

Quarterly Progress Report cum PO's Report

Quarter: 1st (Jan-March 2022)

Project: SECURE Himalaya

Date: April 2022

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							
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Indicator 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of protected areas and biological rich areas in alpine 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)		Uttarakhand Solid Waste management work has been Successfully implemented & up-scaled in Govind landscape.3 waste banks have been identified & training & capacity building on waste collection has been conducted in other villages of national park. A monitoring system at entry point has also been established as per coordinial					71,733

<p>Target: Average increase by at least 30 points in METT from current PAs baselines</p>	<p>Short Documentary film on conservation breeding programmes developed</p> <p>Solid Waste Management</p>	<p>decision by all concerned forest officials of the region.</p> <p>Land survey is being conducted to establish a material recovery facility center in Govind landscape.</p> <p>950 kg of waste has been transported to state material recovery facility center for recycling in convergence with tour operators from Govind landscape.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Short documentary film “Homecoming” on release of Cheer Pheasant and other conservation breeding programmes of H.P Forest Department (Wildlife Wing) Finalized.</p> <p>1 Cleanliness Drive organized with College students (NSS volunteers) at Killar covering Helipad, Forest Campus and DPF Hansanu. The local people were sensitized on different aspects of waste segregation into 3 categories wet, dry and hazardous.</p>								
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<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 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>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Local tour operators play a crucial role in keeping the ecologically sensitive landscapes clean in Govind national park. Major issues include littering and sanitation. For this, a workshop was organized with tour operators to develop a waste monitoring mechanism. The monitoring system ensures the plastic going inside is checked at the barrier from each tour organizer and can be collected on their way out of the landscape.</p> <p>Similar to this, a workshop has been organized to capacitate forest department on monitoring of waste collection process at village level & drafting of further plan of actions for waste transportation in all weather conditions.</p> <p>Training programme organized for BMC secretary & chairpersons of 10 villages of Gangotri Landscape to sensitize them on their role and responsibility and focus on preparation of the People's Biodiversity Register, Regulation of access to the biological resources and associated traditional knowledge, for commercial and research purposes. Total 20 members have participated in the programme</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>In convergence with the RFF-Green Recovery initiative for West Sikkim, support was provided to the Primary Health Center in Yuksom in terms of an off-grid solar backup</p>								
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		system and to the Veterinary Office in Yuksom in terms of equipment for enhanced detection and management of zoonotic disease.							
<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 prevented degradation in around 10,000 ha of sub-alpine forest under community-based management resulting in projected 0.46-0.50 and 0.31-0.36 m tCO₂ /30-year period sequestered and avoided respectively.</p>		<p>Uttarakhand 129 Smokeless cooking stoves have been distributed in Gangotri Landscape. The activity aims to reduce fuel wood consumption, Women drudgery and health effects during the cooking. The initiative not only cuts down the need for firewood but also reduces indoor air pollution, thus improving the health of the women using these stoves</p> <p>Sikkim The assessment of micro-watersheds and springs in the project landscape has been completed and five degraded springs vital for the local communities in the fringe villages of Khangchendzonga National Park have been identified for restoration through collaboration with the Rural Development Department.</p> <p>To promote green tourism in the vital Lachen-Gurudongmar area of extreme North Sikkim and to reduce degradation caused by mass tourism, a stakeholder workshop was organized at Lachen in collaboration with the Lachen Tourism Development Committee on March 20th. The hotel owners and taxi driver association of Lachen, along with other tourism service providers and local police representatives attended the workshop where various issues regarding sustainable tourism in Lachen were discussed. During the</p>							

