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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

United Nations Development Programme

Project title: Strengthening conservation and resilience of globally-significant wild cat landscapes through a focus on small cat and leopard conservation *[A child project under the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program]*		
Country: India	**Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity): Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change**	**Execution Modality: FULL NIM (UNDP)**
Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): UNDP CPD Outcome: Energy, environment and resilience; Output 3.2: Effective solutions developed at national and subnational levels for sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, ozone depleting substances, chemicals and wastes.		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Moderate	**UNDP Gender Marker: GEN-2**	
UNDP Atlas Award ID: 00111018	**UNDP Atlas Project/Output ID: 00110188**	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 6355	**GEF Project ID number: 10235**	
LPAC meeting date: 25 June 2021 (tentative)		
Latest possible date to submit to GEF: 13 Dec 2020		
Latest possible CEO endorsement date: 13 June 2021		
Planned start date: 8 July 2022	**Planned end date: 8 July 2027**	
Expected date of Mid-Term Review: 8 June 2024	**Expected date of Terminal Evaluation: 8 April 2027**	
Brief project description: This project will secure the conservation of globally-significant wild cat landscapes in northern, north-eastern and western India through a landscape conservation approach for wild cats that brings together species conservation programs, connects stakeholders and empowers communities, and operates across PAs, tiger corridors and buffer zones. It will aim to integrate small cat needs into existing large cat conservation initiatives so that all wild cats are considered together. The project will focus on the Dudhwa landscape in Uttar Pradesh and Pakke-Eaglenest landscape in Arunachal Pradesh, with further limited intervention in Ranthambhore landscape in Rajasthan. Barriers to achieving wild cat conservation at the landscape level include: 1) gaps in the policy, planning and procedural framework, 2) limited capacity at State, landscape and site levels, 3) lack of understanding and incentives to support community engagement in wild cat conservation, and 4) insufficient partnerships, regional		

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coordination and outreach to engage the corporate sector, strengthen transboundary collaboration and support knowledge exchange.

To address the above-mentioned barriers, the proposed project will support the Government of India to put in place an integrated model for wild cat conservation at landscape scale that can be replicated nationally and in other range states. The project objective is to secure populations and habitats of wild cats subject to habitat encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern and western India. This will be achieved through four complementary components that aim to build the required enabling policy framework and institutional capacity (Component 1); strengthen government management of wild cats and habitats (Component 2) and build community stewardship (Component 3) at landscape level; and enhance corporate sector partnerships, regional collaboration, and knowledge transfer and learning (Component 4). The project is a child project of the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program.

(1) FINANCING PLAN	
GEF Trust Fund	USD 1,975,000
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	**USD 1,975,000**
(2) Total confirmed co-financing	**USD 58,351,733**
(3) Grand-Total Project Financing (1) + (2)	**USD 60,326,733**

SIGNATURES

Signature: print name below	**Agreed by Implementing Partner**	**Date/Month/Year:**
Dr S. P. Yadav ADG-Forest	GOI, MOEF & CC	12/05/2022
Signature: print name below	**Agreed by GEF Agency**	**Date/Month/Year:**
DocuSigned by: 4CC03864B2F4435... Nadia Rasheed, Resident Representative a.i., United Nations Development Programme, India.		08-Mar-2022

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COMPLETE LIST OF ANNEXES

Mandatory Annexes

A. The following Annexes are included within this Project Document that is signed by the relevant parties:

1. Project Map and geospatial coordinates of the project area
2. Multiyear Workplan
3. Monitoring Plan
4. Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)
5. UNDP Atlas Risk Register
6. Overview of technical consultancies/subcontracts
27. GEF Budget Template

B. The following Annexes are included in the project document that is signed by the relevant parties, some of which are annexed as separate documents:

7. 7A – PPG Stakeholder Engagement Plan
   7B – Stakeholder Engagement Plan for project implementation
8. Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan
9. Procurement Plan – for first year of implementation especially
10. GEF-7 Biodiversity Tracking Tool – METT for pilot sites (Excel Workbook)
11. Additional agreements: a) Co-financing letters; b) Letters of intent to collaborate from private sector.

