

SECURE Himalaya
Quarterly Project Progress
Fourth Quarter (October - December 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>Support to Secihu Tuan Nalla WL Sanctuary for METT score improvement</p> <p>Preparation of land use, vegetation cover and status report and detailed mapping of natural resource use in the landscape in Sikkim</p>		<p>The following activities has been implemented to improve the METT scores:</p> <p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Awareness workshop has been conducted with the residents of Chasak Bhatori village by PA staff with the aim of community welfare and trust building. Under the programme solar lights has been distributed to selected households. The programme was a collaborative one in which the support for solar lights was covered from forest divisions own funds and the programme has been organized under SECURE Himalaya project.</p> <p>The assignment has been completed and final report 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. 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 whereas the</p>		490,302	

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 Pangli Landscape.

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

Kinnaur landscape is classified into 26 land use land cover classes. Kinnaur landscape has better vegetation distribution than the Lahaul-Pangi landscape. 10 permanent monitoring plots has also been identified under the assignment for long term biodiversity monitoring from climate change point of view.

The assignment has been completed engaging ZSI, Kolkata as technical partners using multi- pronged approach of camera trapping, trail sampling, non-invasive genetics and questionnaire survey was used to gather information on the feral dogs in Lahaul-Pangi landscape. Based on the SCER model, feral dog density was found to be 2.78 individuals/ 100 Km² on an average ranging from 1.4 to 5.5 individuals/ 100 km² in the Lahaul and Pangi landscape. The micro-histological analysis of the feral dog scats suggested that some of the wildlife species such as marmot, blue sheep and rodent's species are present in the diet of feral dogs, but the diet is dominated by domestic livestock. The department will start the implementation of strategy proposed by ZSI for feral dog management under which dog sterilization and awareness generation activities on responsible dog ownership will be undertaken on priority this year.

20 community members (7 females) has been trained under the training programme in Oct-Nov 2020 in Lahaul Pangli landscape by Wildlife Institute of India on wildlife monitoring.

A field guide has been prepared under the project was also circulated to the trainees for their enhanced learning in future. The participants were trained on different aspects of animal behaviour as well as format filling during the trail walk and demonstrated the use of gps and camera trap on field. During trail walk participants found scat of musk deer and Wolf in live demonstration etc.

Uttarakhand

Total 21 Para-taxonomist (5 female) trained on Participatory Snow Leopard Monitoring Protocol in a two days training/ field visit organised by WII in Gangotri-Govind landscapes from 5-6 November 2020. They learned about the Snow leopard, its pre-based species and habitat, sign survey etc.

Out of which 9 (all male) para-taxonomist trained on (SPAI) Snow-Leopard Population Assessment in India. They are involved in 1st step of SL census by the Forest Department. They

Preparation of Landscape management strategies

Preparation of landscape management strategy.

Preparation of land use, vegetation cover and status report and detailed mapping of natural resource use in the landscape.

Preparation of model framework for high altitude Wetlands

accompanied forest staff during sign survey for SL & co-predators, identification of grids falling in the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi and Gangotri Divisions, data collation, collection of samples during transacts, scat samples in areas above 3000 meters elevation

Sikkim

A draft landscape management strategy has been prepared under this outcome through the involvement of an external agency. The agency has submitted the draft final report on 22 December 2020, following which the state has reviewed it and sent comments for revising the same.

Ladakh

A Participatory Integrated Landscape Management Strategy and plan has been finalized for Changthang landscape. The said management strategy and plan has been prepared for a period of 10 years and was drafted after series of consultations at Union Territory and landscape levels with all relevant stakeholders, whose actions have been clearly enlisted in the strategy to ensure conservation and effective management of the landscape and its biodiversity.

The Land-Use Land Cover assessment using high-resolution satellite imagery of Changthang landscape with an enormous area of more than 13000 sq km has been finalized in consultation with UT administration. This is expected to provide the administrators with valuable data to prepare conservation strategies at landscape level.

In the Changthang Landscape, High-altitude wetlands and its associated marshes and rangelands, are the most critical habitats for biodiversity. Keeping this in mind, an Integrated Management Plan has been prepared for **Hanle Marshes** with a total area of **1272700 Ha**. Apart from this Wetland Brief Documents and Wetland Health Cards have been prepared for 13 high-altitude wetland areas across the landscape. This shall help in determining conservation priorities for the entirety of High-altitude Wetlands in Changthang landscape.

