

SECURE Himalaya
Quarterly Project Progress
IIIrd Quarter (July-September 2020)

1. Project Progress

Expected Project Outputs and indicators including annual targets	Progress Indicator (if any)	Planned Activities	Quarter	Progress on Activity Result in this Q – Comments by PS & PO	Targeted Expenditure (Lakhs)	Actual Expenditure (Lakhs)	Reasons- under-expenditure (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							
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Output 1.4 Biodiversity participatory monitoring for Snow leopard and associated species is developed, tested, and adopted</p> <p>Output 1.5: Lessons learned on biodiversity and multiple use landscape management approaches are developed</p> <p>Output 1.6 Capacity development for key government staff and community members for long-term effective conservation of biodiversity developed and implemented</p>							
<p>Indicator 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of protected areas and biological rich areas in alpine and sub-alpine landscape</p> <p>Baseline: Changthang WLS (22), Govind Pasu WLS (25), Gangotri NP (35), Khangchendzonga National Park - KNP (29) Seichu Tuan WLS (13), Shingba Rhododendron WLS (16)</p> <p>Target: Average increase by at least 30 points in METT from current PAs baselines</p>		<p>Assessment of feral dog population and their impacts on native wildlife, livestock and humans and designing a strategy for their effective control and management in Lahaul Pangri Landscape.</p> <p>Development of participatory monitoring protocol for Snow Leopard and associated species in Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Landscape management strategy of Gangotri-Govind and Darma-Byans is finalized and duly accepted by landscape level</p>		<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>In Himachal Pradesh Six Camera Traps have been procured which will be placed at strategic location of the Sechu Tuan Nalla WL Sanctuary for effective wildlife monitoring</p> <p>The entire study area landscape of Lahaul-Pangi has been classified into 24 land use/land cover classes to understand which classes represents how much proportion of the study area. In Kinnaur landscape it has been classified into 26 land use land cover classes as it has better vegetation distribution in comparison to the Lahaul-Pangi landscape. The draft report with other components of the assignment including Socio-ownership categorization, Eco-sensitive zone maps of WL sanctuaries, Vegetation type, Biological richness, IVI of important floral species etc. has been submitted to State.</p> <p>The ZSI has completed its field level assessments for the population assessment of feral dogs and other parameters as</p>		175,742	

committee of Gangotri-Govind followed by UKFD.

A meeting of landscape committee Darma-Byans is proposed in Nov. 2020

Development of participatory monitoring protocol for Snow Leopard and associated species in Uttarakhand

Assessment of capacities and training needs of key stakeholders for long-term effective biodiversity conservation, development, and implementation of a capacity building framework to enhance capacities of key stakeholders in SECURE Himalayan Project landscapes in selected districts of Sikkim

per the deliverables of the assignment and the report will be submitted to state by end of October 2020.

A field guide has been developed by WII, Dehradun for the identification of important faunal species in the landscape in Hindi language. A total number of 40 community stakeholders have been identified from both Lahaul-Pangi Landscape for the training programme which is schedules in the first week of Nov. 2020

Uttarakhand

- 1- Landscape Management Strategy has been finalised for Govind-Gangotri and Drama-Byans landscapes in Uttarakhand, covering an area of 3549 sqm. 58 villages were identified from the SECURE landscape based on their dependencies on natural resources, conservation values and areas of high biodiversity value. Most of the villages are migratory and have equally dependent on natural resources
- 2- In GG landscape 352 sq. km was under the subalpine zone and 2073 sq. km under the alpine zone. In DB landscape the area occupied under subalpine zone is 100sq. km and alpine are 1024 sq. km.
- 3- Two “**Landscape Level Project Management Committee**” have notified for both the landscapes.
- 4- The First meeting of “**Landscape Committee Uttarkashi**” has been organised on 21 Sept. 2020 with complete quorum, wherein the Landscape Level Strategy of Gangotri-Govind got approved.
- 5- A meeting has been organised on 1st September 2020 with Wildlife Institute of India under chairmanship of CWLW Uttarakhand to discuss the status of Landscape Management Plans of both the landscape. The following decisions were taken –
 - Wildlife Institute will assist the project in collation and sectoral distribution of activities based on outputs of different assignments. The assessment will also cater to “Landscape Level Management Plans of Gangotri-Govind and Darma-Byans landscapes of Uttarakhand”.
 - A workshop will be organised by WII to discuss the findings and gaps of the assignment reports received from the agencies and are useful for finalising the “Landscape Management Plans”.

6- Development of Participatory Snow Leopard Monitoring Protocol has been developed, the theoretical training to 26 Youth (7 female, 19 male) had been delivered last year, however, the field training got delayed due to COVID-19 situation, which has now being conducted in Oct.2020 in Gangotri-Govind landscape.

- Field Guide of Uttarakhand Himalayan Galliformes
- Field Guide of Uttarakhand Himalayan Mammals

Sikkim

1- Indian Institute of Public Administration, the agency concerned, has identified preliminary capacity needs, and has developed three draft modules for enhancing capacity gap of key stakeholders.