	<p>Restoration Plans developed for 2 subriver basins</p>	<p>occasion, an entry ticket for visitors to Gurudongmar lake was formally inaugurated by the Lachen Dzumsa, the initiative being supported by the project.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>The project has made final submission to the Forest Dept. of 2 model mitigation/restoration plans for 2 sub river basins of Miyar and Kundal in Lahaul valley with components on grassland restoration, revegetating slopes, landslide mitigation, improvement in fodder availability, improving livelihoods and animal husbandry management. This has been received from the culmination of the Habitat degradation assignment.</p> <p>Ladakh:</p> <p>Workshop-cum-meeting held with CLEAN network to discuss possible solutions for reduced consumption of biomass and use of clean energy solutions for inclusion in AWP 2022-23.</p>								
<p>Indicator 1.4. Extent of degraded alpine pastures/rangelands 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</p>		<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Procurement and transportation of nettle fiber has been facilitated for IIT Delhi for research purposes with the coordination of the Biodiversity Management Committee. This activity will help the project in facilitating Access Biodiversity Sharing (ABS) in future also strengthen the village institution</p>								

<p>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>Improved cookstoves</p>	<p>A rapid Biodiversity assessment of AviFauna, Lepidoptera and Wild flowers has been done in Gangotri Landscape. Key findings of assessment are, 155 species of Birds, 100 species of Butterfly, 40 species of moth etc identified. A capacity building program was also conducted for 30 BMC members(6 female) of the landscape on biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>15 Improvised cook stoves procured for the beneficiaries of Pangi region in order to reduce their field wood dependency on local forests. The tandoors will be distributed to the community in April-May 2022.</p>																	
<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 HCVMs to ensure connectivity and species conservation resulting in projected avoided 1.38-1.47 m tCO₂ over 30-year period</p>		<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>The Sattal area has been identified as a biodiversity rich area & one of the high-altitude wetlands in the project landscape. Because of its significance, waste management work is being done in and around the wetland. Dustbins have been placed & informative signages are displayed near the sattal to sensitize the communities and tourists about its importance as a valuable ecosystem service provider. The Total of 1.4 ha area is being managed under this activity.</p> <p>In continuation of planning the OECM (other effective area-based conservation measures) area in Gangotri landscape, an orientation was organized with members of</p>																	

<p>(b) Reduced direct pressure on at least 20,000 ha of moist and dry alpine areas and sub-alpine forests managed as Biodiversity Heritage Sites¹¹ resulting in projected avoided 0.46 – 0.49 m tCO₂ over 30-year period</p>	<p>Biodiversity Heritage Sites</p> <p>Ladakh: Preparation of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</p>	<p>traditional forest institute (Van panchayat) to provide guidance & make them aware of OECM & how it differs from PAs. Also drafted a further plan of actions with respect to Eco-tourism.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>Under support from the project, Sikkim's first Biodiversity Heritage Site, a sacred wetland at Tungkyong Dho in Hee Gyathang, lower Dzongu was declared on March 8th by the State Biodiversity Board. The wetland approximately covers an area of 0.5 hectares.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>The final proposals for notifying 3 Biodiversity Heritage Sites namely Sural Bhatori, Hudan Bhatori and Naingahar submitted to State government which is under legal scrutiny by the legal cell of government and the notification is expected in May-June 2022.</p> <p>Ladakh:</p> <p>The draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) for the Union Territory of Ladakh was presented to the Ladakh Biodiversity Council during its first meeting, which has been circulated to all members of the Ladakh Biodiversity Council for their inputs</p> <p>It was also decided during the meeting that institute level stakeholder consultations should be held to incorporate in the BSAP document. Inputs of the members of the Council was, later on, incorporated in the document as</p>																
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		and when received form the members.							
TOTAL OUTCOME 1									71,733
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		Uttarakhand Reconnaissance and Validation of 3 Bird Watching Trails in Govind Landscape Region has been completed. Total 115 avian species have been documented with 7 birding days covering winter & autumn season. All identified trails were found promising & have opportunities of sustainable ecotourism.							89,838
Indicator 2.2. Average 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)		Uttarakhand An initiative was taken in collaboration with Uttarakhand Forest Resource Management Project, JICA to organize the showcase-cum-sale to support and motivate the Budera community's artisans during the pandemic. A variety of woollen products were displayed & made a total of Rs. 26,310 sale in two days. A household level socioeconomic survey was conducted in Gangotri-Govind landscape to collect the data of income after project intervention. This helped in understanding the income enhancement of the beneficiary							