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

Capacity need assessment of stakeholders

Capacity building of BMCs on implementation of BD Act

Himachal Pradesh

The assignment has been completed by WII and draft final report has been submitted to the department. A total no. of 7 new modules has been designed under the assignment out of which some will be undertaken under project in 2021.

A Training of Trainers (ToT) has been organized in 1st week of Nov. 2020 at Udaipur, Distt Lahaul and Spiti on Human Wildlife Conflicts with 28 officials from forest and other line departments participated in the training programme. HWC mitigation measures with reference to selected species in the landscape (before, during and after conflict) was discussed and demonstrated with forest staff. A group discussion was organized to map the major human wildlife conflict areas and Dr. S. Sathyakumar, Scientist-G, WII explained some new innovative techniques including fox lights to mitigate human wildlife conflict.

Uttarakhand

The State Uttarakhand biodiversity board organized series of Capacity building programmes for community/BMC members from 2nd-12th Nov. 2020 in project villages of Govind landscape. Total 103 (30% female) community people capacitated on access benefits sharing modules & awareness on cultivation of medicinal aromatic plants in the landscape.

A virtual meeting has been organised by TERI on 22 November 2020 to discuss 'Updating / Developing the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and Resource Mobilization strategies for implementing". Total 9 officials from state, landscape and national team has participated in the discussion. The agency has shared the financial solution for the landscape planning & implementation. Both the solutions were agreed and accepted by State Nodal Officer and CWLW to be implemented in the project landscapes.

Sikkim

Capacity building programme of BMCs: This was organized on 7-8 October, 2020 through an online platform with experts from National Biodiversity Authority and UNDP. From Sikkim, 7 BMC members attended. There were detailed discussions on Biodiversity rules and regulations. Videos on the topics PBR, BMC, BD act were shown to the participants.

	<p>Conduct Conservation Assessment and Management Prioritization (CAMP) in Ladakh</p>				<p>Ladakh Conservation Assessment and Management Prioritization (CAMP) process has been initiated for the Union Territory of Ladakh. TDU Bangalore was hired to conduct the CAMP process for the UT wherein capacity building of 3 local institutes was also initiated so that future CAMPs can be conducted by local institutions of Ladakh. A pre-CAMP workshop was conducted for selection of medicinal plants for the CAMP with experts (forest officials, scientists, representatives of institutes and NGOs, research scholars, amchis and farmers) from Ladakh and other States having knowledge and working experience on medicinal plants of Ladakh.</p> <p>Training conducted for capacity building of grassroot level stakeholders like TSGs, community trainers, students and youth groups on implementation of Biological Diversity Act at the landscape level under SECURE Himalaya project. Two local organizations from Ladakh (one from each district) trained under the programme.</p>		
<p>Indicator 1.3. Reduced pressure and prevented degradation of alpine meadows and sub-alpine forests 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 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>Conduct assessment on habitat degradation and developing site-specific mitigation strategies</p> <p>MPCDAs notification process & proposal</p> <p>Identification and implementation of Energy</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh The assignment is being undertaken by ICLEI South Asia and is expected to be completed by June 2021 after completion of one more season on sampling from the landscapes. 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 being 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>Uttarakhand Field investigation of two MPCDAs sites have done to take it forward for notification process. The identified sites are (i). Dayara-Bugyal; (ii). Harkidun -Bugyal, with an area of 270 ha & 300 ha area covered respectively. GBP Institute verified the information and submitted to DFO Uttarkashi, which is agreed by the landscape officer. As follow up the institute needs to carry out detailed assessment & submit proposal to process it further for notification/ declaration by National medicinal plan board.</p> <p>Two villages (Mukhwa (Gangotri); Osla (Govind) have identified</p>		

