

Quarterly Progress Report cum PO's Report

Quarter: 3rd (July-September 2021)

Project: SECURE Himalaya

Date: October 2021

1. Project Progress

Expected Project Outputs and Indicators including Annual Targets	Planned Activities (List all activities including M&E during the year)	Activity Progress/results achieved in Quarter X	Quarter X (Highlight the completed quarter)	Comments by PO on the activity progress	Targeted Expenditure for the year	Actual Expenditure in Quarter X	Reasons for Under Expenditure in Quarter X, if any
Outcome 1: Improved management of high Himalayan landscapes for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats and sustaining ecosystem services							
Output 1.1. Landscape level management strategies that integrates biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate mitigation, sustainable community resource use and socio-economic considerations are developed, discussed with stakeholders and supported.							
Output 1.2: Site specific participatory management plans for Protected Areas, and other Key Biodiversity Areas, including High Conservation Value Forests, Biodiversity Heritage Sites and biological corridors, and sustainable natural resource use areas designed and tested under community governance, management and enforcement regimes							
Output 1.3 Alpine meadows and sub-alpine forest restoration plans are developed and introduced to local communities to improve biological connectivity and habitat productivity							
Output 1.4 Biodiversity participatory monitoring for Snow leopard and associated species is developed, tested and adopted							
Output 1.5: Lessons learned on biodiversity and multiple use landscape management approaches are developed							
Output 1.6 Capacity development for key government staff and community members for long-term effective conservation of biodiversity developed and implemented							
			Q 1	Q 2	Q3	Q 4	
Indicator 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of protected areas and biological rich areas in alpine	Activities undertaken to improve management effectiveness	Uttarakhand To improve Management Effectiveness of Govind National Park, solid waste management activities are being implemented. These					

<p>and sub-alpine landscape Baseline: Changtang WLS (22), Govind Pasu WLS (25) Gangotri NP (35), Khangchenjunga National Park - KNP (29) Seichi Tuan WLS (13), Shingba Rhododendron WLS (16) Target: Average increase by at least 30 points in METT from current PAs baselines</p>	<p>Solid Waste Management inside Protected Area</p>	<p>involve waste segregation at source, its transportation to a centralised facility and cleaning drives in villages.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>Similarly, in Sikkim, a segregation cum collection chamber for plastic waste has been installed at the tourist checkpost in North Sikkim, for improving the METT score of KNP.</p>							
<p>Indicator 1.2. Improved institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of multiuse landscape level plans as measured by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard Baseline: Limited institutional capacities for planning, implementation</p>	<p>Activities undertaken to increase institutional capacity</p> <p>Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in local village planning</p> <p>Technical support provided to government</p>	<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>To enhance people's understanding of governance and decision making processes in Protected Areas, a five day training programme on legal roles and responsibilities of various actors within the Gangotri-Govind landscape has been conducted.</p> <p>Ladakh</p> <p>Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP)</p>					20		