C. The following Annexes have been prepared as separate documents for submission by entry line-by-line into the GEF Portal. These annexes do <u>not</u> need to be part of the project document that is signed by the relevant parties:

12. GEF Core Indicators
13. GEF Taxonomy

D. The following Annexes have been prepared as separate documents and made available to the LPAC members. They do <u>not</u> need to be submitted *to the GEF and do not need to be part of the project document that is signed by the relevant parties.*

14. Partners Capacity Assessment Tool and HACT assessment
15. UNDP Project Quality Assurance Report (to be completed in UNDP online corporate planning system)

Optional Annexes

16. Demonstration Landscape and Protected Area Profiles:
    A. Dudhwa Landscape (Uttar Pradesh)
    B. Ranthambhore Landscape (Rajasthan)
    C. Pakke-Eaglenest (Kameng) Landscape (Arunachal Pradesh)
17. Lists of people consulted during project development - include gender and ethnicity
18. Baseline Analysis Report on Small Wild Cats incl. Capacity Devt Scorecards for frontline staff
19. Capacity Development Scorecards for Targeted State and District Agencies
20. Baseline Analysis Report on Sustainable Land Management for the Project Landscapes
21. Knowledge Attitudes and Practices Assessment Framework
22. GIS Mapping of Demonstration Landscapes and Sites, Data Tables
23. Landscape level Master Plan design considerations
24. Additional information on related research of the Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
25A. Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework / Process Framework (IPPF/PF) for Components 2 and 3 (WWF)
25B. WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Categorization Memorandum
26. Project climate risk screening

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AP	Arunachal Pradesh State
APR	Annual Project Report
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BD	Biodiversity
BFP	Biodiversity Finance Plan
BIOFIN	The Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BPL	Below Poverty Level
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CPW	Collaborative Partnerships on Sustainable Wildlife Management
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DG	Director General
EA	Executing Agency
EDC	Eco-Development Committee
ESSF	Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (WWF)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FD	Forest Division
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GTF	Global Tiger Forum
GTI	Global Tiger Initiative
Ha	Hectare
IAS	Invasive alien species
IG	Inspector General
INR	Indian Rupee (exchange rate of 1 USD = 71.2 INR used here)
IPPF/PF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework / Process Framework (WWF)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (World Conservation Union)
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
LPG	Liquified petroleum gas
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Park
NTCA	National Tiger Conservation Authority
NPD	National Project Director
NWAP	National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-31
PA	Protected Area
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PM	Project Manager
PPG	Project Preparation Grant (for GEF)
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSC	Project Steering Committee

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RF	Reserved forest as defined in the Indian Forest Act, 1927
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SBVCR	Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (UNDP)
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (UNDP)
SHG	Self help group
SIPP	Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (WWF)
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
STPF	Special Tiger Protection Force
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal - one of India's Central Armed Police Forces under the Ministry of Home Affairs
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (GEF)
TBD	To Be Determined
TCP	Tiger Conservation Plan
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TNA	Training Needs Analysis
TOR	Terms of Reference
TR	Tiger Reserve
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP CO	UNDP Country Office
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UP	Uttar Pradesh State
USD	United States Dollar
WCT	Wildlife Conservation Trust
WII	Wildlife Institute of India
WLS	Wildlife Sanctuary
WPSI	Wildlife Protection Society of India
WTI	Wildlife Trust of India
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Problem Statement

