Design & Appraisal Stage Quality Assurance Report

Form Status: Approved

Overall Rating:	Highly Satisfactory
Decision:	Approve: The project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
Portfolio/Project Number:	00111018
Portfolio/Project Title:	Conservation of Wild Cats
Portfolio/Project Date:	2021-09-30 / 2026-03-02

Strategic **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

1. Does the project specify how it will contribute to higher level change through linkage to the programme's Theory of Change?

- ○ 3: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has an explicit change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome level change and why the project's strategy will likely lead to this change. This analysis is backed by credible evidence of what works effectively in this context and includes assumptions and risks.
- ◉ *2: The project is clearly linked to the programme's theory of change. It has a change pathway that explains how the project will contribute to outcome-level change and why the project strategy will likely lead to this change.*
- ○ 1: The project document may describe in generic terms how the project will contribute to development results, without an explicit link to the programme's theory of change.

Evidence:

The GEF-supported project alternative responds to t he development challenge by systematically addres sing the barriers to achieving wild cat conservation a t a landscape level described above, namely: 1) Gap s in the policy, planning and procedural framework, i ncluding poor understanding of the distribution, cons ervation status, needs and threats impacting small c ats, lack of understanding of conservation priorities at the landscape level, and weak integration of cons ervation plans and insufficient consideration of habit at protection and connectivity in land use and develo pment planning; 2) Limited capacity (personnel, equi pment, SOPs) at state, landscape and site levels for monitoring wild cat populations and habitats, applyin g appropriate management techniques for habitat re

storation and connectivity, and managing HWC effec tively; 3) Lack of community engagement, restricting community capacity and willingness to apply eco-frie ndly land use and habitat management techniques t hat will support wild cat conservation and help preve nt and manage HWC; 4) Insufficient partnerships, re gional coordination and outreach to engage the priv ate sector and identify sustainable financing options, strengthen transboundary collaboration, reduce parti cipation in poaching and trafficking of wild cats, and support knowledge exchange and transfer. In doing so, it takes full account of the substantial baseline su mmarized for each project component and will coord inate with ongoing initiatives described in the Result s and Partnerships section.

The project's landscape conservation approach repr esents a shift away from the traditional approach of f ocusing resources solely on increasingly isolated pr otected areas, given that these PAs are ecologically and socio-economically inter-dependent on the mos aic of land uses in their surrounding landscapes. Th e landscape approach recognizes protected areas a s core areas for biodiversity conservation and aims t o ensure their integration with sustainable land use i n buffer zones , and biological corridors that connect PAs in order to deliver sustainable and climate-resili ent natural resource management, and addresses th e conservation of globally significant large ranging m ammals (e.g. tiger, rhino, elephant) as well as the su ite of wild cat species and their prey. This approach i s based on integrated ecosystem management oper ating at the scales required to capture representativ e biodiversity and conserve major ecological proces ses and services. While the project landscapes are based around core conservation areas in the form of important protected areas, the priority for interventio n is largely in the buffer zones around these PAs wh ere there is greater interface between local communi ties and wildlife, greater challenges for habitat conse rvation and the need to mainstream biodiversity con servation into productive land uses in revenue lands.

The landscape conservation approach necessitates working across multiple scales and stakeholders in t he natural resource management sector, including lo cal communities, local forest user groups, small-scal e agriculture users and the private sector. This recog nizes that a sustainably managed landscape and pr ovision of ecosystem services is critical for local livel ihood provision, and likewise, sustainable and biodiv ersity-friendly community land use options are key to landscape conservation. The landscape conservatio n approach recognizes emerging threats to each of t he project landscapes, particularly in the form of hab itat fragmentation driven by economic development and increasing human populations, and includes coo rdination with production sectors, towards reducing t hreats to biodiversity, increasing sector engagement

in landscape conservation, and facilitating local – sta te - national dialogue.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
1	6355GWPwildcatsIndia_Prodoc_3Dec2020_9262_101 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAFormDocuments/6355GWPwildcatsIndia_Prodoc_3Dec2020_9262_101.docx)	ruchika.tripathi@undp.org	8/5/2021 11:10:00 AM

2. Is the project aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan?

- 3: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan[1] and adapts at least one Signature Solution[2]. The project's RRF includes all the relevant SP output indicators. (all must be true)
- *2: The project responds to at least one of the development settings as specified in the Strategic Plan[4]. The project's RRF includes at least one SP output indicator, if relevant. (both must be true)*
- 1: The project responds to a partner's identified need, but this need falls outside of the UNDP Strategic Plan. Also select this option if none of the relevant SP indicators are included in the RRF.