	<p>Seabuckthorn value chain</p>	<p>households as a result of project interventions. It has also provided an idea about the future actions to be taken to meet out the targets against indicators. Total 50 households have covered on sample basis</p> <p>Product's price inclusive operational management cost of Handloom & handicraft products has been finalized in coordination with board members of Off Farm Producer Organization of Gangotri Landscape with detailed discussion on the product market value, profit percentage etc. These all incorporated in E-portal https://essenceofhimal.com/ of the handloom-handicraft that will aid in reaching a broader market. Now the Payment gateway work is under finalization.</p> <p>Knowledge products on the new trek route has been developed & displayed at the prominent locations to promote and strengthen ecotourism among the local communities that will support to diversify their income.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>The Initiative of Kangla Basket with Khandoma SHG for Seabuckthorn under SECURE Himalaya provided the platform for district administration of Lahaul to apply for PM award for excellence in</p>								
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		<p>Public Administration 2021 under One District One Product (ODOP) category. The initiative with ODOP scheme came out in Rank 5 and has been published in best schemes compendium by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Government of India, for implementation of ODOP scheme.</p>							
	<p>Conservation oriented ecotourism model</p>	<p>Under the Ecotourism initiative, training manuals on various themes related to eco-tourism, waste management, natural history, heritage, etc have been developed to train the locals and make them equipped with all the guidelines and do's and don'ts for both traveler and host. Natural history guidebooks on local flora, fauna, culture etc have been produced for travelers to understand the natural history of the region. Guided expedition/tours were developed for 4 valleys Miyar, Tindi Sechu and Sural to popularize the landscape and valleys among tourists.</p>							
	<p>Dairy Development Pilot</p>	<p>Dairy Development Pilot set up (machinery/equipments procured and will be established in May-June 2022 benefitting around 44 livestock rearers with condition of not increasing number of their livestock and focus on improvement of quality instead of quantity/</p>							

		<p>members in the wool development process.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>Catering and baking equipment have been procured for distribution to select women led self help groups in the EDCs fringing Khangchendzonga National Park for livelihood enhancement and benefit sharing</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 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. 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>Homestay and Cultural tourism initiative</p>	<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Tour and Trek operator refresher training for 50 operators and guides organized in Gangotri National Park under the ecotourism initiative. The training focused on greening tourism-based activities.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>A training on scientific beekeeping was given through the State Institute of Rural Development, Government of Sikkim to 60 beneficiaries (25 women) from fringe villages of KNP between March 23rd-31st. In the next phase, the beneficiaries shall be given beekeeping equipment and bee boxes to systematically start the honey production process.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Under Homestay and Cultural tourism initiative, Exposure Visit and Advanced trainings were conducted at Great Himalayan National Park, Tirthan valley, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. A group of 18 beneficiaries (5 Females and 13 Males) from Lahaul-Pangi</p>								