	efficient climate smart solutions to reduce stress on natural ecosystems				for development of energy efficient climate smart villages under a Govt. of India scheme. A letter has been sent to Government of Uttarakhand from District Administration. The concept plan needs to be developed for the same.		
<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 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>Eco-friendly energy solutions implemented in Lahaul-Pangi Landscape in selected villages to reduce direct pressure on natural resources i.e. Solar based/ design upgradation/ fuel alternatives</p> <p>Develop high altitude wetland management strategies and plans</p> <p>BHSs site notification and declaration in high altitude areas</p> <p>Develop high altitude wetland management strategies</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>The assignment has been completed by HRG and the 16 units of innovative solar water heaters has been provided to 16 households in Khanjar and Chasak Bhatari Villages. In order to assess the efficiency of the systems some data loggers have also been placed in some systems by the agency which will be taken after one year to take their readings. 2 thermosiphon-based room heating panels (not covered under project) were also placed by the agency in two households on experimental basis to assess the efficiency of the system.</p> <p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>In Gangotri landscape, The District Administration has asked to prepare documents to submit the proposal for notification to declare Dodital (wetland) as Ramsar site. WWF was agreed on to take up documentation part based on some information.</p> <p>A meeting has been organized on 22.12.2020 with Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board and WWF-India to explore key potential biodiversity heritage sites (BHS) towards identification of high conservation value areas in the landscape. According to the BHS guidelines, the BHSs cannot be proposed/declared within Protected Areas, having highest status of conservation areas. Any potential BHS proposed outside the PAs can be considered for further notification/declaration therefore 04 BHSs from Darma-Byans landscape shall be considered and WWF have to submit separate proposal to the Board with details of each site as per the guidelines of BHS notification.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>Looking at the long term integrated management of the high altitude wetlands in order to also prevent degradation of its alpine and sub-alpine catchment areas, a draft management plan for the ecologically and culturally significant Gurudongmar high altitude wetland complex has been prepared by Wetlands International, the technical agency, which highlights the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Formation of a district level wetland management committee 		

					<p>-Creation of effective signages and communication collaterals on biodiversity and significance of Gurudongmar</p> <p>-Creation of a cadre of lake guards who are based in the local community</p> <p>Ladakh Process of procurement and installation of an Organic Waste Composting machine initiated in the landscape. Due to increased presence of Armed Forces in the landscape, increased food waste is encouraging the proliferation in the population of free-ranging dogs. Free-ranging dogs are emerging as the most prominent threat to the population of mammals and avi-fauna in the landscape. Ground nesting birds are an easy target and ungulates & carnivores are also predated on by packs of free-ranging dogs. While sterilization and capture of dogs is taking place under the local administration, food waste generation must also be addressed in a serious manner. In this regard, SECURE Himalaya developed a prototype biogas digester in 2018 however due to extreme cold temperatures in the winter this approach was not found to be effective for the landscape. This year, under SECURE Himalaya, a suitable technological solution has been identified which does not require anaerobic processes and processes food waste simply through electric energy. The identified machine has been modified further for the extreme cold temperatures of Changthang and shall be transported to an identified location in the landscape in the next quarter. The Indian Army has been brought on board for provision of a suitable location in the landscape wherein the machine will be installed at an Armed Forces camp where it shall be operated. It is envisioned that once the machine successfully undergoes its temperature trial, it shall be upscaled to all armed forces bases and camps in the landscape and beyond and that the food source for free-ranging dogs is thus cut-off.</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 (a) Reduced direct pressure on at least 60,000 ha covering at least 18 newly designated and managed</p>		<p>Identifying, assessing, delineating and mapping area with High Conservation Values (HCVs) and developing management recommendations/plans</p>			<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>The assignment has been complete and a total number of 18 new high conservation value areas has been identified and delineated by WII. Out of these 3 potential sites for the Biodiversity Heritage sites i.e. Hudan Bhattori, Sural Bhattori and Nain Gahar 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. Draft proposals on notifying these areas as BHS is ready.</p>		

<p>key biodiversity areas, including 30,000 ha of HCVFs to ensure connectivity and species conservation resulting in projected avoided 1.38-1.47 m tCO₂ over 30-year period (b) Reduced direct pressure on at least 20,000 ha of moist and dry alpine areas and sub-alpine forests managed as Biodiversity Heritage Sites¹¹ resulting in projected avoided 0.46 – 0.49 m tCO₂ over 30-year period</p>	<p>Pilot initiative on e-PBR</p> <p>Biodiversity resource centre/park</p> <p>Identifying, assessing, delineating and mapping area with High Conservation Values (HCVs) and developing management recommendations/plans</p> <p>State biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updated, and resource mobilization strategy developed</p>			<p>Further proposals for 2 MPCDA's will be developed under National Medicinal Plant Board CSS scheme for further funding and development. Consultations will be carried out with relevant stakeholders for notifying some of the identified areas as conservation/community reserve or community conserved areas in 2021. i.e. Miyar Valley, Pattan Valley, Mindhal, Sach..</p> <p>Uttarakhand In Gangotri landscape, as per the meeting held on 6 November 2020, the e-PBR pilot initiated a three BMCs i.e. Harsil, Dharali and Barsu. Copy of PBRs is awaited from UBB. The biodiversity management information system will be developed in coordination with NBA as per the standard tool design for digitalization of e-PBR system. E-set-up in villages is almost completed. The capacity building of local youth is underway.</p> <p>The Concept note on Biodiversity resource center in Gangotri landscape finalized based on ground information. It will be a high-altitude biodiversity Garden & resource center, which will include herbal - medicinal plant, RET species, fossil plant, Ashtbarga plant, orchid etc. This will promote biodiversity conservation & knowledge sharing in stakeholders and tourists.</p> <p>Sikkim Under an assignment regarding identification and delineation of potential HCVAs under the project landscape, carried out by ATREE, 22 HCVAs in north and west districts of Sikkim have been identified, covering a total area of 860 km². The maps of these identified HCVs have been submitted. Regarding further validation of these HCVAs, stakeholder's consultation program was also organized in North Sikkim (Lachen on 15th and Lachung on 16th December 2020). A final validation workshop for all HCVAs has been planned at the state level on the 27th Jan 2021.</p> <p>A validation workshop on draft revised SBSAP for Sikkim, which was submitted by the assisting technical agency (NIPFP) in November 2020. was organized on 4th December 2020 through video conferencing.</p> <p>During the meeting, NIPFP received various comments by the experts like the report should include details about Tinkitam</p>	
--	---	--	--	---	--