Evidence:

The communities in the project landscape are impac ted by hazards and slow- or rapid-onset crises. Thes e crises can range from geophysical and climatic ha zards, disease outbreaks, sudden economic downtu rns to protracted crises such as conflict or major epi demics or economic collapse. The project will respo nd to these disasters and crises, by supporting the g overnment in their efforts towards managing risk and strengthen resilience to future crises.

The project will strengthen national capacities for to wards conservation and will build resilience of a ran ge of stakeholders especially local communities tow ards climate change.

Such support to national capacities will be built on fo undations of inclusive and accountable governance, together with a strong focus on gender equality.

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No documents available.			

3. Is the project linked to the programme outputs? (i.e., UNDAF Results Group Workplan/CPD, RPD or Strategic Plan IRRF for global projects/strategic interventions not part of a programme)

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

Yes, the project is in alignment with the UNDP CPD Outcome: Energy, environment and resilience; Outp ut 3.2: Effective solutions developed at national and subnational levels for sustainable management of n atural resources and ecosystems, ozone depleting s ubstances, chemicals and wastes.

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No documents available.			

Relevant **Quality Rating: Exemplary**

4. Do the project target groups leave furthest behind?

- (●) *3: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritising discriminated, and marginalized groups left furthest behind, identified through a rigorous process based on evidence.*
- ( ) 2: The target groups are clearly specified, prioritizing groups left furthest behind.
- ( ) 1: The target groups are not clearly specified.

Evidence:

The stakeholder engagement plan outlined in the project document clearly specifies the target groups involved and their roles and responsibilities. The plan has been developed based on several stakeholder consultations during the development phase of the project.
Following the guidance provided by GEF gender policy 2017 and GEF policy on stakeholder engagement, community consultations were organized. Besides, several other community stakeholders such as civil society organizations working for community development, agriculture, and other line departments, EDC members were consulted for understanding the impacts of the project on the community, how the project can be engaged with different stakeholders for implementation of the project while benefiting the local community and wild cat population simultaneously.

A gender action plan was developed based upon consultations with several stakeholders, especially the project affected communities, reviewing available documents, and analyzing the data collected during the field surveys. Information specific to gender issues in the project affected communities were gained from the community consultations completed during the project preparation (PPG) stage.

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No documents available.			

5. Have knowledge, good practices, and past lessons learned of UNDP and others informed the project design?

- ◉ *3: Knowledge and lessons learned backed by credible evidence from sources such as evaluation, corporate policies/strategies, and/or monitoring have been explicitly used, with appropriate referencing, to justify the approach used by the project.*
- ○ 2: The project design mentions knowledge and lessons learned backed by evidence/sources but have not been used to justify the approach selected.
- ○ 1: There is little, or no mention of knowledge and lessons learned informing the project design. Any references made are anecdotal and not backed by evidence.

Evidence:

The project is a child project under the GEF-7 Globa l Wildlife Program (GWP), which provides a mechani sm for coordination and knowledge sharing. Learnin gs from other UNDP programmes and projects such as SECURE Himalaya, India High Range Mountain Landscape Project, Biodiversity Finance Initiative, M ainstreaming Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants etc. have been imbibed during the project design phase. The lessons on landscape ap proach to conservation, habitat improvement and re storation, protected area management, conservation outside Protected Area, sustainable livelihoods, com bating illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts and k nowledge management have contributed to formulati on of various components and activities of the projec t.

Knowledge gained through GWP events has also gu ided the development of the project document. Best practices on landscape based conservation in tiger l andscapes shared through regional knowledge platf orm, IUCN Cat Specialist Group and channels of Na tional Tiger Conservation Authority and Global Tiger Forum have also informed the formulation of project document.

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No documents available.			

6. Does UNDP have a clear advantage to engage in the role envisioned by the project vis-à-vis national / regional / global partners and other actors?