	<p>SECURE Pashu Mitra Training</p>	<p>landscape attended the exposure visit. Sahara NGO, that proactively engages in development of sustainable livelihoods and conservation in Tirthan valley and NFCI hotel management and cooking institute, Mandi were collaborated with for the visit and trainings. Two-day program was divided in six sessions of workshops, lectures, discussions, visit to National park and Homestay visit in nearby town. Presentations and hands-on lessons were conducted for hospitality on the first day of training. Practical hands-on class for food training was delivered on second day. At the end of training sessions, certificates were also distributed by NFCI hotel management and cooking institute representatives to participant members.</p> <p>SECURE Pashu Mitra Training Phase 1 conducted in technical collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department. First Aid Kits distributed to the trainees under SECURE Himalaya Project Animal Husbandry Department. Female trainees to be enrolled under "Pashu Sakhi scheme being run under Animal Husbandry Department. 17 Participants attended this training programme in Phase 1. Similar training programme will be conducted in May/ June 2022 to cover more participants</p> <p>Basic Search and Rescue training imparted to 8 local youth from</p>								
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community battalions (At least 20% women) to serve as deterrent to wildlife crime		on 21.01.22 in which 45 officers from different enforcement agencies from Delh, H.P and Dehradun participated and discussed issues related to wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife. There was a high demand from different enforcement agencies for advanced training on these aspects.								
Indicator 3.2. Number of international agreements for enhancing trans-boundary cooperation between China, Nepal, Bhutan and India Baseline: 0 (a number of trans-boundary plans exists, but coordination is limited) Target: At least 3 trans-boundary agreements effective and collaborative implementation										
Indicator 3.3. Annual Number of human-wildlife conflicts leading to livestock and crop losses and retaliatory killings of wildlife Baseline: Baseline will be developed in Year 1 Target: At least 50% decrease in HWCs	Innovative Tools for HWC mitigation/SMART Forester	Uttarakhand Technical support has been provided to all forest divisions by project IT team for data collection & updating the same in Wildlife MIS database and Shared the Inactive/active report to Wildlife wing for the monitoring work Himachal Pradesh: Procurement done for important and innovative patrolling and HWC mitigation tools like Patrolling Kits, Smart Sticks, Animal Intrusion Detection and Repellent system								

		<p>(ANIDERS),, Fox Lights, Deep Search Metal Detectors (DSMD), Body Cam etc. The equipment will be provided to field patrolling staff to equip them with latest technologies to make them SMART foresters and also be placed in Community Agriculture land to reduce the Human Wildlife conflict incidences.</p> <p>Ladakh:</p> <p>Training/Workshop for Wildlife Volunteers and Honorary Wildlife Wardens: A two-day workshop/capacity building programme for Wildlife Volunteers and Honorary Wildlife Wardens was organized in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi.</p> <p>Procurement of ANIDERS and SMART sticks for pilot programme: ANIDERS and SMART Sticks procured and delivered to the Department.</p>								
TOTAL OUTCOME 3									59,080	
Outcome 4: Improved knowledge and information systems for promotion of landscape conservation approaches										
Output 4.1. Project implementation achievements inform policy and legislative changes for conservation of high range Himalayan areas 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>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</p>		<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>An orientation & capacity building program initiated in cluster villages of Gangotri landscapes for communities including BMC, SHGs etc on implementation of project's grievance redressal mechanism (GRM). The mechanism was communicated and made available to all affected communities and in</p>							14,655	

officially approved and implemented		particular to both genders and vulnerable groups. This will help to address concerns promptly, using a transparent process that is readily accessible to all segments of the affected communities.								
<p>Indicator 4.2: Number of project best practices used in development and implementation of other conservation initiatives</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (A few best practice publications etc., but the project will make efforts for additional project specific lessons to be documented)</p> <p>Target: 10 best practices documented, disseminated and up-scaled in non-project areas</p>	<p>Eco-Smart school initiative</p>	<p>Sikkim: The Nodal Officer and other officials of the Sikkim team attended an online presentation on digital solutions implemented in Uttarakhand regarding human wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife trade mitigation organized by the Uttarakhand project team and led by the State Nodal Officer of SECURE Himalaya-Uttarakhand. The presentation was extremely useful and the Sikkim officials agreed to assess the possibility for replicating similar measures in the state.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh: Under Student Chapter activity, Solar water heater and dish shaped solar cooker procured. In 1st Phase, solar water heater and solar cookers will be installed to reduce the fuel wood consumption i.e reduce energy requirement as Eco-Smart school initiative. In 2nd Phase: Proposal will be submitted to Department of Science and Technology (DST) or any funding agency collaboration with IIT Mandi for deploying space heating technologies on pilot basis. The overall object of eco smart school initiative is to reduce fuel wood consumption in winter. There is around 6500 quintals per year fuelwood demanded by schools in Lahaul valley.</p>								