2- Using the UNDP capacity development scorecard, the baseline has been established for various stakeholders for e.g., Forest department, agriculture department, horticulture department, tourism department, Sikkim University, Gram Panchayat units, self-help groups etc.

3- A VIP Training Programme for Biodiversity Conservation in Sikkim under Secure Himalaya Project has been organized from 9 - 11 September 2020 on Capacity Building Programme for Biodiversity Conservation in Sikkim. BMC members are the primary stakeholders in this training program. The Participants provided their feedback to the agency which has been incorporated, and a revised TNA report was submitted.

Ladakh

- 1- A draft landscape management strategy has been designed with detailed analysis of prioritized landscape level threats in Ladakh including:
- Habitat degradation due to anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic activities
 - Human wildlife conflict and consequent loss to lives and livelihoods
 - Need for enhanced coordination between state departments regarding conservation planning and implementation.
 - Currently, specific strategies to address each are being

					<p>detailed based on assignments being undertaken by technical agencies and experts.</p> <p>The assignment is undertaken by IORA. A series of detailed Stakeholder consultations were held in the Changthang landscape to get inputs of concerned stakeholders in the landscape management strategy. The said strategy is due to be finalized by November 2020.</p> <p>2- A draft of the Land Use Land Cover for Changthang landscape has been prepared with inputs from the field. Further analysis on various parameters of the landscape such and vegetation, disturbance indices are ongoing. Indicators for monitoring the health of the landscape are also being finalized.</p> <p>3- Camera Trapping and Occupancy surveys for Snow Leopard and Prey population estimation are underway in the Changthang. Landscape. The said activity is being conducted in convergence with the Department of Wildlife Protection Ladakh. The Camera trapping and occupancy work was concluded recently in the adjacent Hemis National Park, thereby ensuring landscape level monitoring efforts of the Snow Leopard and associated species in the Union Territory of Ladakh.</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</p> <p>Baseline: Limited institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of multiple use landscapes. UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline score of 18</p> <p>Target: Increase of institutional capacity as measured by a 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline</p>	<p>Support to the Special Area Development Authority (SADA), Keylong and District Administration, Lahaul for having improved system of Solid Waste Management and enhanced capacities and public awareness for the same.</p> <p>Capacity need assessment of stakeholders</p>				<p>Concept note has been developed for piloting one health in SECURE Himalaya Landscape for combating zoonotic disease in the landscape, with the following key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Awareness generation about principles of One Health approach and demonstrate linkages between illegal wildlife trade and the zoonotic diseases among relevant stakeholders, such as the Forest and Animal Husbandry Dept., communities. II. Conduct rapid assessments in the project landscapes to assess 'at-risk' species and areas and suggest management measures for enhanced disease preparedness and response. III. Build capacities of Forest and Animal Husbandry dept. to better respond to challenges posed by zoonotic diseases in the project landscapes. 	

value

Himachal Pradesh

Solid waste management is one of the key issues in the landscape. A small-scale model for integrated waste management has been demonstrated in collaboration with Special Area Development Authority (SADA) at Keylong. Under the initiative, door to door waste collection scheme has been started by SADA along with a sanitation campaign, which will contribute towards controlling population of free ranging problems that can harm wildlife.

- Draft Solid waste management Plan shared with district administration.
- Facilitated administration in site selection and preparation of required document for FCA
- Facilitated administration to launch cleanliness drive.

The assignment is being undertaken by WII and a Training of Trainers (ToT) has been planned in the second week of Nov. 2020 at Udaipur, Distt Lahaul and Spiti on Human Wildlife Conflicts in which nearly 35 participants from forest and other line departments will be participating

Uttarakhand

The concept of “**One Health**” has been discussed with CVO Uttarkashi, Sr. Veterinary Doctor of Corbett Tiger Reserve and other officers of Animal Husbandry and Forest Front Line staff of Gangotri National Park for prevention spreading Zoonotic Diseases in the animals.

Ladakh

The institutional framework for the successful implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 in the Union Territory of Ladakh has been established. The Ladakh Biodiversity Council, which is the nodal body for ensuring implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 has been constituted, with representation from the SECURE Himalaya Project. The said body has initiated the process of formation of *Biodiversity* Management Committees, preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Registers, Access and Benefit Sharing *etc.* Four BMC's have already been formed, work is now underway to ensure complete BMC formation and PBR preparation the