<p>and monitoring of multiple use landscapes. UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline score of 18 Target: Increase of institutional capacity as measured by a 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline value</p>	<p>line departments</p>	<p>A CAMP workshop was conducted to develop a management plan for select Medicinal and Aromatic Plant species of Ladakh. State level authorities on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and traditional healing systems (National Research Institute of Sowa Rigpa, Defence Institute for High Altitude Research) as well as technical experts on conducting CAMP exercises were brought on board to guide this activity. The management plan developed under this exercise shall aid the Administration as well as relevant and concerned stakeholders in implementing actionable interventions for the conservation and sustainable use of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.</p> <p>Annual Bird Survey 2021 A participatory bird survey was conducted in 2 areas of the landscape that are of significant importance with respect to wetlands. This is the third edition of this survey being conducted under the project. Frontline</p>					<p>15</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Logistical and operational costs were saved upon account of financial frugality.</p>
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		<p>staff of the Wildlife Department of UT Ladakh, as well as volunteers and stakeholders were trained under avi-fauna experts. Approximately 100 species were recorded in this exercise. The long term monitoring of birds is critical to assessing the health of our landscapes, especially High Altitude Wetlands. Data generated from such exercises play a crucial role in informing the management of protected areas, such as the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary. The Project aims to build capacities of government and non-government stakeholders in effective management of the Changthang landscape, in a participatory manner. Birding has always been considered as a gateway for promoting and encouraging community based conservation. Therefore, community participation, especially that of women, is central to this annual activity. The department of Wildlife Protection has recommended that this activity shall be mainstreamed into the</p>							
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		routine annual activities of the department in the coming years and that the scope of the survey shall also extend to other parts of the landscape.							
<p>Indicator 1.3. Reduced pressure and prevented degradation of alpine meadows and sub-alpine forests</p> <p>Baseline: Approximately 700,000 ha of alpine meadows under unsustainable grazing with average 75 livestock units/km² and forests around villages lack sustainable management arrangements</p> <p>Target: Reduced grazing pressure on 700,000 ha of alpine meadows by at least 20% (from 75 to 60 livestock units/km²) and</p>	<p>Activities undertaken to prevent degradation of alpine meadows</p> <p>One Health approach to reduce pressure on project landscapes by key stakeholders</p>	<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Inception workshop conducted and additional funds mobilized through UNDP Rapid finance facility under green recovery pathway. Key decisions taken in inception workshop: - adopt “one health approach” in SECURE Himalaya Uttarakhand project landscapes; One health vehicle to be provided for mobile service in high altitude region for monitoring & surveillance of zoonotic diseases, solarization of PHC, one health survey by trained para-vets, assessment of sentinel sites, inclusion of one more block in One Health.</p>							

<p>ds and sub-alpine forests under sustainable management regimes</p> <p>Baseline: Approximately 40,000 ha of alpine pastures and 2,000 ha of sub-alpine forests under continued degradation through overuse</p> <p>Target: 40,000 hectares alpine pastures and 2,000 hectares sub-alpine forests under sustainable regeneration regimes resulting in projected 0.16 - 0.18 and 0.42 – 0.05 m tCO₂ /30 year period sequestered and avoided respectively.</p>	<p>alpine pasture/rangelands</p> <p>Plantation work</p>	<p>Salix et for reducing the impact of degradation in the landscape is being done in Gangotri National Park. The plantation of these species are to be taken up by park management.</p>								
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<p>Indicator 1.5: Area of high conservation forests under improved management Baseline: High Conservation value forests lack proper management regimes Target (a) Reduced direct pressure on at least 60,000 ha covering at least 18 newly designated and managed key biodiversity areas, including 30,000 ha of HCVFs to ensure connectivity and species conservation resulting in projected avoided 1.38-1.47 m tCO₂ over 30-year period (b) Reduced direct pressure on at least 20,000 ha of moist and dry alpine areas and sub-alpine forests managed as Biodiversity</p>	<p>Management regimes to conserve High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs)</p> <p>Biodiversity Heritage Sites</p> <p>High Altitude wetland</p> <p>Medicinal plant conservation & development areas (MPCDA)</p> <p>Strengthen community-based forest management</p>	<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Assessment of proposed biodiversity Heritage site - Kandara Bugyal has been conducted. The total demarcated area is approximately 4 Sq. Km. Approximately 47 species have been identified at the Site including some endangered and RET species like Meeta, Cheer Kakoli, Salam panja, Van kakdi, Birds like Monal, and mammals like Black bear, Brown bear, Himalayan tahr, etc.</p> <p>Sikkim: A consultation was undertaken with relevant stakeholders to validate the 22 potential High Conservation Value Areas identified in the landscape outside of Protected Areas in North & West Sikkim. Based on the discussion, prioritization criteria were discussed for taking up some of these areas under the project for further mobilization.</p>								
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TOTAL OUTCOME 1							- 103646.3	
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Outcome 2: Improved and diversified livelihood strategies and improved capacities of community and government institutions for sustainable natural resource management and conservation								
Output 2.1 Participatory community-based village level micro plans developed for enhancing and diversifying livelihoods and improving natural resources management								
Output 2.2 Pilot projects on sustainable community based natural resources management, and sustainable livelihood activities are supported								
Output 2.3 New and enhanced value chain products and services providing ecologically sustainable livelihood are developed and implemented by local communities								
Indicator 2.1 : Extent under sustainable natural resources management practices Baseline: 0 (Currently sustainable land management natural resources practices at the village level are absent or limited) Target: At least 10,000 ha under sustainable natural resources management practices	Activities to bring project landscape/are as under sustainable natural resource management practices Reducing dependency on natural resources	Sikkim Under the activity of strengthening the value chains from nettle fibers in Dzongu, North Sikkim, a buyer-seller meet with all the 50 beneficiaries and local entrepreneurs was organized at Hee Gyathang, Dzongu. The initiative was appreciated by the local community leaders and government representatives and a buy-back guarantee was received from a local business firm regarding the processed nettle fibre in future.						
Indicator 2.2. Average	Activities undertaken to	Ladakh				8	0.45	Initial costs incurred for