- *3: An analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and credible evidence supports the proposed engagement of UNDP and partners through the project, including identification of potential funding partners. It is clear how results achieved by partners will complement the project's intended results and a communication strategy is in place to communicate results and raise visibility vis-à-vis key partners. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have been considered, as appropriate. (all must be true)*
- 2: Some analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area where the project intends to work, and relatively limited evidence supports the proposed engagement of and division of labour between UNDP and partners through the project, with unclear funding and communications strategies or plans.
- 1: No clear analysis has been conducted on the role of other partners in the area that the project intends to work. There is risk that the project overlaps and/or does not coordinate with partners' interventions in this area. Options for south-south and triangular cooperation have not been considered, despite its potential relevance.

Evidence:

The National Implementation partner is the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF CC), Government of India. UNDP's partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is long standing in India. Starting in 1985, UNDP has supported the Ministry in its efforts to meet India's environmental commitments. MOEF&CC is the focal point for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in India. Responsible for wildlife, forestry and climate change policy in the country and for coordination across State Governments in these areas. UNDP has been engaging with relevant divisions in the MOEF&CC in many programmes for the past over 2 decades. Since, MOEF&CC is the nodal Government agency for all policy related to forest and wildlife, they will steer the process and play a key role in establishing coordination and collaborative links with central and state forest and wildlife departments. UNDP has links with other international agencies and through its offices in neighbouring countries which will help strengthen cooperation for conservation of wild cats. The project is part of a global programme, which helps secure multi-country partnership on wildlife conservation and wildlife crime prevention. This partnership allows for extensive and continued information exchange amongst the different countries on forensics, status of key species, law enforcement and wildlife crime, and the exchange of "good practice" and capacity building efforts Through the global partnership, India will seek opportunities for exchange visits to learn lessons from individual project interventions from within and outside the Program, help foster intergovernmental cooperation, use M&E tools and geospatial services, apply best practices and peer review and develop portfolio-wide training and communication strategies. Moreover, UNDP has directly supported over 35 projects in the areas of climate change, sustainable natural resource management and chemical management. Further UNDP has worked in these states in the past and has good working relations with the State Governments of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. UNDP through its existing programmes working with the private sector, will provide strong support in developing market linkages and skills development in the project villages.

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No documents available.			

Principled **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

7. Does the project apply a human rights-based approach?

- (●) *3: The project is guided by human rights and incorporates the principles of accountability, meaningful participation, and non-discrimination in the project's strategy. The project upholds the relevant international and national laws and standards. Any potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were rigorously identified and assessed as relevant, with appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true)*
- ( ) 2: The project is guided by human rights by prioritizing accountability, meaningful participation and non-discrimination. Potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were identified and assessed as relevant, and appropriate mitigation and management measures incorporated into the project design and budget. (both must be true)
- ( ) 1: No evidence that the project is guided by human rights. Limited or no evidence that potential adverse impacts on enjoyment of human rights were considered.

Evidence:

Equal opportunities to vulnerable segment of society such as the
tribal communities, women, migratory groups, poor a nd landless,
will be provided under the project to mainstream hu man rights
based approach in the project.

The project has strategized to work with local level i nstitutions
and decision making at the local level is one of the vital
components in the success of the project. The com munities will
be trained in different capacity building initiatives an d get other
benefits from project initiatives. The village level insti tutions
would be involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring
and evaluation of project interventions. The project i nterventions
are designed to address and ultimately sustain the li velihood of
these local communities that would result in poverty alleviation,
improvement of living conditions and sustainable de velopment of
natural resources. In this way it will improve the eco nomic and
social rights of the local communities and will also ta ke care of
cultural values of the local communities. It will consi der the right
to habitat and economic security. Improved employ ment
opportunities will facilitate right to work. The project i mpacts
would expedite right to environmental protection.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

8. Does the project use gender analysis in the project design?

- *3: A participatory gender analysis has been conducted and results from this gender analysis inform the development challenge, strategy and expected results sections of the project document. Outputs and indicators of the results framework include explicit references to gender equality, and specific indicators measure and monitor results to ensure women are fully benefitting from the project. (all must be true)*
- 2: A basic gender analysis has been carried out and results from this analysis are scattered (i.e., fragmented and not consistent) across the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework may include some gender sensitive outputs and/or activities but gender inequalities are not consistently integrated across each output. (all must be true)
- 1: The project design may or may not mention information and/or data on the differential impact of the project's development situation on gender relations, women and men, but the gender inequalities have not been clearly identified and reflected in the project document.