					<p>Changthang landscape as well as in the entire Union territory of Ladakh.</p> <p>Eight local resource persons from the Changthang region of Ladakh have also been trained under the project by experts in formation and strengthening of BMC's, preparation of PBR's, Bio-cultural community protocols and declaration of Biodiversity Heritage sites. The said resource persons shall now form a technical group to initiate the above-mentioned activities in the Changthang landscape.</p>		
<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>Establishment of Community Fodder Bank pilot through site development of wasteland/degraded land by plantation of fodder species i.e. Willow, Sea buckthorn, popular, palatable grass species etc and developing community governance mechanism for the same</p> <p>Conduct assessment on habitat degradation and developing site-specific mitigation strategies</p>			<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site selection for Community Fodder Bank has been done for both the Lahaul Pangi Landscape after consultation with different stakeholders. The list of 29 beneficiaries of Urgos Village (Lahaul Landscape) for Community Fodder Bank has been finalized. The list of 82 beneficiaries of Dharwas Village (Pangi Landscape) for Community Fodder Bank has been finalized. <p>The assignment is being undertaken by ICLEI South Asia. The agency carried out the field assessments August 2020 onwards but due to COVID-19 situation large scale community consultations were not feasible in the field. Soil samples that had been collected are being analyzed. Vegetation data is also been processed, along with other information that the field team had collected from the pastoralists and community members. The agency is also carrying out the sub-river basin level GIS based analysis.</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</p>		<p>Identification and implementation of climate smart and energy efficient solutions to reduce stress on natural ecosystems</p>			<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Pre energy audit in selected landscape of Uttarakhand along with a proposal of selected energy efficient solutions submitted to "Uttarakhand Renewal Energy Development Authority" (URED) to initiate the convergence with the project has been</p>		

of sub-alpine forests under continued degradation through overuse

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 sequestrated and avoided respectively.

Develop high altitude wetland management strategies

Forest plantation activity in project landscapes

Develop high altitude wetland management strategies

done. The proposal accepted by the agency and forwarded to the landscapes with instructions to get the convergence done. The proposal includes list of beneficiaries along with budget for Solar Chulah, Solar Cooker, Solar Heater, village locations for installing solar streetlights and renewal of solar hydropower station in Govind landscape.

Key Insights on Sat Tal Model Wetland Management Plan - Wetland health card as a prioritization tool, Interplays between high altitude wetlands and river basins, Restoration of hydrological connectivity, Regular monitoring of hydrological, ecological characteristics of wetlands, Multi stakeholder approach in wetland management, Communications, Education, Awareness, Participation (CEPA).

The landscape project unit converged with District Administration and other schemes of forest department to spread awareness among the community on environment protection and tree plantation. Total of 1000 samplings were planted covering 14 villages of Gangotri landscape through a plantation drive on occasion of "Harela Parv".

Sikkim

In Sikkim, a case study has been conducted by **Wetlands International for developing a model framework for management plan**. In this quarter, they have shared a factsheet for Gurudongmar wetland complex which includes biodiversity values, cultural and religious values, and associated threats Also, a Guidebook for Armed forces on conservation of HAWs has been developed for awareness purposes.

Ladakh

High-altitude wetlands are important ecosystems in the project landscapes on which the snow leopard and associated species directly or indirectly depends. However, due to natural and anthropogenic pressures and improper management, the wetland and its complexes are deteriorating in the landscape. A basin-level wetlands conservation and management strategy has been adopted, in partnership with State Wetlands Authorities and local community institutions by the WWF-India and Wetlands International-South Asia. In all the landscapes

						<p>across the project state inventorization has been done. Based on the multi-stakeholder consultations, five wetlands (i.e. Ladakh: Hanle Marshes, Himachal Pradesh: Chandratat, Uttarakhand: Sattal and Ruinsara Tal, Sikkim: Gurudongmar) have been prioritized for preparation of model framework for conservation and management. The findings of assessment of wetlands complexes indicate that glacial receding has resulted in increased in size of all the wetlands of the complex.</p> <p>Management planning framework and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been drafted to guide the managers/officials.</p> <p>In the Changthang Landscape, High-altitude wetlands and its associated marshes and rangelands, are the most critical habitats for biodiversity. Keeping this in mind, apart from the Management Planning Framework for Hanle Marshes, Wetland Brief Documents are being prepared for 13 wetland areas across the landscape. This shall help in determining conservation priorities for High-altitude Wetlands in Changthang.</p>		
<p>Indicator 1.5: Area of high conservation forests under improved management</p> <p>Baseline: High Conservation value forests lack proper management regimes</p> <p>Target</p> <p>(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</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>Identifying, assessing, delineating, and mapping area with High Conservation Values (HCVs) and developing management recommendations/plans</p> <p>Identifying, assessing, delineating, and mapping area with High Conservation Values (HCVs) and developing management recommendations/plans</p> <p>Gangotri National Park to be pursued as mixed (Natural and Cultural) “UNESCO World Heritage site”</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>As a recent development, 6 potential sites for the Biodiversity Heritage sites have been selected in a joint visit of LLPMUs and HP State Biodiversity Board followed by community consultation and consent of the community stakeholders during the meetings. 3-3 sites have been selected at Lahaul and Pangi landscape respectively that includes Hudan Bhattori, Sural Bhattori, Luj, Tindi, Salgran and Nain Gahar in the landscape. The exact informatiok of the area to be notified under BHS will be shared by HPSBB.</p> <p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Identification and Notification of Areas of High Conservation Value (HCVAs) and Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) under SECURE Himalaya Project: - Formal notification as a ‘Conservation Reserve’ under Section 36A of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972, or ‘Biodiversity Heritage Site’ under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, or ‘Critical Wildlife Habitat’ under Forest Rights Act, 2006, or Ramsar site under Ramsar Convention for wetlands, etc, depending on the context.</p>		

Development of “Snow Leopard Conservation Centre” in Gangotri landscape.