<p>percentage increase in community incomes from sustainable livelihood, natural resource management and business activities (calculated for each community) Baseline: Baseline to be established in YR1 during village micro-planning Target: 30% increase in average incomes from sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management and business activities (At least 40% of beneficiaries are women)</p>	<p>increase community incomes from sustainable natural resource management</p> <p>Off-Farm Producer Organizations</p> <p>Eco-Tourism</p> <p>Medicinal and aromatic plants</p>	<p>Eco-tourism in Rong Valley:</p> <p>Series of community consultations held in 6 villages of the project landscape to initiate the strengthening of eco-tourism based livelihood opportunities. The village of Tarchit was identified as an entry-point village to pilot interventions for the village cluster. Consultations were held with key members of the village as well as representatives of every household. A village resource map was developed in a participatory manner with the village members and the same was shared with the village. Two hiking trails and ancillary activities have been identified as attractions of the village.</p> <p><u>Uttarakhand:</u></p> <p>A 1.41 km nature cliff trail has been developed around Snow Leopard Conservation Centre (SLCC). The trail has been developed for connecting it with the</p>																<p>preliminary consultations.</p>
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		<p>Ecotourism circuit of SLCC and Gartangali.</p> <p>38 Homestays have been registered with Uttarakhand Tourism department through convergence aimed towards development of a sustainable ecotourism model.</p> <p>Govt. of India has awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to <i>Bhotia Dann</i> of Uttarakhand. Registration for GI has been facilitated by the project through Uttarkashi based society “Renuka Devi Katghar-Bunkar Swayatt Sahkarita” Dunda Uttarkashi. This will ultimately lead to income enhancement through recognition of products in national and international market after value addition.</p> <p>Facilitation to provide GI tag to other local products like Red Rice, Ramdana & Harsil Rajma is under process.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p>							
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	<p>Conservation Oriented Ecotourism model development</p>	<p>For handicraft and handloom development, as a livelihood initiative in Lahaul-Pangi, Field visits and workshops have been conducted in all the Panchayats in Pangi Region like Sechu, Dharwas, Sach. Killar, Karyas, Kumar, Purthi & Sural. This involved training workshops, design interventions, study of traditional craft processes and their contemporary use, developing artisan cards to ensure artisans benefit from various govt. schemes. About 200 artisans have been engaged in this activity.</p>							
	<p>Homestay and Cultural tourism Development initiative</p>	<p>A conservation based ecotourism model is being implemented by Not on Map in the Lahaul-Pangi landscape. The agency has so far developed a Working methodology and approach, finalised village clusters, survey formats- to document the Socio economic baseline, carrying capacity at household and community level, interactions and meetings with various line departments and other stakeholders, identified a cadre of nature guides to be further trained under the programme.</p>							