1. Of the 41 wild cat species occurring globally, fifteen are native to India. These include the large cat species tiger, Asiatic lion, snow leopard and leopard, and eleven small cat species. Hotspots for cat diversity are the scrub and open forest of the semi-arid and arid regions in western India, the humid tropical forests, grasslands and wetlands of the north, and the vast elevational gradient and associated diverse forest types of the north-east. These hotspots are situated in the three biotic provinces in India[1] that are the richest in cat species - the semi-arid Gujarat Rajputana region, the Upper Gangetic Plains and the Eastern Himalayas which together represent nine small cats, of the eleven that occur in India. Some of these species are unique to the regions they occur in, like the caracal and Asian wildcat from the semi-arid province and the marbled cat, golden cat and clouded leopard from the Eastern Himalayas. Furthermore, many of their morphologies are suggestive of specialisations to their habitats e.g. short tails and long legs of the caracal and jungle cat specialised on open/scrub habitats and long tails of the rainforest species like the marbled cat and clouded leopard. Of the nine small cat species covered by this project, six are on CITES Appendix I and three are on Appendix II. Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a concern for certain species, especially near border areas. The project will seek to strengthen CITES implementation in relation to the identification of small wild cats and their parts in trade, and transboundary collaboration on combatting IWT. Overall, the project will aim to integrate small cat needs into existing large cat conservation so that all wild cats are considered together.

Table 1. Conservation status of wild cat species occurring in India

No.	Species	Project Target	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix	National Protection
1	Tiger *Panthera tigris*		EN	I	I
2	Asiatic lion *Panthera leo ssp. persica*		EN	I	I
3	Snow leopard *Panthera uncia*		VU	I	I
4	Leopard *Panthera pardus*	✓*	VU	I	I
5	Clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*	✓	VU	I	I
6	Rusty-spotted Cat *Prionailurus rubiginosus*	✓	NT	I	I
7	Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*	✓	LC	I	I
8	Marbled Cat *Pardofelis marmorata*	✓	NT	I	I
9	Asian Wildcat *Felis silvestris ornata*	✓	LC	II	I
10	Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*	✓	LC	II	II
11	Caracal *Caracal caracal*	✓	LC	I	I
12	Fishing Cat Prionailurus viverrinus	✓	VU	II	I
13	Asiatic Golden Cat *Catopuma temmincki*	✓	NT	I	I
14	Eurasian Lynx** *Lynx lynx*		LC	II	I
15	Pallas's Cat** *Otocolobus manul*		NT	II	I

**Leopard is not a main focus of the project, but is present in the project landscapes and targeted where conflict with local communities is an issue*

*** Covered by the ongoing UNDP/GEF-6 GWP Snow leopard project – SECURE Himalaya; so not a focus of this project*

[1] Rodgers W.A. and Panwar H.S. (1988). Biogeographic classification of India. Dehradun: New Forest.

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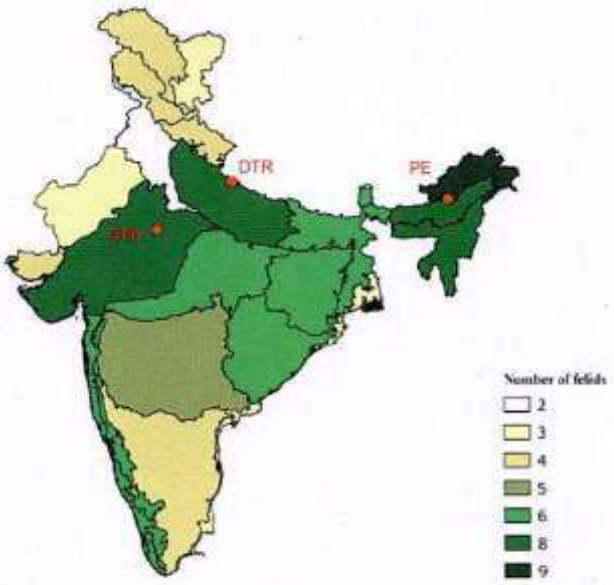
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2. While much attention has been given to the iconic large cats such as tiger (IUCN Red-list: EN), leopard (VU) and Asiatic lion (EN), the small cats are little known and their conservation needs poorly understood. Most of India's wild cats do not yet feature as a conservation priority attracting the resourcing of flagship species such as tiger, yet almost all small cats plus leopards have decreasing populations and many are approaching vulnerable status globally. A higher level of threat is considered to apply to many at national level (e.g. caracal is thought to be endangered within India).