Conduct assessment to identify High Conservation Value areas in the project landscape

State biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updated, and resource mobilization strategy developed

A total of 36 HCV Areas (6 categories and 10 subcategories) and High Priority HCV Areas identified (18 in DBCL and 24 in GGL).

The Uttarakhand forest department proposes “Gangotri National Park to be pursued as mixed (Natural and Cultural) UNESCO World Heritage site” with technical support of WII. A meeting has already organized, now the proposal will soon be put up to Government of Uttarakhand for the same.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand has approved and appreciated the proposal for development of a “Snow Leopard Conservation Centre” in Lanka in Gangotri landscape of Uttarakhand. This design plan for the centre has been developed under the project and further funds are being accessed from other govt schemes.

Sikkim

A discussion with NPMU has been organized on HCVA & MPCA notification under SECURE Project. The discussion was based on Where we stand regarding the identification of HCVAs and MPCAs in project landscapes and what information/map/data are still pending from the assignments. The NPMU was updated that ATREE responsible for HCVs and not much progress has been made since April, after very tentatively identifying these areas. We need individual detailed maps of these HCVAs with their management recommendations and biological/ cultural values.

The concerned agency, NIPFP, has submitted an updated version of the SBSAP along with financial solutions based on conservation threats identified therein. The SBSAP is under review currently and a validation workshop has been planned early in the next quarter for formally gathering inputs of all concerned stakeholders.

Ladakh

1. High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) providing essential ecosystem services have been identified in 06 project landscapes for enhanced protection and conservation of globally and nationally significant biodiversity (viz. Tso Kar,

					<p>Chushul and Hanle marshes, and Tso Moriri in Ladakh; Miyar Valley in Himachal Pradesh; Panchachuli region in Uttarakhand, and Dombang Valley and Yumesamdong Complex in Sikkim).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. In the Union Territory of Ladakh, the LPMU in collaboration with the Dept. of Wildlife protection Ladakh, has prepared and submitted the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for the designation of Tso Kar Wetland-Complex as a Ramsar Site/Wetland of International Importance. The Tso Kar Wetland Complex is an A1 category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per Bird Life International with an area of 9577 Hectares, and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway. It is also one of the most important Key Biodiversity Areas in the Changthang landscape. The Tso Kar Wetland Complex is biologically rich in terms of flora and fauna. The site has recorded up to 139 species of birds, 232 species of vascular plants, up to 15 species of mammals and 2 species of reptiles. Furthermore, species such as the Black-necked Crane, Bar-headed Goose, Saker Falcon breed here. Noteworthy mammals include Snow Leopard, Tibetan Argali and Tibetan Wolf amongst others.3. The successful Ramsar site designation of the said site shall be a step in the right direction, for conserving the unique biodiversity of Ladakh.4. Along with the Ramsar site designation a long-term bird monitoring programme has been initiated at the site in collaboration with the Dept. of Wildlife Protection Ladakh.5. Two more High-Conservation Value Areas in the Changthang landscape are currently being proposed for Ramsar site designations; namely Hanle Marshes and Chushul Marshes.6. Under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the process for identification and proposal for Biodiversity Heritage Sites in Changthang landscape has been initiated by involvement of local community and youth from the region.7. An assignment on Conservation Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) for threatened Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Ladakh has been commissioned. The resulting document serves as a compendium of the data on the status of population and its habitat in the wild as well as recommendations for intensive conservation action. These Taxon Data Sheets provide documentation of reasoning behind recommendations, as well as details of other species-pertinent information. The database provides a		
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						systematic method of recording data and providing for reassessments as the status of species change and as new information becomes available. The activity is expected to result in better management and designations for important Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas in the union Territory of Ladakh			
							Total of Outcome1		
	<p>Outcome 2: Improved and diversified livelihood strategies and improved capacities of community and government institutions for sustainable natural resource management and conservation</p> <p>Output 2.1 Participatory community-based village level micro plans developed for enhancing and diversifying livelihoods and improving natural resources management</p> <p>Output 2.2 Pilot projects on sustainable community based natural resources management, and sustainable livelihood activities are supported</p> <p>Output 2.3 New and enhanced value chain products and services providing ecologically sustainable livelihood are developed and implemented by local communities</p>								
<p>Indicator 2.1: Extent under sustainable natural resources management practices</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (Currently sustainable land management natural resources practices at the village level are absent or limited)</p> <p>Target: At least 10,000 ha under sustainable natural resources management practices</p>	<p>Formation and strengthening of Biodiversity Management Committees, JFMCs, Van Panchayat and other CBOs and engage them in conservation and use of sustainable natural resources in Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Develop livelihood strategy framework for the landscapes</p> <p>“Situation Analysis of Impact</p>					<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>10 draft PBR's prepared by the local youth engaged by Department of Rural Development and Technical Support Groups assignment by State Biodiversity Board. Two Para taxonomist trained under SECURE project also got contract for the preparation of PBR. The State Biodiversity board team has visited the Lahaul Pangri Landscape for Identification of BHS site, Notification of local products under GI and Biocultural community protocols.</p> <p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Livelihood Strategies of both the landscapes Govind-Gangotri and Darma-Byans finalized, approved by SPMU. The same was presented before the landscape committee for approval and few changes has been suggested by the committee.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Committee suggested to speed up GI for Harsil Rajma and Puroala Red Rice and constitute societies of the growers. 2- In Dharali Village, MSME will install a processing unit for jam making from apple. 3- The pilot projects for income enhancement is prepared for Eco-tourism, MAP, Apple, Handicraft-Handloom activities. <p>Process of engaging different agencies for Implementation of these pilot projects in the villages is in progress.</p> <p>In view of current COVID-19 pandemic a rapid assessment of its</p>	34,622		