Identifying, assessing, delineating and mapping area with High Conservation Values (HCVs) and developing management recommendations/plans

Conservation Facility for orchids and Nursery at Chungthang may not work as it is comparatively low-lying area compared to the areas of Lachen and Lachung. Dr. J Soundrapandi (NBA, India) suggested that Once the post 2020 biodiversity framework is developed, it should also be incorporated in the SBSAP, and in alignment with the NBSAP.

Based on further comments, the agency was suggested to undertake gap-filling exercise both through reviews and field visits. NIPFP has accordingly planned for a series of field visits in January 2021.

Ladakh

4 potential Medicinal & Aromatic Plant Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDA) covering an area of 999 Ha have been studied, identified and mapped in and around the Changthang landscape. One of those sites i.e. **Wari La region** (with an area of **222 ha**) has been proposed for MPCDA designation. This is the first time that a MPCDA has been proposed in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Planned under AWP 2020-21 of UT Ladakh, the High Conservation Value Area of Tso Kar Wetland Complex (9577 Ha) in Changthang Ladakh has now been officially designated as a Ramsar Site. The activity was led by LPMU Ladakh, in close coordination with O/o Commissioner/Secretary Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment UT Ladakh and CWLW Ladakh with support from Wetlands Division MoEF&CC. The link to the news on Ramsar Convention's website is given below for reference: - <https://www.ramsar.org/news/india-adds-a-high-altitude-wetland-complex-to-the-ramsar-list>.

Tweet by Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India:- <https://twitter.com/PrakashJavdekar/status/1341979097447067649>.

As part of the work on identification of High Conservation Value Areas a plethora of HCVA's have been identified and mapped using high-resolution satellite imagery in and outside Changthang landscape. A total of 17 High-priority HCVA's with a combined area of more than 8000 sq kms have been identified and mapped for various conservation values. This is a very significant development for the conservation planning and

		Pradesh				responsibilities and where asked to constitute the BMCs under Section 41(1) of the Act.	
<p>Indicator 2.2. Average percentage increase in community incomes from sustainable livelihood, natural resource management and business activities (calculated for each community)</p> <p>Baseline: Baseline to be established in YR1 during village micro-planning</p> <p>Target: 30% increase in average incomes from sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management and business activities (At least 40% of beneficiaries are women)</p>		<p>Assessment of medicinal and aromatic plant species including their collection, usage, demand, markets, price trends and life cycle, focusing on landscapes in Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>Agencies engaged based on the pilot interventions suggested under various value chains during baseline and impact analysis of COVID-19 situation.</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>The assignment is in its final stage. Qualitative and quantitative information on harvesting, collection and cultivation protocols for some species has been generated under the project. This information will be widely disseminated to the relevant stakeholders in landscape.</p> <p>A review meeting was held on 24th Dec 2020 with WII on the assignment following action points have been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ABS case model may be developed and provided. ▪ 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>Uttarakhand</p> <p>Assignments have been awarded to five agencies as per the following –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Enhance capacity of key stakeholders involved in traditional art/craft and sustainable local architecture in Gangotri landscape, Uttarakhand. (Self-Help) (ii) Developing a Unique Ecotourism Model for Generating Alternative Economic Means (UEM-GAEM) in Govind Landscape. (Self-Help) (iii) Developing a Unique Ecotourism Model for Generating Alternative Economic Means (UEM-GAEM) in Gangotri Landscape. (Self-Help) (iv) Implementation of Agri-value chain in Sikkim and Uttarakhand project landscapes under SECURE Himalaya Project. (four leaf) (v) Developing a Solid Waste Management Model through capacity building and establishment of monitoring systems in Govind Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park. (waste worriers) 	