Evidence:

Preliminary Gender Analysis on the project has bee n conducted. Further assessment of women's group s and their role in conservation and bio diversity has also been assessed in this project. The gender roles have been identified. The project activities specially on sustainable livelihood have been proposed keepi ng in mind the involvement of women's groups and natural resource based activities that they are engag ed in. Given that women are also involved in collecti on of Non timber Forest Produce (NTFP), the project strategies and activities have already mentioned that emphasis will be given on village level planning whe re women can play an important decision-making rol e. Various activities planned to include innovative ag ricultural implements in partnership with line depart ments, as well as using alternate source of energy t o reduce drudgery of women.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

9. Did the project support the resilience and sustainability of societies and/or ecosystems?

- 3: Credible evidence that the project addresses sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges, which are integrated in the project strategy and design. The project reflects the interconnections between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and rigorously assessed with appropriate management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (all must be true)
- *2: The project design integrates sustainability and resilience dimensions of development challenges. Relevant shocks, hazards and adverse social and environmental impacts have been identified and assessed, and relevant management and mitigation measures incorporated into project design and budget. (both must be true)*
- 1: Sustainability and resilience dimensions and impacts were not adequately considered.

Evidence:

The proposed project supports the resilience and sustainability of societies and ecosystems. Some project activities will be undertaken in areas adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas. However, these do not involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods, rather the project is designed to improve the ecological health of the landscape. Specific efforts would be made on evaluating the condition of resources that would be used in livelihood and value chain programs to ensure that extraction is within sustainable limits.
The project will not directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future.

The project does not involve large-scale infrastructure development. The project will not involve support for employment or livelihoods that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals or to biodiversity and ecosystem functions. The project will not involve any temporary or permanent physical displacement, nor will there be the need for land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation. It would not exacerbate land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources. Any restrictions on access and use of natural resources would not be imposed by the forest department, but would evolve through a collective decision-making process amongst the community members and be supported by alternative livelihood and resource measures that adequately compensate for any loss of income or resources.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

10. Has the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) been conducted to identify potential social and environmental impacts and risks? The SESP is not required for projects in which UNDP is Administrative Agent only and/or projects comprised solely of reports, coordination of events, trainings, workshops, meetings, conferences and/or communication materials and information dissemination. [if yes, upload the completed checklist. If SESP is not required, provide the reason for the exemption in the evidence section.]

- (•) *Yes*
- ( ) No
- ( ) SESP not required because project consists solely of (Select all exemption criteria that apply)
  - [ ] 1: Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials
  - [ ] 2: Organization of an event, workshop, training
  - [ ] 3: Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences
  - [ ] 4: Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks
  - [ ] 5: Global/regional projects with no country-level activities(e.g.activities such as knowledge management, inter-governmental processes)
  - [ ] 6: UNDP serves as Administrative Agent
  - [ ] 7: Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects

Evidence:

SESP uploaded

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Risk Category	Risk Requirements	Document Status	Modified By	Modified On

1	Annex4-FinalSESP-INDIA-wildcats_26Nov2020_9262_110 (https://intranet.undp.org/apps/ProjectQA/QAForMDocuments/Annex4-FinalSESP-INDIA-wildcats_26Nov2020_9262_110.docx)	Moderate	Human Rights; Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment; Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions; Displacement and resettlement; Indigenous Peoples	Final	ruchika.tripathi@undp.org	8/5/2021 11:12:00 AM

Management & Monitoring **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

11. Does the project have a strong results framework?

- *3: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the key expected development changes, each with credible data sources and populated baselines and targets, including gender sensitive, target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators where appropriate. (all must be true)*
- 2: The project's selection of outputs and activities are at an appropriate level. Outputs are accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators, but baselines, targets and data sources may not yet be fully specified. Some use of target group focused, sex-disaggregated indicators, as appropriate. (all must be true)
- 1: The project's selection of outputs and activities are not at an appropriate level; outputs are not accompanied by SMART, results-oriented indicators that measure the expected change and have not been populated with baselines and targets; data sources are not specified, and/or no gender sensitive, sex-disaggregation of indicators. (if any is true)

Evidence:

Refer to the Project Results Framework outlined in t he project document.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

12. Is the project's governance mechanism clearly defined in the project document, including composition of the project board?