of COVID19 on SECURE
Himalaya Project
Landscapes

“Model Energy Efficient
Village Development
Scheme”

Assessment of existing micro
plans and livelihood plans or
gap assessment an
identification of suitable
alternatives.

impact on the livelihoods of the local communities was done through landscape visit and telephonic interviews. The findings of the assessment indicate adverse impact on the communities involved in tourism related activities. Situation Analysis report shared with Government of Uttarakhand and District Administration Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi to be referred while designing the policies considering COVID-19 Impact Analysis done in project villages.

Convergence with UREDA. Submitted detailed proposal by sharing Pre-Energy Audit in the landscapes with proposed solutions, requirements, and gaps for alternative energy solutions. The local coordination officer of UREDA has been introduced to the landscape committees. UREDA assured inclusion of one project village i.e. Mukhwa under its “Model Energy Efficient Village Development Scheme” in district.

Sikkim

A detailed assessment of micro-plans and livelihood enhancement potential of the project villages has been carried in partnership with WWF. The agency has submitted its final report for review. Following areas were identified for further interventions:

- Enhanced agriculture
- Community based tourism
- Enhanced dairy farming practices
- Enhanced cardamom cultivation
- Village based handicrafts and souvenirs

Based on the beneficiary database submitted by the agency, activity-wise selection criteria and village wise requirements have been compiled for final validation and initiation of activities.

Based on their recommendations, Training on Ecotourism, Apiculture and Handloom has been included in the last quarter.

Ladakh

As part of the assignment on documenting traditional knowledge and traditional natural resource management practices, Village level micro plans have been prepared for Rupshu, Kharnak, Angkung, Korzok areas of the landscape. These areas cover an area of 11,500 hectares. Documentation of traditional natural

						<p>resource management practices will contribute towards piloting and mainstreaming of the identified practices at the level of community level institutions like Biodiversity Management Committees and Panchayats.</p>			
<p>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)</p>		<p>Developing a livelihood strategy for SECURE Himalaya in Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Training on Ecotourism and Hospitality services for community</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh A review meeting was held with WII on the assignment following action points have been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution of prioritized MAP species in the landscape with main locations, hotspots, villages/ valleys should be given in the report along with distribution maps ▪ Detailed information on identified Medicinal Plants Conservation Development Areas (MPCDAs) should be provided including their area, maps, species abundance, diversity, threats, and conservation strategies. ▪ Detailed Strategies for addressing the gaps in conservation, management and livelihood enhancement in MAP sector should be covered. <p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>The Livelihood strategy prepared by NRMC was presented to state Forest Department and other line departments 29 July 2020 through video conference owing to COVID situation in which following review comments were given by state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture tourism can be promoted in the landscape ▪ On the development of tourism sector, be more specific on the line of action like specific no. and locations of homestays to be developed in Lahaul and Pangj landscape ▪ If it can be estimated as to how many people can be associated with which livelihood activities, if an assessment of such kind is provided under the assignment then project would be able to focus on those activities more and it would help in developing the kind of convergence with the different departments as well ▪ In order to implement all the proposed activities, there is a need to assess the number of people who stays in the landscape throughout the year as most of the people migrate to downhill areas from the landscape during winters. 			

Promotion of sustainable livelihood practices

- Socio-economic and income baselines part may be incorporated

The agency has revised the report and re-submitted to state.

Ladakh

1. GI tag registration process underway for 2 products belonging to Ladakh. This initiative is being taken up on a collaboration basis with the District Industries Centre. GI tagging will help ensure that authentic genuine products produced or harvested by community user groups are easily identifiable in the market. This will also ensure premium costs and higher incomes for the user groups.
2. A report was prepared on best practices and case studies of Snow Leopard Insurance models being operated in other Snow Leopard rangelands. Currently, livestock depredation by snow leopards and other carnivores is compensated for by the local government. However, often the cumbersome process of applying for compensation, the distance between the villages and the government office, and the lack of connectivity deters livestock herders from availing compensation benefits. This increased human-wildlife conflict, herders lose the incentive of rearing livestock, and transactional compensation does not incentivize predator proofing of herding practices. It is in this regard that community-based livestock insurance models have proven to be a success in rangelands of Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. While the same models cannot be replicated in the Changthang landscape, one needs to adopt and improvise to cater to the unique risk factors, and other socio-ecological characteristics of the landscape. The potential livestock model will receive initial support from the government as well as the private sector.
3. The Nature Guide Training activity has been initiated wherein 25 youth with 50% of women will be trained as Nature Guides who shall cater to the growing demand for nature-based tourism in the landscape. The training programme will help new and existing tourist guides to augment their skills and be well versed about the ecology of the landscape including flora, fauna, avifauna, and geological history. The training programme will be concluded with a career guidance