	Seabuckthorn value chain	<p>Based on meetings with line departments and the District Collector, the agency is also supporting the district in mobilizing local communities to apply for homestay registration. About 22 applications for homestay have been approved so far.</p> <p>A Self Help Group (SHG) of 16 women has been registered under State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) and MoU has been done by Forest Department with SHG for setting up the processing unit for seabuckthorn in Tingret panchayat.</p>							
<p>Indicator 2.3. Number of community members trained, adopting community-based agricultural, agro-pastoral, natural resource management and livelihood activities Baseline: 0 (currently training at the community</p>	<p>Activities undertaken for training and capacity building of community members</p> <p>Promoting natural resource management and livelihood activities at the landscape level</p>	<p>Ladakh</p> <p>Value Addition to Sheep & yak Wool Preparatory consultations held with the State Project Director regarding village selection for activities pertaining to value addition to sheep and yak wool. A round of discussions were held with key stakeholders in the field of sheep and yak wool based enterprises to assess the feasibility of</p>				15	Nil	No expenditure incurred in preliminary consultations.	

<p>level is limited and sector specific.) and limited effort at comprehensive training that integrates the multiple dimensions of managing resources across the different sectors and for multiple use.</p> <p>Targets: At least 2,500 community members trained and adopting community-based sustainable resource use, agro-pastoral, agricultural and other sustainable livelihood activities and receiving detectable conservation and livelihood benefits</p>	<p>Handloom and Handicraft development</p>	<p>introducing operations in the selected villages. Based on the above inputs as well as socio-economic data collected under the project, a Terms of Reference document was developed for the implementation of activities pertaining to sheep and yak wool based livelihoods</p> <p>Uttarakhand:</p> <p>A single window system (e-commerce) website is under development for marketing of rural products which are being promoted under the project. The framework and domain www.essenceofhimal.com has been finalized. This will give an opportunity to the OFPO to display and sell their products online. the portal will also be used for developing market linkages for online homestay registration and booking tour guides, tourist attraction and destination details.</p> <p>Homestay management”, hospitality” and</p>								
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		<p>Housekeeping residential training programme (Total 25 (23 Male & 2 Female) & Low altitude guide training program Total 8 (4 male & 4 Female) was organized in project landscapes in convergence with the Tourism department Uttarkashi. That will strengthen the path to enhanced livelihoods for local communities.</p> <p>15 days trek leadership training program organized in convergence with the District Tourism department (50% cost). A total of 20 candidates (3 females) have participated from Govind & Gangotri landscape. The participants learned the technical aspects of trekking, rescue, first aid etc.</p>								
TOTAL OUTCOME 2									- 416387.7	
Outcome 3: Enhanced enforcement, monitoring and cooperation to reduce wildlife crime and related threats										

Output 3.1 Wildlife Agencies enforcement supported through intelligence have information on hotspots and pathways of illegal trade to organize targeted operations against wildlife crime

Output 3.2. Law enforcement agencies are provided with technical support and training to increase capacity for combating wildlife crime

Output 3.3. Community based surveillance, monitoring and wildlife crime and conflict prevention system developed and tested

Output 3.4 Mechanisms for partnerships on inter-state and transboundary cooperation for tackling wildlife crime and improving species conservation in Himalayan ecosystem are developed and implemented

<p>Indicator 3.1. Number of community members actively volunteering in security monitoring and surveillance Baseline: 0 (There is no coordinated program for community participation in surveillance and monitoring of wildlife crime) Target: 200 community members actively engaged in wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance in community battalions (At least 20% women) to serve as deterrent to wildlife crime</p>	<p>Activities to engage community members in monitoring and surveillance</p> <p>Strengthening of enforcement mechanism through sharing of information</p>	<p>Himachal Pradesh: 5 applications (3 forest officials and 2 community members) were facilitated for application submission under WCCB volunteer programme for wildlife crime surveillance and monitoring. The WCCB has initiated the process of codal formalities for the enrollment of these volunteers under the programme which will be followed by their formal training.</p> <p>Sikkim: Workshop organized to share findings of the wildlife crime status assessment, with the concerned DFOs and frontline staff. The findings were presented in detail and inputs were taken from the frontline staff regarding strengthening of the enforcement mechanism.</p>								
<p>Indicator 3.2. Number of international agreements for</p>										