Buyer Seller meet at Gangotri landscape for increasing their income and business

Geographical Indication (GI) tag

A Buyer Seller meet has been organized on 23-24 Dec 2020 at Uttarakashi, Gangotri landscape. More than 100 sellers (75-80% women) and 11 buyers have participants in the meet. The outcome of the meet (i). Budera Himalayan Craft Brand was launched in the event (ii). The cash sale of the handloom artisans of Budera craft in two days have been around 2.00 lakhs (iii). Total four companies have confirmed to sign MoUs of Rs. 11 lakhs (TRIFED –Rs. 5 Lakh, The divine Company – Rs. 2.0 Lakh, Rural India Craft – Rs. 2.00 Lakh and Naini-International – Rs. 2.0 Lakh). (iv).The MoU will be signed after legal vetting.

Three Geographical Indication (GI) tag under process; (i). Harshil Rajma (ii) Uttarakhand Ramdana and (iii). Purola Red - Rice. Society registration meeting held in Gangotri-Govind landscape on 2nd Dec 2020 (20 participants) in Gangotri & on 18th Dec 2020 in Govind (37 participants). Documentations have been done for society registration.

Sikkim

Preliminary meetings with World school of design to develop value chain and design strategy for handloom/ handicraft for project landscapes: one of the key components of the project is to improve and diversify livelihoods of local communities living in the region to reduce their dependence and pressures on natural resources. In this context, World school of design has been helping in developing handicraft/handloom opportunities and helping in design and marketing. In this regard multiple meetings and one webinar was organized in the month of November. A list of handloom/ handicraft products has been shared with them from Sikkim which included no. of people engaged in production, strengths, Weakness/Gaps, Human Resources available, Incentive mechanism, training areas, Which institutions are provided with support (Cooperatives, SHGs), Technology development and product development

ii. The proposal for supporting 2 district-wise fulfillment centers for packaging and value addition of agri-horticultural products of the local communities, in convergence with the State Rural Livelihood Mission, was accorded final approval by the competent authority and SRLM was requested to take it forward accordingly.

<p>Indicator 2.3. Number of community members trained, adopting community-based agricultural, agro-pastoral, natural resource management and livelihood activities</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Targets: At least 2,500 community members trained and adopting community-based sustainable resource use, agro-pastoral, agricultural and other sustainable livelihood activities and receiving detectable conservation and livelihood benefits</p>	<p>Seabuckthorn Value Chain Development in Tingret Panchayat (Urgos)</p> <p>Handloom and Handicraft development:</p> <p>Dairy Development Pilot at Pangri Landscape.</p> <p>Training of Youth on Development of Participatory Snow Leopard Monitoring Protocol</p> <p>Involve trained youth in SPAI.</p>			<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 beneficiary households identified (will be upscaled in subsequent stages) ▪ Multiple consultations held with the beneficiaries and rural development department. ▪ SHG group to be constituted under SRLM ▪ Juice extraction and packaging machines to be provided. The ToR and RFP for the assignment was finalised in Nov 2020 and NIFT, Kangra has been commissioned with the assignment. ▪ Inception report has been submitted by NIFT under the assignment along with one consultation has been conducted with National Project Management Unit regarding the possibilities of starting the activities planned under the assignment as the landscape will be closed during the prior winters. ▪ Details of the Project villages along with contacts of all concerned state/landscapes officials has been provided to NIFT <p>One Meeting has been conducted with Director, Animal Husbandry Department at Shimla for facilitating the early preparation of DPR by the Animal Husbandry department for the initiative. Requests has been submitted to MoEFCC to the approval of the activity under re-appropriation proposals.</p> <p>Uttarakhand</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 21 Para-taxonomist (5 female) trained on Participatory Snow Leopard Monitoring Protocol in a two days training/ field visit organised by WII in Gangotri-Govind landscapes from 5-6 November 2020. They learned about the Snow leopard, its pre-based species and habitat, sign survey etc. 2- 9 (all male) para-taxonomist trained on (SPAI) Snow-Leopard Population Assessment in India. They are involved in 1st step of SL census by the Forest Department. They accompanied forest staff during sign survey for SL & co-predators, identification of grids falling in the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi and Gangotri Divisions, data collation, collection of samples during transacts, scat samples in areas above 3000 meters elevation. 			
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