3. Small cats are keystone species, providing crucial economic and ecosystem services such as pest and disease control, and their conservation is essential to underpin the integrity of big cat conservation efforts and maintain large natural ecosystems across India. While India's network of tiger reserves provides a safe refuge to many cat species, a substantial part of the distribution of small cats occurs outside the Protected Area (PA) network, making protection, restoration and connectivity of habitats at a landscape scale essential for their long-term conservation. These areas are subject to varying degrees of habitat degradation and fragmentation, and cats are threatened by poaching and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) – threats that are increasing in extent and frequency as ongoing development and land use changes extend the human-wild cat interface and increase the potential for local-level conflicts. Ongoing development impacts reduce and fragment habitat, increasing the interface between humans and wild cats. Increasing human populations and economic development that does not consider environmental needs are drivers of the threats to wild cats.

Figure 1. Distribution of cat diversity in India, location of project landscapes and presence of small cats in each landscape

Species of Small Cat	RTR	DTR	PE
Jungle Cat (LC)	•	•	•
Caracal (LC)	•		
Asiatic Wildcat (LC)	•		
Fishing Cat (V)	•	•	•
Rusty-spotted Cat (NT)	•	•	
Leopard Cat (LC)		•	•
Marbled Cat (NT)			•
Golden Cat (NT)			•
Clouded Leopard (V)			•



*Key: RTR - Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan); DTR - Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (Uttar Pradesh); PE - Pakke Tiger Reserve – Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary (Arunachal Pradesh). IUCN Red List status: LC – Least Concern; NT – Near-threatened; V – Vulnerable. See **Annex 1** for further details and maps of the individual landscapes.*

Source: Shomita Mukherjee, Senior Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

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4. The project will focus on three landscapes in wild cat hotspots in northern, north-eastern and western India that each contain multiple species of small cats as well as tiger and leopard. These are critical sites for the maintenance of wild cat diversity in India, representative of their respective biotic provinces. Each demonstration landscape is built around a key PA for wild cat conservation and surrounding buffer zones that contain important habitats for small cats. Activities will be conducted within PAs, buffer zones and identified tiger corridors within these landscapes. The project landscapes are: Dudhwa landscape in Uttar Pradesh and Pakke-Eaglenest landscape in Arunachal Pradesh, with further limited intervention in Ranthambhore landscape in Rajasthan. The location and significance of each landscape for small cat conservation is shown in **Figure 1**. These landscapes face habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and the wild cats they host are also directly impacted by HWC, poaching for illegal markets, retaliatory killing, free-ranging[2] dog populations and roadkill. The nature and distribution of threats across the three landscapes is described in the section below.

Threats and Root Causes

5. At the outset of the project preparation process, it was clear that there exist major information gaps concerning the distribution and abundance of small cats across the project landscapes, their life histories, ecological needs, and the nature of conservation issues and threats that may impact their populations (see **Annex 18**). Consequently, a wide range of stakeholders were consulted in each of the landscapes during visits by the PPG team to obtain a qualitative indication of the presence and key issues and threats facing small cats and their habitats. The threat analysis is largely based upon these consultations, supported where possible by literature review. Further information on threats will be collected during implementation through systematic data collection in order to inform conservation responses.

6. The three project landscapes are widely dispersed and have very different geographical, ecological and socio-economic characteristics. These are summarized in the landscape and PA profiles in **Annex 16** and discussed in the baseline reports in **Annexes 18 & 19**. The nature of the threats facing small cats and their habitats is therefore specific to each landscape. These threats vary in their their intensity and extent, which have been combined according to a guiding threat impact matrix in order to determine those threats that are likely to have the greatest impact, summarized for the three landscapes in **Table 2**. The main threats are described below.