					<p>workshop wherein the trainees will be introduced to prospective hiring organizations in the landscape. The government tourism department will also host a database of all nature guides on their website for public access.</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>Technological Support to Value Chains i.e Seabuckthorn, Medicinal Plants, NTFPs: 1. Juice Extraction Machine (1) 2. Vaccum Packaging Machine (2) 3. Dehydrator Machine/Drier (2)</p> <p>Dairy Development Pilot at Pangti Landscape.</p> <p>Webinars on Livelihood Options for SECURE Beneficiaries in Uttarakhand Landscapes</p> <p>Training on professional nature guide & promote the birdwatching for livelihood improvement of local youths and community.</p>			<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>List of 20 beneficiaries of Miyar Women group (Lahaul Landscape) for the Technological Support to Value Chains i.e Sea buckthorn has been prepared for Lahaul Landscape. Which will be organized in the form of a SHG under National Rural Livelihood Mission to provide the technological support to the group.</p> <p>Consultations held with Animal Husbandry Department at Pangti and PRI's and local community of Dharwas village for the initiative. List of 44 beneficiaries of Dharwas Village (Pangti landscape) for dairy development has been prepared for Pangti Landscape. A DPR will be prepared by Animal Husbandry department for the initiative.</p> <p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>A community webinar was conducted on Emerging Livelihood Opportunities in high-altitude regions of Himalayas. The objective was to improve the capacity of landscape beneficiaries to understand and adopt alternative livelihood options, available, which can help in reducing the impact and burden on natural resources use in high-altitude regions, habitat of the vulnerable snow leopard. Total 30 community youth (06 female) oriented on "Nettle Fiber Industry as a sustainable nature-based livelihood", "Importance of financial inclusion to empower communities and promote rural entrepreneurship", "Cultivation & Processing of Essential Oils as an emerging high-value niche sector".</p> <p>A Five-days training program was organized in Munsyari Nature education and Eco-Park, centre at Pithoragarh from 18 September to 23 September 2020 following all advisories in current pandemic situation of COVID-19. Total 15 youth (Parataxonomists, Video Fellows, Local Guides, SHG members) of which 6 were female, got benefitted to become professional nature/bird guides. They will now be able to promote a complete tour package for the local and outside tourists for example – birdwatching, small enterprises through Nature based products</p>		

						like Ringal, trekking in High altitude Himalayas.			
						<p>Ladakh</p> <p>The Nature Guide Training activity has been initiated wherein 25 youth with 50% of women will be trained as Nature Guides who shall cater to the growing demand for nature-based tourism in the landscape. The training programme will help new and existing tourist guides to augment their skills and be well versed about the ecology of the landscape including flora, fauna, avifauna, and geological history. The training programme will be concluded with a career guidance workshop wherein the trainees will be introduced to prospective hiring organizations in the landscape. The government tourism department will also host a database of all nature guides on their website for public access.</p>			
		-							Total of Outcome 2
<p>Outcome 3: Enhanced enforcement, monitoring and cooperation to reduce wildlife crime and related threats</p> <p>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</p> <p>Output 3.2. Law enforcement agencies are provided with technical support and training to increase capacity for combating wildlife crime</p> <p>Output 3.3. Community based surveillance, monitoring and wildlife crime and conflict prevention system developed and tested</p> <p>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>									
<p>Indicator 3.1. Number of community members actively volunteering in security monitoring and surveillance</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (There is no coordinated program for community participation in surveillance and monitoring of wildlife crime)</p> <p>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>		Drone Pilot intervention in Govind landscape for monitoring & surveillance				<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>A Drone Pilot intervention has been initiated in one of the project landscapes i.e. Govind Wildlife Sanctuary. The DFO Purola/DD Govind has submitted a proposal to CWLW Uttarakhand requesting for the pilot intervention in certain locations. The proposal includes the mapping of marked proposed locations, geo coordinates and national and district boundaries. Since this landscape does not share any international boundary the pilot can safely be done for the monitoring of illegal extraction of MAP, killing of wild animals and capacity building of front-line staff. This pilot will further be linked with the forest server established under the project.</p>			7,003
<p>Indicator 3.2. Number of</p>		Strengthening wildlife				<p>Himachal Pradesh</p>			

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

enforcement mechanism and mitigation of wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife in SECURE Himalaya Project landscapes in Sikkim

To enhance the capacities of the field staff in tough terrains of SECURE project, protective field gears and 100 numbers of field forensic kits were provided by TRAFFIC India under the assignment. Also, a capacity building workshop for enforcement agencies is planned at landscape level in second week of Nov. 2020 for which the agenda has been finalized.