	<p>Para-vat training program for local youth of Gangotri-Govind landscape</p> <p>Enhancement of capacities of key stakeholders on Natural fibre Handloom/Handicraft in Khanchendzonga-Upper Teesta landscape of Sikkim</p>					<p>3- A 120 days (4 month) Paravet training for 10 youth (all male) of Gangotri-Govind landscape have started on 24 November 2020 at livestock board Pashulok, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand' with objectives of (i). To develop local youth as a Professional Paravet for animal & wildlife health care issues in the landscape (ii). To enhance the local youth livelihood opportunities. (iii). To support animal husbandry department at local level for animal diseases surveillance, animal welfare care issues/mitigation. The training module & curriculum will include (i). Classroom training (30 days Pashulok, Rishikesh) & case studies (during classroom training Pashulok, Rishikesh) (ii). Practical training (15 days animal breeding farm Kalsi, Dehradun; study visits) (iii). Practical training in the field: (74 days) + 1 day (closing). They will also be associated with Veterinarians to assist and learn practical aspects of animal husbandry in field. They will become a government certified Para-vet after completing the entire training module.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>Training has been conducted on nettle fiber extraction for local community of Dzongu</p> <p>The assignment on is being undertaken by the MLAS- a Dzongu based local NGO from 18th of November 2020 for a period of 4 months. On 30th November 2020, an induction program regarding the assignment was conducted where Dzongu Constituency In-charge Smt. Chungkipu Lepcha was the Chief Guest. The 50 selected villagers/training beneficiaries from 5 villages like Leek, Laven, Lingdem, Bey and Pentong attended the induction program. The induction program was conducted to make awareness regarding the assignment on Nettle Fibre, phase-wise trainings, training schedule, interaction with the Resource Person, representative of MLAS-NGO, project staffs and the possible sustainable livelihood opportunity in the Natural Fibre (Nettle).</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>									

Output 3.3. Community based surveillance, monitoring and wildlife crime and conflict prevention system developed and tested
 Output 3.4 Mechanisms for partnerships on inter-state and transboundary cooperation for tackling wildlife crime and improving species conservation in Himalayan ecosystem are developed and implemented

<p>Indicator 3.1. Number of community members actively volunteering in security monitoring and surveillance Baseline: 0 (There is no coordinated program for community participation in surveillance and monitoring of wildlife crime) Target: 200 community members actively engaged in wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance in community battalions (At least 20% women) to serve as deterrent to wildlife crime</p>		<p>Drone Pilot intervention in Govind landscape for monitoring & surveillance</p> <p>Procurement of Wildlife monitoring, communication and law enforcement strengthening equipment.</p>				<p>Uttarakhand</p> <p>A Drone Pilot intervention has been initiated in one of the project landscapes i.e. Govind Wildlife Sanctuary. The DFO Puroila/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> <p>Traffic India has supported forest division with necessary equipment/materials for undertaking field patrolling/rescue operations and for collecting samples for forensic analysis. The sole purpose of procurement of Equipment is conservation.</p> <p>Sikkim</p> <p>Pilot trial of animal deterrents to reduce human-wildlife conflict: During 8th- 11th November 2 ANIDERS were installed in North and West Sikkim. The main purpose of piloting the ANIDERS in the project villages is to find out the effectiveness in controlling/mitigating crop and livestock damage by wildlife. One unit has been installed at Leek village and one in Okharey West Sikkim. The field staff and EDC members were also given basic training on installation and maintenance of the device.</p>		119,856	
<p>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</p>		<p>Strengthening wildlife enforcement mechanism and mitigation of wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife in SECURE Himalaya Project landscapes in Sikkim</p>				<p>Himachal Pradesh</p> <p>DPR has been developed through Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for the establishment of a Wildlife Forensic Centre. (Grant-in-Aid from MoEF & CC) The centre will be established under existing State forensic Laboratory at Junga. Proposal sent to WCCB for funding.</p> <p>The assignment by TRAFFIC India is expected to be completed yb June 2021. Training workshop has been planned in Nov 2020</p>			