Table 2. Estimated threat impact ratings for the project landscapes

Threats	Dudhwa	Ranthambhore	Pakke - Eaglenest
Poaching / illegal wildlife trade	Medium**	Low*	Critical
Human-wildlife conflict (various species)	Medium**	Low*	Medium**
Free-ranging dog presence	Medium**	Medium**	Low
Unsustainable grazing	Medium**	High	
Unsustainable use of fuelwood and NTFPs		High	High
Disturbance from excessive tourism		Medium**	
Illegal logging			Medium**
Forest encroachment for agriculture, settlements			Medium**
Ravine in-filling (encroachment)		Medium**	
Sand, gravel and stone mining		High	
Encroachment / degradation of riverbank habitats		Medium**	Low*
Changing hydrology and siltation of water-bodies	Medium		
Hydro-electric power plant / dam on river	Medium**		Medium**
Invasive alien species impacting natural habitats	Medium	Medium	
Risks from pesticides, rodenticides etc in agriculture		Low	
Habitat fragmentation by roads	Medium		Medium**

[2] Sometimes referred to as feral dogs

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Roadkills	Low	Medium	Medium
Forest and grassland fires			Medium

*See Landscape Profiles (**Annex 16**) and baseline reports (**Annexes 18 and 19**) for further information*
**Localized/episodic, **Locally high/severe*

Threat impact matrix

Extent	Intensity			
	High	Moderate	Low	Negligible
Pervasive	Critical	High	Medium	Negligible
Widespread	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Localized	Medium	Low	Low	Negligible
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

7. *Hunting, poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT):* Subsistence hunting and poaching (illegal hunting) of wildlife takes place in all three of the project landscapes, however their prevalence and the wildlife species affected vary markedly, and the situation in NE India in particular is complex. PPG baseline studies obtained information on local and traditional practices, and largely anecdotal information on poaching and IWT (see **Annexes 8, 16, 18, 20**). **In Dudhwa landscape**, the Tharu communities have a taboo against harming cats, while the Kanjars, Mahuts and Kuchbandhia communities reportedly hunt jackals, turtles and small cats with the aid of hunting dogs. From the number of official cases (see **Annex 20**) it can be surmised that the pressure of poaching on wildlife is quite substantial. All the PAs are thin and elongated and interspersed with villages, and the proximity of the Nepal border makes law enforcement difficult. **In Ranthambhore landscape**, the Moghiya community was actively involved in tiger poaching in the past, but many have now been trained and employed by Tiger Watch as volunteers to monitor wildlife outside the PA as a source of livelihood. Despite cultural taboos regarding hunting and harming cats, poaching of Jungle Cat as food by the Moghiya and Bagarias communities reportedly takes place. **In Pakke-Eaglenest landscape**, hunting is a way of life and is fairly common in the reserved forests. However, it is reported to be well under control in Pakke TR, where hunting was quite common but it has been controlled due to the formation of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF). Poaching is more severe in Tippee Range to the western side of the TR, and cats may be affected – for example, two members of the Nyishi community admitted to hunting and eating Fishing Cat just outside Pakke TR on two occasions. In Eaglenest area, encounters with Black Bears are common, and people often hunt them for meat and bear gall bladder which has a market outside India. According to interviews conducted during the PPG baseline assessment in 2019, hunting by government officials is recognized to occur in Arunachal Pradesh, although this hunting is not focused on small cats. The forest of Shergaon Division outside Eaglenest WS is subject to poaching, since it is relatively unprotected and it also gives access to Eaglenest WS. There is fairly good wildlife in Semipam Unclassed State Forest (USF), but there is lot of hunting. Road construction workers have also been reported to hunt animals[3]. There is also hunting and cross-border trade with Bhutan and China in forest produce such as bear gall bladders, musk deer pods, leopard skins, etc[4]. See **Annex 16** (landscape profiles) and **Annex 18** (baseline report on small wild cats) for further information.