Sikkim

An assignment on managing illegal wildlife trade and strengthening enforcement mechanisms has been commissioned to TRAFFIC-India for Sikkim. In this quarter, the following reports have been developed and shared:

- I. Wildlife crime status report
 - II. Training need analysis (TNA) report.
- Both the reports have been reviewed in and accordingly, comments have been shared with the agency for revising the reports. Some of the pertinent comments are:
- I. The wildlife crime and vulnerability map of the landscape needs to be more detailed, with cluster wise identification of vulnerable areas and target species
 - II. The TNA needs to look at all enforcement agencies and suggest suitable modules.

The TRAFFIC report on Illegal wildlife trade was reviewed. Most of the comments have not been addressed.

- i. The state has reviewed and sent detailed comments for revising the latest reports shared by TRAFFIC India, including the Wildlife crime and trade status report & the training gap analysis report.
- ii. The agency needs to expedite its remaining activities considering the remaining deliverables and tasks.

Ladakh

An assignment on managing illegal wildlife trade and strengthening enforcement mechanisms has been commissioned to Wildlife Trust of India for Ladakh. In this quarter, the following reports have been developed and shared:

- I. Wildlife crime status report for both Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir UT's.
- II. Training need analysis (TNA) report.
- III. Draft Training Modules for frontline staff and enforcement agencies.

						<p>The assignment is also looking at possible trans-boundary agreements both international and interstate in order to mitigate the threats posed by IWT. The same is expected to be concluded by December 2020.</p>			
<p>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</p>		<p>Designing a comprehensive human-wildlife conflict (HWC) Management Strategy</p> <p>Formation of 30 Village Voluntary Protection Force</p> <p>Designing a comprehensive human-wildlife conflict (HWC) Management Strategy</p> <p>Assessment of current patterns and trends of human wildlife conflict and designing a robust mitigation strategy</p>				<p>a) Review of wildlife crime scene investigation and forensic evidence collection manual has been done by the NPMU submitted by TRAFFIC as per the ToR of the assignment commissioned to the agency under component 3 of the project. The key points suggested to the agency are mentioned below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The agency has been suggested regarding the requirement of elaboration in different steps, process explained with interesting animations so that the steps mentioned in the module can be easily understood by the target groups. ii. In wildlife crime search scenarios apart from search styles suggestions has been provided for insertion of relevant animations/ sketches that will explain the scenario both for indoors and outdoors. Details of search and seizure memo is an important part which is missing in the module along with please add it in a step by step manner for process of different types of evidence collections and connecting with potential link in a crime can also be represented in animations in the module. iii. Potential areas/ points where animations-based explanations can be done have been highlighted in the report and shared with the agency. <p>b) NPMU with guidance of WCCB jointly developed a matrix for the species (flora and fauna) which are been traded or involved in wildlife crime from the SECURE Himalaya landscapes, based on the findings from the assignment commissioned to TRAFFIC and WTI. This information has been officially shared to the Nodal officers for review and further suggestions. This information will be used for development of species identification handbook which can be used by different enforcement agencies for knowledge development regarding the species along with identification skills for the same.</p> <p>Uttarakhand A three-year micro level "Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation</p>			

Management Plans” of three landscapes (Gangotri, Govind, Darma-Byans) developed by project landscape team under the guidance of respective DD/ DFOs to assess the status of HWC in their divisions in the past five years and what required steps/actions have been taken to mitigate such incidents. Based on this assessment, the three-year management plan has submitted to CWLW, Uttarakhand from landscape.

Sikkim

Designing a comprehensive human wildlife management strategy for selected districts/ landscapes in Sikkim- ATREE (Final Report)

Based on the detailed comments and inputs of the SPMU, the agency has sent a revised report, which was reviewed intensively, and a final set of comments and suggested changes were compiled and shall be communicated soon to the agency formally.

Most of the inputs included in the report but few like mitigation strategies for population control, compensation information and measures suggested for livestock depredation in Thangu and Muguthang have not been addressed. The agency has been communicated the feedback for incorporating the suggested changes.

Ladakh

The major conflict species for livestock depredation and crop-raiding in the Changthang landscape have been identified as Tibetan Wolf, Snow Leopard, Eurasian Lynx, Feral Dogs, Blue Sheep and Tibetan Wild Ass. The landscape specific strategy along with the action plan has been prepared for HWC prevention and mitigations.