<p>Indicator 4.3: Percentage of participating households aware of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits Baseline: Baseline to be established in Year 1 through microplanning process Target: 50% of participating households have good awareness of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p>		<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>A program has been initiated for creating environmental awareness among the school children by engaging eco-clubs of landscape villages. Three eco-clubs have been identified in schools across Gangotri landscape. Activities conducted include a quiz on saving energy and Interactive sessions on High altitude species (Monal, snow leopard, Brown bear, Blue sheep) .</p> <p>Project good practices & implementing assignments including knowledge materials have been uploaded to District NIC website https://uttarkashi.nic.in/secure-himalaya/. This will help in raising awareness about the project at a broader level as well as inform other Govt. department regarding projects implementing assignments that will further help in convergence with Govt. schemes.</p> <p>E-setup center has been established in Gangotri landscape in coordination with BMC members which will be used in training & workshop sessions as per the requirement.</p> <p>The Sankari Interpretation center work at govind landscape has been completed. This interpretation center has information about the history & important species of Govind WS/NP. The aim of the activity is to generate long term awareness among the tourist, Local community and school children. The center will also help in strengthening biodiversity and</p>								
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		<p>conservation efforts at Govind landscape through regular monitoring activity</p> <p>International Women's day celebrated in Uttarkashi to discuss the major gaps ensuring gender equality in the career. The participants were made aware about the significance of women in livelihoods and employment generation in the field of BD conservation. Total 30 women have participated from Gangotri landscape and shared their success stories and challenges.</p> <p>One day workshop cum sensitization programme on 'Environmental awareness and solid waste management was organized in Govind landscape. Total of 95 stakeholders have actively participated and shared their views and major concerns/suggestions on impact of poor solid waste management on the environment. A drive conducted just after the programme by which 50 kg waste was collected from the vicinity.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>An awareness workshop for rural women panchayat members and CBO representatives on menstrual health and hygiene was organized under the project on 23rd February, through the State Institute of Rural Development. Around 30 project village representatives attended the workshop where sustainable menstrual hygiene kits including cloth based sanitary pads</p>							
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	<p>SECURE Mitra Goshthies</p> <p>manufactured by a local cooperative were distributed.</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh:</p> <p>SECURE Mitra Goshthies organized in Pangti landscape. Health, Family Welfare, ATMA Project, Animal husbandry Department representatives sensitized about their Schemes/ Programmes More than 150 people made aware about various departmental schemes.</p>								
	<p>Pangi Snow Festival</p> <p>First ever Snow Festival of Pangti organized in collaboration with Pangti Administration from 16th to 22nd March 2022 to promote local culture, cuisine and products like NTFPs, Handicrafts etc, Winter Tourism and sports in Pangti , Nature Trails, Strengthening local communities towards Community Based Tourism. Around 1500 people participated in the 1 week long festival.</p>								
TOTAL OUTCOME 4									14655
									Sub Total: 235306
									Project Management Expenses:-196
									Grand Total: 235110

Delivery Status:

Delivery target for 2022: USD 2,000,000

Delivery for 2022 by end of quarter 1: 235110

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. 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. Waste management is one of the key issues highlighted by Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. In Uttarakhand, a successful waste management initiative from Gangotri National Park is now being replicated in villages in and around the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, whereas in Himachal Pradesh cleanliness drives are being conducted to enhance people's participation and raise awareness.