<p>enhancing trans-boundary cooperation between China, Nepal, Bhutan and India</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (a number of trans-boundary plans exists, but coordination is limited)</p> <p>Target: At least 3 trans-boundary agreements effective and collaborative implementation</p>									
<p>Indicator 3.3. Annual Number of human-wildlife conflicts leading to livestock and crop losses and retaliatory killings of wildlife</p> <p>Baseline: Baseline will be developed in Year 1</p> <p>Target: At least 50% decrease in HWCs</p>	<p>Activities undertaken to decrease incidences of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)</p> <p>HWC information collection and database</p>	<p><u>Uttarakhand</u></p> <p>Integrated new features in the Wildlife MIS system for adding all the monthly data updates from all the divisions.</p> <p>MIS Workshop has been organized for forest staff (Total 43 participants including 3 female) to ensure a streamlined rollout of software with minimal confusion and to maintain the system and knowledge base after handing over the Wildlife Database Centre to</p>							

		<p>Uttarakhand Forest Department.</p> <p>Geo Maps prepared to demonstrate species and division wise cases of Human wildlife status in Uttarakhand that aids in implementing measures in HWC</p> <p>Fox light, Camera traps and aniders have been successfully installed in selected villages of Gangotri-Govind landscape under Human wildlife conflict pilot intervention in experiment and control sites.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>Rapid Response Teams were Constituted for Lahaul and Pangi Forest Divisions with official notifications of the same.</p> <p>Site finalized for improved predator proof corral activity at Hudan Bhatari. The basic site measurements and assessments done by the Range Officer and his team</p>							
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		<p>Sikkim: Under an activity to pilot improved solar fencing designs for reducing human wildlife conflict, consultations were held at the pilot sites in North and West Sikkim to finalize exact locations and to mobilize the local community for the installation.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Green Recovery Programme of UNDP, the One Health approach for enhanced management of zoonotic diseases in West Sikkim is being implemented. Under the same initiative, 3 community volunteers were trained on data collection from four village clusters on the status and management of zoonotic diseases.</p>								
TOTAL OUTCOME 3									77083.76	
Outcome 4: Improved knowledge and information systems for promotion of landscape conservation approaches										
<p>Output 4.1. Project implementation achievements inform policy and legislative changes for conservation of high range Himalayan areas</p> <p>Output 4.2. Communication and gender strategies and awareness campaigns to increase awareness on conservation, sustainable resource use and reduction of wildlife crime, and mainstream gender in promotion of community- based conservation developed and implemented at national, state and local Level</p>										

<p>Indicator 4.1: Number of policy and regulatory mechanisms for improved management of high Himalayan areas provisioned Baseline: 0 (A number of areas where policy reform is required exists) Target: 3 policy recommendations officially approved and implemented</p>	<p>Policy and regulatory mechanisms identified</p> <p>State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP)</p> <p>Model Wetland Management Plan</p> <p>Constitution of State Wetland Authority</p>								
<p>Indicator 4.2: Number of project best practices used in development and implementation of other conservation initiatives Baseline: 0 (A few best practice publications etc., but the project will make efforts for additional project specific lessons to be documented) Target: 10 best practices</p>	<p>Project Best Practices identified</p>								

documented, disseminated and up-scaled in non-project areas									
<p>Indicator 4.3: Percentage of participating households aware of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p> <p>Baseline: Baseline to be established in Year 1 through microplanning process</p> <p>Target: 50% of participating households have good awareness of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p>	<p>Awareness programmes and development of knowledge products</p>	<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>An orientation program was organized for community volunteers (20 youth including 9 women Parataxonomist, Para-vet, Radio, and Video fellows etc. from the project villages) to raise awareness on COVID-19 vaccination with the support of the UNDP GAVI team. These trained youth helped other village community members to expedite the vaccination drive in Uttarakhand. The result of the efforts is that 100% vaccination was completed in project villages for 1st dose by end of August 2021.</p> <p>Village level meeting conducted to address issues faced by women and challenges in livelihood, education, technological interventions and women workload in the landscape.</p> <p>Gartangali Brochure developed for generating awareness among the</p>							