<p>collaborative implementation</p>					<p>but cancelled due to COVID outbreak. The agency has submitted the following reports under the assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Wildlife crime status report of HP - Revised Training gap assessment report - Investigation Manuals/Awareness Material - Equipment support (camping gears and forensic kits) <p>The major species involved in wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade along with transit routes, hotspots has been identified in the landscape. The agency has been suggested to submit landscape wise recommendations and transit routes species specific along with other pending deliverables.</p> <p>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 shared and have been reviewed by the state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wildlife enforcement report -Status of wildlife crimes in East district <p>Ladakh Concurrence has been provided from the Union Territory of Ladakh on an Inter-state agreement on mitigating Illegal Trade in Wildlife between 6 Himalayan states and Union Territories. This is a first of its kind agreement between states in India and shall go a long way in ensuring effective coordination and cooperation between provincial governments to ensure prevention of illicit trade in wildlife.</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>Human Wildlife Conflicts assessment and developing a comprehensive strategy for mitigating the HWCs</p> <p>Designing comprehensive</p>			<p>Himachal Pradesh: Assignment on Human Wildlife Conflicts and developing a comprehensive strategy through CO Support completed by WWF India. Assessment done, Conflict species and locations identified, some baselines generated, species specific SOP's developed, HWC mitigation strategies suggested. HWC baseline species wise also has been submitted by the agency.</p> <p>Uttarakhand 1- Submission of the fifth and final deliverable report for the SECURE Himalaya project component on Human</p>		

	<p>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>Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy by WII.</p> <p>2- Based on the report pilot interventions are proposed at 04 sites of project landscapes.</p> <p>Sikkim ATREE had shared the final report of HWC assignment on 11th October 2020 after incorporating the revisions suggested. It has been submitted to the state for circulation. The report has the following major recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Creation of an emergency response squad at cluster/district level -Piloting of animal deterrents in a systematic manner to test efficacy -Adopt measures like bio-fencing <p>Accordingly, certain activities have been incorporated within the Annual Work Plans</p> <p>Ladakh</p> <p>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/January 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 severe conflict-prone villages in the landscape, namely; Sumdo Gongma, 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>			
					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</p>								

of wildlife crime, and mainstream gender in promotion of community- based conservation developed and implemented at national, state and local Level

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

Policy Documents/Plans prepared under project

Himachal Pradesh

- Model Management Plan for high altitude Chandertal wetland drafted.
- SOP's for model management planning of high-altitude wetlands ready
- State Biodiversity strategy and action plan validated in the validation workshop held on 22nd Dec 2020 by HP State Biodiversity Board and will be finalised by agency by March 2021
- High Conservation areas identified, delineated and management recommendations drafted.
- Participatory integrated landscape level management strategy drafted for Lahaul-Pangi landscape
- 3 BHS's, 1 CR, 2 MPCDA's under process/proposed

Sikkim

Global Tiger Forum meeting to discuss Status of information available on Big cats in Sikkim on 11th November:

Global Tiger Forum is undertaking an assignment in Sikkim related to preparation of a big cat conservation masterplan for Sikkim in collaboration with SECURE Himalaya, wherein they had requested all agencies undertaking assignments under SECURE Himalaya Sikkim to briefly present on their progress and salient findings related to their individual assignments. For the same purpose, a webinar was organized on 11th November where all the agencies engaged under SECURE Himalaya in Sikkim presented their findings and recommendations. It was decided that GTF will review the work and get back if they need further information

Ladakh

- 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

143,573

						team on the draft eco-tourism policy for the Union Territory of Ladakh, prepared by the Tourism Department and Tour Operators Association of Ladakh.		
<p>Indicator: 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>Indicator: Percentage of participating households aware of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p> <p>Baseline: Baseline to be established in Year 1 through microplanning process</p> <p>Target: 50% of participating households have good awareness of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p>		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>Himachal Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The International Snow Leopard Day 2020 was celebrated by Himachal Pradesh Forest Department Wildlife Wing in association Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, the communication agency hired by UNDP for SECURE Himalaya Project. The event was organized under Gol- GEF UNDP- SECURE Himalaya Project which is being implemented by H.P. Forest Department in Lahual-Pangi Landscape for conservation of the Snow Leopard the elusive and endangered animal found in the landscape. ▪ SECURE Table Calendar 2021 designed with beautiful animal/bird hand drawn illustration ▪ Tour Operators Workshop: As a part of the SECURE Himalaya Project by UNDP, with the HP Forest Department as the implementing agency, a workshop was organised by Srishti Films, the Communication agency of the project, who invited many tour operators of the region for a conversation on the Tourism sector over tea and snacks. Participants brought in expertise and experience from the sectors of adventure tourism, hospitality, trekking, mountain biking etc. As the scope of the landscape-based project, SECURE Himalaya, is directly concerned with the livelihoods and economy of 		

Development of knowledge products to enhance awareness among the stakeholders

the Pangi-Lahaul region, the main objective of the workshop was to understand the perspective of one of the key stakeholders of the tourism sector. All participants actively contributed to the conversation moderated by Srishti Films, have shared about several challenges that affect not just the tourism sector, but also local communities and the local economy.

