with buyers, with fair prices negotiated, and roll out marketing and branding strategy for each of the 6 forest-based / eco-friendly enterprises / set of enterprises in a value chain
34	Training officials on accessing and tracking biodiversity finance	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Sub-contract to a technical agency to carry out Output 2.3 "Institutional and technical capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for implementing new financial instruments" in both landscapes, guided by National Project Officer and Public Finance Specialist (see ToR 19) and alsoBiodiversity Specialist: Curriculum and Course Developer (ToR 17) on:

[70] The Confederation of Indian Industries hosts the IBBI as a platform to engage businesses inconservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with 48 companies as members. This work will also draw on BIOFIN India's detailed review of 60 public sector undertakings and 150 private corporations to assess their expenditure/ investments for biodiversity conservation.

[71] Where appropriate for slightly larger scale aggregation and processing, the Community Facilitators and NGOs will engage the Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises (PRIME) initiative of the Government of Meghalaya and the Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation Institute (EDII) of the Government of Tamil Nadu for additional technical and financial support.

			○ **<u>Activity 2.3.2</u> Training officials to access finance:** Train Block Development Officers and officials in key line departments of 6 districts on supporting 40 champion GPs/VECs to access central and state schemes, and Corporate Social Responsibility funds where relevant for biodiversity conservation actions; and provide follow-up support to facilitate access. ○ **<u>Activity 2.3.3</u> Training officials to track biodiversity finance:** Provide specialized training on tracking and tagging biodiversity-relevant expenditure using the BIOFIN approach: (i) in the project districts, through the District Coordination Mechanisms, and (ii) across Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya, through the State Biodiversity Boards, building on the baseline analysis of biodiversity-relevant expenditure conducted in preparation for the project.
Outcome 3			
Local Consultants			
35	Local Expert for uploading training material and tools	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Activity 3.1.2, guided by National Project Officer ○ **<u>Activity 3.1.2</u> Repository of training material:** Upload to platform housed by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj all training material and tools related to mainstreaming biodiversity into village, block and district development planning and budgeting, for access by all States of India.
Contractual Services –Implementing Partner			
36	Communication Specialist communications strategy	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Output 3.2: "Communication strategy developed and implemented in project landscapes to enhance awareness and support biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning" • Cooperate with National Project officer, as well as the two Landscape Experts, to ensure delivery on: ○ **<u>Activity 3.2.1</u> Communications strategy:** Draw up communications strategy with State and landscape-specific media plan (radio, social media etc), covering biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use and rural development (with gender and social inclusion angles) linking to timeline of opportunities in the development planning and budgeting cycle. ○ **<u>Activity 3.2.2</u> One Health public awareness:** Develop public messaging and communications sub-strategy on the importance of a One Health approach to rural development, highlighting interconnected nature of human, livestock, wildlife, forest, soil and water health, the resultant vulnerabilities, and how these can be combated. ○ **<u>Activity 3.2.3</u> State and district media campaign:** Implement communications strategy and sub-strategy in 6 project districts and 2 state capitals with rural and urban communities and decision-makers, using a combination of public service announcements, media releases and planned engagements – with billboards, TV, radio, newspapers, news websites and social media platforms.
37	Technical Expert for developing National Replication Strategy	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Activity 3.4.4, cooperating with National Project Officer on: ○ **<u>Activity 3.4.4</u> National replication strategy:** Draw together results from Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya workshops, SBB learning programme and national conference, and develop a national replication and resource mobilization strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity into local development planning and budgeting, including prioritization of next set of high-biodiversity landscapes, as well as relevant policy notes

Contractual Services – Companies / Organizations			
38	Digitization of spatial data	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Support delivery of project Activity 3.1.1, cooperating with National Project officer, as well as the two Landscape Experts, to ensure delivery on: ○ **<u>Activity 3.1.1</u> Digitalizing spatial & development plans:** Upload to National Biodiversity Authority, central Ministry of Panchayati Raj e-gram swaraj portal and other digital platforms: a. the 445 validated / updated People's Biodiversity Registers, including spatial data layers where available b. The 2 landscape plans for Sathyamangalam and Garo Hills c. Forest Reserve Working Plans and other spatial plans produced in project landscapes d. 20 Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and 20 Meghalaya Village Level Development Plans (VLDPs) with biodiversity actions integrated, including spatial data layers where available.
39	Developing short documentaries on lessons learnt from 40 villages	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	• Guided by Communication Specialist, produce documentaries for Activity 3.3.3, cooperating with the Project Officer, as well as the two Landscape Experts, and the 8 Community Mobilizers, to ensure delivery on: ○ **<u>Activity 3.3.3</u> Landscape results documentaries:** Produce two short professional documentaries showcasing results in and capturing learning from project landscapes, and disseminate via social media, and through all partners' own websites, the Food and Land Use Coalition's India Country Platform, donor and technical partners and co-financiers, UNDP, BES-Net, BIOFIN and the Global Environment Facility.
Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender and Safeguards			
Local Consultants			
40	Biodiversity Specialist (Tracking Tool)	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	The Biodiversity Specialist (Tracking Tool)will report to the National Project Officer, and will help to service the project as a whole. <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> • This specialist will work to deliver the project activity for developing the Tracking Tools and monitoring progress towards the Activity 1.2.5 Tracking tool for landscape plans: • Develop Forest Department11 tracking tool for landscapes, to track progress towards landscape plan, and towards project targets: a. Area of restoration / natural regeneration of biodiversity-rich areas (target 4,000 hectares) b. Area under new biodiversity-friendly forest and land management practices, including conservation for improved connectivity and wildlife corridors (target 6,000 hectares) • c. Area of Reserve Forest for which Working Plans now include biodiversity goals (target 266,000 hectares)
41	Safeguards Specialist	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	<u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> • Develop the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA); • Develop the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and associated Management Plans ○ 2 Livelihood Action Plans (LAP) ○ 2 Social Inclusion Plans (SIP) ○ 2 Resettlement Action Plans (RAP)

			• Operationalize the Gender Action Plan; • Operationalize the Stakeholder Engagement Plan; • Operationalize a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM); • Monitor progress in development/implementation of the project ESMP/ESMF ensuring that UNDPs SES policy is fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled; • Oversee/develop/coordinate implementation of all safeguard related plans; • Ensure social and environmental grievances are managed effectively and transparently; • Review the SESP annually, and update and revise corresponding risk log; mitigation/management plans as necessary; • Ensure full disclosure with concerned stakeholders; • Ensure environmental and social risks are identified, avoided, mitigated and managed throughout project implementation; • Work with the M&E Specialist to ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluation fully address the safeguard issues of the project
42	National Consultant for Mid-term Review (MTR)	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	See general UNDP-GEF guidelines
43	National Consultant for Terminal Evaluation (TE)	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	See general UNDP-GEF guidelines
International Consultants			
45	International Consultant for Mid-term Review	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	See general UNDP-GEF guidelines
46	International Consultant for Terminal Evaluation	See *Annex 1c - Budget Notes*	See general UNDP-GEF guidelines