		<p>tourists and wider promotion of the ecotourism activities in the Gangotri National Park. Ecotourism in the landscape will enhance the METT score indicators 27,28 and 29. It will also provide an opportunity to the local trained guides and homestay owner to earn their livelihoods from the visitors</p> <p>40 signage boards have been developed to raise awareness on wildlife & its habitat in Gangotri Landscape.</p> <p>Computer and digital literacy programmes organized at Gangotri landscape for community youth & women (20 including 12 women) with the objective to provide knowledge on the digital world & use of ATM.</p> <p>Knowledge materials like vanyajiv patrika edition 8 , species posters, snow leopard badges etc has been prepared & developed for wildlife understanding & awareness.</p>							
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	<p>Filmmaking workshop:</p> <p>Responsible Tourism Awareness Workshop</p>	<p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>The team of Srishti Films from Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Bangalore hosted a Mobile Filmmaking Workshop on 1st July at Sural Valley, Pangi at Pangi Adventure Camps. The purpose of this workshop was to help young, aspiring filmmakers from around the valley to develop their skills in communications. Fifteen participants from the neighboring villages in Sural Bhatore from ages 17 to 30 spent an eventful day learning, interacting, and working in teams, building on each other's experiences and strengths to create four diverse short films.</p> <p>On World Tourism Day (27th Sept 2021) a day long Responsible Tourism Awareness Workshop was held at Government College at Killar in Pangi Valley, Himachal Pradesh. The workshop unfolded through a role-playing game that was adapted to the present context of Pangi in</p>								
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	<p>Mobile Filmmaking Workshop (Students of Killar Government College, Pangi, Himachal Pradesh, Venue: HPFD complex, Killar, 29th-30th September 2021):</p>	<p>Himachal. The game moves forward with students being assigned multiple roles of fictitious stakeholders such as Himalaya Hikes, Killar business community, Nomadic herders, Medicinal Plant Collectors, Animal Trust (Wildlife NGO), Seva Sadan (CBO), the Government, old people, young people and so on.</p> <p>A two day mobile filmmaking workshop was held at Gov't College, Killar in Pangi Valley, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Over 20 enthusiastic students participated in the mobile filmmaking workshop which was held in the HP Forest Department complex in Killar.</p>								
TOTAL OUTCOME 4								-20394.71		
							Sub Total: 576723.08			
							Project Management Expenses:-123579.74			
							Grand Total: 453143.34			

Delivery Status:

Delivery target for 2021: USD 2,000,000

Delivery for 2021 by end of quarter 3: USD 1,263,058.34

2. PO's Overall Analytical Report

2.1. Narrative – Based on PO's own assessment, BTORs and other reports

The project continues to provide extensive support to improve the management of six target PAs based on gaps identified across various thematic areas in the last two years. This includes providing technical support, capacity building for park managers, and strengthening participatory monitoring through various trainings involving a range of stakeholders and provision on high-altitude monitoring equipment. PA management plans have been revised for Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh or are under revision in Ladakh. In Uttarakhand and Sikkim, project is progressing towards enhancing PA management by working on issues like waste management.

For livelihoods, the project so far has focused on preparing micro-plans and strategies to diversify livelihood options and enhancing the value chain of select products in areas including eco-tourism, animal husbandry, agriculture, handicraft, medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) cultivation, and apiculture and the project is now focusing on implementation of these plans and strategies.

Towards curbing illegal trade of wildlife and prevention of human-wildlife conflict, the project has carried out considerable work to understand better the underlying trends and causes of the HWC conflict. The project has introduced a range of measures to reduce HWC. These include strategies to mitigate HWC and species-specific Standard Operating Procedures and guidance for significant conflict species.