- 3: The project's governance mechanism is fully defined. Individuals have been specified for each position in the governance mechanism (especially all members of the project board.) Project Board members have agreed on their roles and responsibilities as specified in the terms of reference. The ToR of the project board has been attached to the project document. (all must be true)
- *2: The project's governance mechanism is defined; specific institutions are noted as holding key governance roles, but individuals may not have been specified yet. The project document lists the most important responsibilities of the project board, project director/manager and quality assurance roles. (all must be true)*
- 1: The project's governance mechanism is loosely defined in the project document, only mentioning key roles that will need to be filled at a later date. No information on the responsibilities of key positions in the governance mechanism is provided.

Evidence:

The Implementing Partner for this project is the Mini stry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementati on of UNDP assistance specified in this signed proje ct document along with the assumption of full respon sibility and accountability for the effective use of UN DP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set fort h in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executi ng this project. Specific tasks include:
Project planning, coordination, management, monito ring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providi ng all required information and data necessary for ti mely, comprehensive and evidence-based project re porting, including results and financial data, as nece ssary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institute s and is aligned with national systems so that the da ta used and generated by the project supports natio nal systems.

The Global Tiger Forum (GTF) will play the following roles during project implementation, defined respecti

vely for UNDP and WWF as follows:

For UNDP: The Global Tiger Forum will be a sub-level responsible party under this project, acting in accordance with the IP's rules and regulations, through agreement with MoEFCC. GTF will serve as the lead technical partner for implementation of Components 1 and 4 of the project, operating the National Project Management Unit and implementing work packages that will include direct inputs to Outputs 1.1 (developing landscape master plans), 1.2 (national level species recovery action plans), 1.3 (protocols and SOPs for wild cat management), 4.1 (establishing a mechanism to strengthen private sector engagement and investment) and 4.3 (providing a platform to support field implementation and transboundary engagement with neighbouring tiger range States).

For WWF: WWF proposes that the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) become a sub-level responsible party for the WWF-led Components 2 and 3 of the project, acting in accordance with the IP's rules and regulations. GTF will serve as the lead technical partner for execution of Components 2 and 3 of the project, executing work packages that will include direct inputs to Output 2.1 (for activities relating to habitat management plans, facilitate rehabilitation and monitoring in Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscapes), Output 2.2 (plan and deliver training for frontline staff in Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscapes), and Output 3.4 (capacity development and technical assistance for alternative livelihoods and sustainable development in the field of agriculture, livestock and homestay ecotourism in Dudhwa Landscape). In parallel, GTF will host the National PMU that will coordinate with the States and landscapes for implementation of Components 2 and 3.

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No documents available.			

13. Have the project risks been identified with clear plans stated to manage and mitigate each risk?

- *3: Project risks related to the achievement of results are fully described in the project risk log, based on comprehensive analysis drawing on the programme's theory of change, Social and Environmental Standards and screening, situation analysis, capacity assessments and other analysis such as funding potential and reputational risk. Risks have been identified through a consultative process with key internal and external stakeholders, including consultation with the UNDP Security Office as required. Clear and complete plan in place to manage and mitigate each risk, including security risks, reflected in project budgeting and monitoring plans. (both must be true)*
- 2: Project risks related to the achievement of results are identified in the initial project risk log based on a minimum level of analysis and consultation, with mitigation measures identified for each risk.
- 1: Some risks may be identified in the initial project risk log, but no evidence of consultation or analysis and no clear risk mitigation measures identified. This option is also selected if risks are not clearly identified, no initial risk log is included with the project document and/or no security risk management process has taken place for the project.

Evidence:

A risk log has been prepared as part of the project d ocument. * risks pertaining to operational, financial, environment, social and institutional has been identif ied and risk mitigation strategies suggested.

List of Uploaded Documents

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No documents available.			

Efficient **Quality Rating: Highly Satisfactory**

14. Have specific measures for ensuring cost-efficient use of resources been explicitly mentioned as part of the project design? This can include, for example:
i) Using the theory of change analysis to explore different options of achieving the maximum results with the resources available.
ii) Using a portfolio management approach to improve cost effectiveness through synergies with other interventions.
iii) Through joint operations (e.g., monitoring or procurement) with other partners.
iv) Sharing resources or coordinating delivery with other projects.
v) Using innovative approaches and technologies to reduce the cost of service delivery or other types of interventions.