- As part of the strategy to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, participatory predator-proofing of corral pens in Changthang landscape has been initiated and is due to be completed by December 2020. The said initiative is one of a kind wherein, the project is providing for some basic raw material in form of chain-link fencing and wood; whereas the community contributes with stones and their labor. Through this initiative 26 predator-proof corral pens shall be built across 7 conflict-prone villages in the landscape, namely; Sumdo Gongma,

						<p>Shriyul, Relay Iching, Samad Rokchen, Khera Pullu, Yurgo and Mugleb, with the eventual outcome of reduced cases of human-wildlife conflict in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A model livestock insurance program has been developed with the aim of securing the livestock of nomadic communities from disasters and conflicts. The said livestock insurance program shall now be implemented with the concerned Govt. departments and local communities in Changthang. 		
						Total of Outcome 3		
<p>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>								
<p>Indicator: 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>Developing a communication strategy with tools and implementation plans to sensitize stakeholders and public involved which can be consecutively linked to a wider policy and public consciousness framework</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short video animation formed on safe driving to stop road killing which will be the first step in a state-wide campaign on it. It will be launched by Hon'ble Forest Minister of State in Wildlife Week Closing ceremony in Oct. 2020. <p>Ladakh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The carrying capacity of Pangong lake was assessed and the report was submitted to the administration of the Union Territory. The carrying capacity assessment shall be used by the administration to better govern tourism activities pertaining to the Pangong Tso wetland. Comments and recommendations were made by the project team on the draft eco-tourism policy for the Union Territory of Ladakh, prepared by the Tourism Department and Tour Operators Association of Ladakh. 		34,622
<p>Indicator: 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</p>								

<p>project specific lessons to be documented) Target: 10 best practices documented, disseminated, and up scaled in non-project areas</p>									
<p>Indicator: 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>Development of knowledge products to enhance awareness among the stakeholders</p> <p>Celebration of "Harela Parv" Forest plantation drive in project landscapes</p>				<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Report of "Webinar on Emerging Livelihood Opportunities" along with annexure shared with community and other stakeholders for capacity building and awareness generation on the emerging livelihood trends in high altitude Himalayas.</p> <p>Publication Plan for the year 20-21 was finalized under the guidance of CWLW, which includes Posters in English and Hindi to generate awareness about the key wildlife species of high altitude Himalayas (Snow Leopard, Himalayan Brown Bear, Monal and Blue Sheep), Articles collected for Quarterly Newsletter "Uttarakhand Vanyajeev", Brochures and Posters developed for awareness generation on illegal poaching of wild animal body parts, Script developed on "Human Black Bear Conflict in SECURE Landscapes for developing animation Film on the same.</p> <p>Updated the current data on the HWC Bulletin Board for the launch during Wildlife week.</p> <p>Forest plantation activity in project landscapes, the landscape project unit converged with District Administration and other schemes of forest department to spread awareness among the community on environment protection and tree plantation. Total of 1000 samplings were planted covering 14 villages of Gangotri landscape through a plantation drive on occasion of "Harela Parv".</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>As part on the ongoing collaborative effort between SECURE Himalaya, WWF-India & Animal Husbandry department, a team of vets and para-vets carried out the next phase of sterilization of</p>			

					<p>free ranging dogs in North Sikkim, resulting in a total of 167 sterilizations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A meeting on Status of GI from Sikkim and action points: A zoom meeting was conducted between SECURE Himalaya Sikkim Team, Sudhanshu Ji and subject matter experts. It was decided that currently the emphasis will be laid on facilitation of the abandoned products namely Lepcha Handloom (Applied in 2013) Lepcha Hat (2016). Krishna Bhog rice (Himalayan Basmati) was also suggested as a potential GI product and LPMU team was requested to document it photographically (sowing and harvesting seasons. The abandoned application was filed by the govt. dept. and it is recommended that in filing community representatives are also involved. It was suggested that CBOs like MLAS are involved to support local communities in taking the roles independently. 2. One district one product – Products like Lachen Lachung Blankets, Lepcha bamboo and cane craft, Nettle based products, Large cardamom from North and Potato (Ribdi Bhareng area), Round pepper (Nesa), Green Pea (Sombarey Dentam Nesa) and Wood carving and mask making from West were suggested respectively. Meetings were conducted with DM, MLA Dzongu and Director (Commerce and Industries department). <p>Nettle based livelihood enhancement in the landscape involving Echo stream and MLAS on 11.9.20 to discuss on enhancing capacities of local communities on nettle-based products. The assignment will be undertaken by MLAS. Marketing options were also suggested by Echo stream.</p>			
					Total of Outcome 4			
Project Management Expenses		First Landscape Level Project Management Committee meeting in Uttarkashi			Uttarakhand			28,460
					The first Landscape Level Project Management Committee meeting has been held in Uttarkashi on 21 September 2020 under the Chairmanship of DM Uttarkashi. The chair discussed the field implementation of the project till date and the progress			

Risks related to gender mainstreaming activities in the landscape were related to low participation of women in project activities. However, the project developed activities that were designed to bring women forward and actively participate in livelihoods and capacity building initiatives.

2.2.2. What were challenges related to:

- a) mainstreaming gender and
- b) concerns of women and men belonging to the marginalised groups, e.g. related to participation, access and control of resources and benefits, socio-cultural/institutional obstacles, etc.? Any new upcoming opportunities/ ideas on facilitating gender & inclusion in the project?

The project has developed state level and annual work plans with specific activities to ensure active participation of women, activities that will result in mainstreaming gender and activities where women are being introduced to areas that have traditionally been dominated by men (like trekking guides).

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: None to report

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: None to report

Anushka Sharma

Team Leader a.i.