Under knowledge management and communications, the project is progressing well in identifying and documenting the good practices emerging from the project, which can be considered satisfactory at this stage. The project has supported policy recommendations by adopting the new snow leopard monitoring protocol, preparing the high-altitude wetland management handbook for managers, manuals on wildlife crime scene investigation, and supporting State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

2.1.1. Comments on progress in project as per QPR, and on whether the project is on the right track:

Given that this reporting period came just after the peak of the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic, the project landscape was still not fully open for various activities that required to be in person. However, steady progress has been made by the project against its targets by adapting to changing circumstances. This was done through active engagement of local communities through civil society organizations based in the landscape and by having a trained cadre of local youth in the past. Many project interventions focused on skilling youth to enable their participation in green jobs like ecotourism, communications, promoting citizen science and prevention of human wildlife conflict. An achievement of the project this quarter has been the Geographical Indication tag of *Bhotia Dann* (a form of carpet weaving) given to Uttarakhand, application and study of which was facilitated by the project. This initiative will further add value to the local communities producing this carpet. For conservation, the project is making progress towards improved management of national parks by establishing self-sustaining systems for waste management, enhancing legal literacy of all stakeholders on laws pertaining to forests and access to resources; medicinal plant conservation by involving all relevant government departments and stakeholders to develop a

medicinal plant management plan in Ladakh; For prevention of human-wildlife conflict, the project has deployed equipment like fox lights and aniders to prevent wild animals from degrading crops and a Rapid Response Team has been constituted in Himachal Pradesh showcasing the states government's interest in achieving the project objectives.

2.1.2. List of project issues/ risks that the PO wants to ensure are included and addressed in the PSC:

Timely approval of work plans and disbursement of funds by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change to project states to ensure implementation is on track. The project landscapes are based in high-altitude Himalayas, which experience harsh climatic conditions due to which the working period is much shorter compared with lower altitudes in the country. Hence, it is imperative for the states to receive funds for timely on-ground implementation.

2.1.3. List of issues that the PO wants to escalate to unit Heads/ senior management:

2.2. Section on Gender and Inclusion

2.2.1. What were risks related to mainstreaming gender and concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalised groups e.g. related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, etc.?

The project has involved women in various trainings on aspects of biodiversity monitoring. However, there is low interest/involvement in areas like wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance considering the sensitivities and risks that are associated with it. Thus, the project is adapting to this feedback and plans to involve women only in activities that do not have any associated risks.

2.3. Any innovations/ success stories (completed or ones to watch for) that PO wishes to bring on board or for Communications to follow up:

The project is working closely with National Institute of Fashion Technology to enhance traditional skills of handloom production in Lahaul-Pangi landscape (Himachal Pradesh) and support women in earning greater revenues from this livelihood activity. Apart from just the skill of handloom production or design enhancement, the women have learnt yoga (to prevent injuries at work) and the art of making natural dyes, extracted from locally found fruits, vegetables and their discards. **The key innovation in this body of work lies with the development of Artisan Cards, which enables artisans from the project villages to transition from an informal to formal economy.** The project played a key role in getting the women registered, through which they are recognized as artisans by the Govt. of India and enables them to participate in national level fairs and exhibitions. A total of 106 applications have been submitted for artisan cards, following which the project will support them to showcase their products at various exhibitions.

2.4: Any partnerships / success stories (completed or ones to watch for) that PO wishes to bring on board or for Communications and partnerships team to follow up:

A two day mobile filmmaking workshop was held at Gov't College, Killar in Pangi Valley, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Given that the past two years have seen college campuses empty and students stuck with learn from home, the workshop was a much welcome change for the students who have only very recently resumed attending classes in person. Over 20 enthusiastic students participated in the mobile filmmaking workshop which was held in the HP Forest Department complex in Killar. **This is part of a larger intervention in the SECURE Himalaya project, where youth are being trained in communications to advocate for sustainable natural resource management, thereby creating a platform that enables local discussion and participatory actions to conserve snow leopard landscapes.**

DocuSigned by:

Anusha Sharm

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Team Leader a.i.