- *Yes*
- No

Evidence:

In order to maximize project impact, sustainability and cost-efficiency, project interventions will be concentrated on a limited number of key areas and different types of activity integrated (e.g. awareness raising, capacity development, community engagement, pilot demonstrations, livelihood support). Synergy between sites will be targeted for efficient implementation and overall impact and sustainability.

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No documents available.			

15. Is the budget justified and supported with valid estimates?

- (●) *3: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, and is specified for the duration of the project period in a multi-year budget. Realistic resource mobilisation plans are in place to fill unfunded components. Costs are supported with valid estimates using benchmarks from similar projects or activities. Cost implications from inflation and foreign exchange exposure have been estimated and incorporated in the budget. Adequate costs for monitoring, evaluation, communications and security have been incorporated.*
- ( ) 2: The project's budget is at the activity level with funding sources, when possible, and is specified for the duration of the project in a multi-year budget, but no funding plan is in place. Costs are supported with valid estimates based on prevailing rates.
- ( ) 1: The project's budget is not specified at the activity level, and/or may not be captured in a multi-year budget.

Evidence:

The project would link up and synergize with relevant on-going projects and initiatives of the government and other partner for achieving more efficient results. The project would adopt a landscape approach and would create a platform for bringing together all the relevant stakeholders (central ministries, state governments, non-government departments, non-government organizations, academic and research institutions and private sector) for better outcomes. This has also been outlined in the project document.

List of Uploaded Documents

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No documents available.			

16. Is the Country Office / Regional Hub / Global Project fully recovering the costs involved with project implementation?

- 3: The budget fully covers all project costs that are attributable to the project, including programme management and development effectiveness services related to strategic country programme planning, quality assurance, pipeline development, policy advocacy services, finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services, information and communications based on full costing in accordance with prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL.)
- *2: The budget covers significant project costs that are attributable to the project based on prevailing UNDP policies (i.e., UPL, LPL) as relevant.*
- 1: The budget does not adequately cover project costs that are attributable to the project, and UNDP is cross-subsidizing the project.

Evidence:

The activities have been formulated after extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders. Based on the indicative activities which have emerged, budget has been prepared for each of the project landscape and compiled into outputs for 6 years. This is again an estimated budget and each years work-plan will b e firmed up after the approval of the project.

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No documents available.			

Effective **Quality Rating: Exemplary**

17. Have targeted groups been engaged in the design of the project?

- (●) *3: Credible evidence that all targeted groups, prioritising discriminated and marginalized populations that will be involved in or affected by the project, have been actively engaged in the design of the project. The project has an explicit strategy to identify, engage and ensure the meaningful participation of target groups as stakeholders throughout the project, including through monitoring and decision-making (e.g., representation on the project board, inclusion in samples for evaluations, etc.)*
- ( ) 2: Some evidence that key targeted groups have been consulted in the design of the project.
- ( ) 1: No evidence of engagement with targeted groups during project design.
- ( ) Not Applicable

Evidence:

Several consultations have been conducted during t he PPG phase , from identification of the landscape , formulation of activities and seeking inputs on the p roject document where the communities have been i nvolved. Consultants engaged under the project hav e travelled to the remote corners of each of the land scapes and held meetings in the villages, specificall y with communities, tribal communities, women to se ek their inputs and suggestions to plan the livelihood and other interventions in the project. The people's r epresentatives, the elected members at the district a nd Panchayats have also been consulted to seek th eir inputs. Village level planning has been identified as one of the core areas where the inputs from the most marginalized and vulnerable communities will be incorporated. Further the institutional mechanism s suggested in the project has identified important d ecision making role for the Gram Sabha (village ass embly) and other institutions at the village level.

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No documents available.			

18. Does the project plan for adaptation and course correction if regular monitoring activities, evaluation, and lesson learned demonstrate there are better approaches to achieve the intended results and/or circumstances change during implementation?

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The project's landscape conservation approach will incorporate climate vulnerability assessment and ad aptation measures as far as possible, in order to res pond to climate change risks identified during screen ing and incorporate both ecosystem-based adaptatio n and disaster risk reduction considerations into plan ning for habitat management, community livelihoods and land management practices. This will take into a ccount, for example, increased climatic variability, in crease in frequency and intensity of natural disaster s such as droughts and floods, and ecological shifts. Further, the Project Manager will monitor progress, watch for plan deviations and make course correctio ns when needed within project board-agreed toleran ces to achieve results.