For livelihoods, the project has been able to support various local self help groups with training, capacity building, innovations in machinery to reduce pressure on natural resources. With this, local communities in project landscapes have begun to develop and market their products and services and the project has helped convergence with other govt initiatives to help with market linkages. This can be seen in Uttarakhand, where project beneficiaries have been able to sell their products through a JICA supported initiative of the Forest Department. Some project landscapes are areas with high tourist footfall and some have great potential for tourism, for which the project is conducting many conservation oriented ecotourism-based trainings to reduce the pressures of tourism on local biodiversity, across all landscapes. These trainings include local communities as well as tourist operators to ensure all stakeholders are well informed and their actions contribute to long-term conservation of such fragile landscapes.

Towards curbing illegal trade of wildlife and prevention of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) 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 mitigate HWC. These include installation of Infrared Devices to prevent wild animals from crop depredation, smart sticks to enhance the efficacy of patrolling and safeguarding forest frontline staff and a unique wildlife watchers programme being implemented in Ladakh to enhance sharing of intelligence related to wildlife crime and conflict.

Under knowledge management and communications, knowledge exchange workshops are being conducted amongst state nodal officers to replicate good work conducted so far. One such workshop has been organized between Uttarakhand and Sikkim on Illegal trade in Wildlife. The District Administration of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand has recognized good practices emerging from the project and has published them on their website. The project has supported the development of an interpretation centre in Uttarakhand, which will enhance conservation action and spread awareness about local biodiversity in the landscape. In Sikkim, the project is supporting local cooperatives in developing cloth based menstrual hygiene kits which were distributed to members of eco development committees who are key actors in conserving local biodiversity and support sustainable livelihoods.

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

This reporting period is just after the Covid-19 surge in cases due to the Omicron variant, where steady progress has been made in project landscapes with considerable amount of field work, visits and cross-learning. This was done through active engagement of local communities and other stakeholders through capacity building workshops, exposure visits and involvement of civil society organizations. 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 Initiative of Kangla

Basket with Khandoma SHG for Seabuckthorn. The project supported district administration of Lahaul to apply for PM award for excellence in Public Administration 2021 under One District One Product (ODOP) category. The initiative with ODOP scheme came out in Rank 5 and has been published in best schemes compendium by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Government of India, for implementation of ODOP scheme.

For conservation, the project is making progress towards improved management of national parks by establishing self-sustaining systems for waste management, conservation of wetlands, where a significant achievement of the project has been developing a national framework for wetland conservation in India; Provision of smart sticks and Aniders to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and active involvement of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in engaging local communities, especially youth in monitoring of wildlife trade and trafficking;

2.1.1. 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.

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

2.2. Section on Gender and Inclusion

The project has been able to make considerable progress in this reporting period on gender equality and women's empowerment. Project states have been able to provide resources to women beneficiaries, wherever required. Women, being key beneficiaries in the project also have to perform unpaid care work like cooking for the household for which the project has provided 129 smokeless stoves across Uttarakhand to not only reduce their exposure to smoke emanating from burning fuel wood but also reduce the amount of wood required for cooking. This not only helps reduce the pressure on trees but also significantly reduces the amount of wood to be collected, an arduous task that women perform frequently.

Towards their livelihood enhancement, market linkages have been provided to women weavers in Uttarakhand, socio-economic surveys for women in sheep and yak wool production have been conducted in Ladakh, catering and baking equipment have been distributed in Sikkim to select women led self help groups in the EDCs fringing Khangchendzonga National Park; And awareness workshops on menstrual health and hygiene have been conducted in Sikkim, where cloth based menstrual hygiene kits developed by a local cooperative were distributed.

2.2.1. What were risks related to:

a) Mainstreaming gender:

The project has involved women in various trainings on 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.


b) concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalised groups e.g. related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, etc.?

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:

An achievement of the project this quarter has been The Initiative of Kangla Basket with Khandoma SHG for Seabuckthorn. The project supported district administration of Lahaul to apply for PM award for excellence in Public Administration 2021 under One District One Product (ODOP) category. The initiative with ODOP scheme came out in Rank 5 and has been published in best schemes compendium by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Government of India, for implementation of ODOP scheme.

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:

ruchi pant

DocuSigned by:

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Ruchi Pant