Uttarakhand

- 1- Celebration of Wildlife Week, in which Inauguration of Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Monal and Blue Sheep posters, Brochures and Poster prepared by TRAFFIC on illegal hunting, short animation film on bear human conflict, Legal Literacy Manual, Human Wildlife Conflict Bulletin Board.
- 2- Wildlife week celebration at Darma-Byans Landscape, Pithoragarh was done to aware the tourist on wildlife conservation and their habitat in landscape. total 25 tourists have participated in the event.
- 3- The SPMU team has simplified of Legal literacy Manual (LLM), translated into Hindi. Agency has been engaged to deliver legal training in the landscapes.
- 4- Facilitation of Himal Sanrakshak application at landscape level done and around 500 applications submitted.
- 5- Launch of SECURE Himalaya Youth Video Fellowship Films on the International Mountain Day, December 11, 2020. A total of 8 films prepared on different aspects of SECURE Himalaya project landscape have screened. The compiled films are a product of the 4-month SECURE Himalaya Youth Video Fellowship programme. Like this, a total of 6 community radio episodes were also launched in kumaon vani radio satiation developed by trained radio fellows.

Sikkim

International Snow Leopard Day Eventshas been celebrated with multiple events.

Webinar on International Snow Leopard day:

On the eve of the ISL day a webinar was organized on "Environment, Wildlife, Snow Leopard in Sikkim" organized by SECURE Himalaya Sikkim on 22nd October 2020 at 5:30 PM.

			<p>The webinar was Facebook live. It was moderated by State Project Officer and there were four subject matter experts on various topics.</p> <p>Short Poem Competition and “You decide the end” drawing competition was organized.</p> <p>State level review workshop: State level review workshop was organized on 23rd October with participation from forest department, animal husbandry, college students, ITBP and SSB officials and NGOS like WWF and TRAFFIC. The event Chief guest was Forest Minister Karma Lodey Bhutia and he released the SECURE masks (made with SHGs) and the WISA factsheets (Armed forces manual and Gurudongmar wetland complex).</p> <p>Landscape level meetings on ISL: ISL day was celebrated in Yuksam, West Sikkim with KNP staff, Himal Rakshaks and local NGOs. Second interaction was conducted in Hee Gyethang Dzongu Secondary school with the help of local NGO MLAS. SECURE masks were distributed prepared by SHG in East Sikkim. A small interaction was also planned with students of Life vision Academy private school.</p> <p>CMS Vatavaran Workshop: A webinar on Environment and Wildlife Reporting in the Indian Himalayan Region (Sikkim) was organized on 13th and 14th October 2020 through Zoom online Virtual Conference. The webinar was organized by SECURE Himalaya Sikkim in collaboration with CMS Vatavaran. This webinar is a part of a series to involve and orient local regional media professionals on wildlife and Environment concerns of Sikkim with the purpose of improving the quality and quantity of reportage on conservation issues in the IHR region.</p> <p>The State level Stakeholders webinar on Geographical Indication (GI) on 12th November</p> <p>The webinar on discussing the status of GI was organized on 12.11.2020. Participants were oriented on Geographical Indications registration, provisions for registration, process of registration, certification and advantage of registration and business practices. It was attended by various stakeholders such as local artisans, Sikkim Forest Department and State Biodiversity Board (SBB), State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB),</p>		
--	--	--	---	--	--

							Department of Textile and handicrafts, Department of Science & Technology, University professors and research Scholars, museum curators and local NGOs. It was discussed that special products from Sikkim like Sikkim mandarin orange, Lachen Lachung blankets, natural dyes, Tibetan sheep wool, Krishna Bhog rice can be taken up for GI registration.			
							Total of Outcome 4			
Project Management Expenses									32,492	
Total									843,774	

1. PO's Overall Analytical Report

1.1. Narrative – based on PO's own assessment, BTORs and other reports

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

Overall, the progress of Q4 is in line with the planned implementation strategy

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

- Transfer of funds to state forest departments is being delayed due to change in government modalities of fund flow.
- COVID-19 pandemic: Procedural delays, e.g. processing of approvals/sanctions at Central and State Government levels, postponement of field activities, inability to carry out travel related activities, e.g. exposure visits for capacity development.

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

1.2. Section on Gender and Inclusion

2.2.1. What were risks related to:

a) mainstreaming gender

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

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.