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#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

19. The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2 or GEN3, indicating that gender has been fully mainstreamed into all project outputs at a minimum.

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

The gender marker for all project outputs are scored at GEN2.

List of Uploaded Documents

#	File Name	Modified By	Modified On
No documents available.			

Sustainability & National Ownership **Quality Rating: Exemplary**

20. Have national / regional / global partners led, or proactively engaged in, the design of the project?

- *3: National partners (or regional/global partners for regional and global projects) have full ownership of the project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP.*
- 2: The project has been developed by UNDP in close consultation with national / regional / global partners.
- 1: The project has been developed by UNDP with limited or no engagement with national partners.

Evidence:

National Partner, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been leading the process for development of the project since the inception of the project preparation phase. The Ministry has played a key role along with UNDP and WWF to identify the key areas of intervention under the project. The Ministry has been instrumental in bringing together all relevant stakeholders and have coordinated with the States for all the visits for the initial studies that the consultants have undertaken. Further inputs have also been provided in preparation of the document.

List of Uploaded Documents

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No documents available.			

21. Are key institutions and systems identified, and is there a strategy for strengthening specific / comprehensive capacities based on capacity assessments conducted?

- *3: The project has a strategy for strengthening specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on a completed capacity assessment. This strategy includes an approach to regularly monitor national capacities using clear indicators and rigorous methods of data collection, and adjust the strategy to strengthen national capacities accordingly.*
- 2: A capacity assessment has been completed. There are plans to develop a strategy to strengthen specific capacities of national institutions and/or actors based on the results of the capacity assessment.
- 1: Capacity assessments have not been carried out.
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

Capacity assessment has been conducted for different stakeholders which includes field level functionaries of government agencies, local communities and other stakeholders in the landscape. Adequate budgetary provisions have also been made. Towards this comprehensive capacity building programmes will be developed and implemented. For livelihood related interventions and landscape level planning, specific areas / assessment for capacity building has been provided in the project document for the local communities. Capacity building for other line agencies for convergence with conservation related activities have also been identified.

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22. Is there is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying how the project will use national systems (i.e., procurement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.,) to the extent possible?

- *Yes*
- No
- Not Applicable

Evidence:

There is a clear strategy embedded in the project specifying the ways national systems will be used. Refer to Pg. no 86 of the project document.

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No documents available.			

23. Is there a clear transition arrangement / phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders in order to sustain or scale up results (including resource mobilisation and communications strategy)?

- (●) *Yes*
- ( ) No

Evidence:

There is a clear phase out strategy which has been developed with the key stakeholders for ensuring su stainability of the initiatives. The project is designed t o provide demonstration models for up-scaling in Ind ia.
138.long-term ownership over project outputs will be achieved by institutionalizing project plans and appr oaches (e.g. landscape master plans, database and App on small wild cats, SOPs, guidelines) within nati onal (Wildlife Division and NTCA, under MoEFCC), State, district and local-level institutions, mainstream ing wild cat conservation into the policies and plans of other sectors; integrating project outputs within ex isting government programs (e.g. conservation plans for tiger reserves and management plans for other P As) and by creating the economic incentives and pu blic-private partnerships needed to sustain communi ty participation beyond project close. It will demonstr ate sustainable land management practices and hab itat restoration as part of the management of Eco-Se nsitive Zones that are currently being introduced as buffer areas for all PAs.
139.The project approaches are strongly aligned wit h the National Wildlife Action Plan as well as other pl ans and institutional priorities (e.g. NTCA) and theref ore have high potential for up-scaling to other wild c at landscapes in India, as well as neighbouring coun tries and wild cat range States. The inclusion of the Global Tiger Forum as a sub-level Responsible Part y for implementation of this project opens considera ble opportunity for mainstreaming small cat conserv ation into international programmes in support of tig er conservation. The project's efforts to ensure effect ive knowledge management and transfer will identify and disseminate best practices and lessons learned across India, neighbouring countries and the Global Wildlife Program to facilitate this scaling up, as well outputs to strengthen bilateral partnerships and coor dinated action with neighbouring countries.

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No documents available.			

QA Summary/LPAC Comments

The LPAC for the project is yet to happen.