8. *Human-wildlife conflict (HWC):* HWC is prevalent in all three project landscapes and is locally severe, with a large impact on local communities. Small cats are not a major source of conflict, with only the occasional case of raiding chicken coops reported. However, other forms of HWC negatively affect local attitudes to PAs and conservation. **In Dudhwa landscape**, conflict with elephant, tiger and leopards is a serious problem in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Dudhwa NP. At present there are nearly 100 elephants in and around Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, with serious damage to agricultural crops by elephants. Tiger conflict was more

[3] See: http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/~sbhatnag/Nature/warunachal/Docs/cerc_tr8.pdf - page 14
[4] For example, see: http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/~sbhatnag/Nature/warunachal/Docs/cerc_tr8.pdf - page 11, Table 2

serious in the past than now, while currently leopard conflict is a more serious problem - the high number of people injured by leopard attacks is a cause for concern and local people are very agitated; despite this HWC not involving small cats, it is affecting local attitudes towards wildlife conservation in general and kittens of other cats are sometimes mistaken as leopard cubs and killed. See Tables 2 & 3 of **Annex 20** for HWC statistics. Wild boar, nilgai and porcupine also cause considerable crop damage. **In Ranthambhore landscape**, crop damage by wild boar and nilgai is the main problem. Human or animal kills by carnivores are not reported to be a serious problem. However there is no policy for compensation of farmers for crop damage by wild herbivores and existing compensation schemes are inadequate and difficult to use[5]. **In Pakke-Eaglenest landscape**, about 244 elephants range between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and conflict with elephants was reported to be a serious problem, forcing many farmers to abandon rice cultivation. There is occasional cattle lifting by tiger, leopard and Dhole, while other causes of damage to agriculture and horticulture are wild boar, porcupine, birds and monkeys.

9. *Free-ranging dog presence*: this is a particular issue for small cats and other wildlife where packs of free-ranging dogs hunt along the edges and inside PAs and may transmit diseases to wildlife, recognized as a significant issue in the NWAP. Restriction of free-ranging dog population size (by neutering, translocation) and/or movements (by fencing) are required to reduce these impacts. Free-ranging dog packs have been identified as a serious problem in localities in **Dudhwa** (Kishanpur) and **Ranthambhore** landscapes. Disease transmission can be exacerbated through the presence of carcasses of abandoned cattle, which may be visited by free-ranging dogs by day and by a variety of wild predators at night[6].

10. *Unsustainable grazing and use of fuelwood and NTFPs*: **In Dudhwa landscape**, unproductive or unwanted cattle are being left near the forest by people from outside. These cattle have become free-ranging and are causing a lot of problems, especially by entering agricultural fields and damaging crops. Culturally, cattle are considered sacred, therefore the management of abandoned cattle requires sensitive approaches such as collecting and caring for them in *gaushalas*[7]. Tree-cutting is a problem in Dudhwa NP, especially by the Tharu community. They store large quantities of firewood till summer, for use in the rainy season. **In Ranthambhore landscape**, stray cattle invade the forests and also revenue lands for grazing. A wall was built around the tiger reserve to keep out cattle which been quite effective, but it may pose a barrier to genetic exchange in wildlife populations. Cattle invade agriculture fields and cause crop damage. Overall, free livestock grazing in forested areas is, like the rest of India, a serious problem in the landscape. In addition, there is traditional grazing by migratory sheep graziers on the Mandrail plateau who visit from another district, quite far away. This practice is reported to have political and government patronage, with special arrangements to provide supplies to graziers at convenient places. This type of grazing has a degrading effect on the vegetation of the common lands.

11. *Unsustainable logging and forest encroachment*: **In Pakke-Eaglenest landscape**, the main forest categories are Reserved Forest, Community Conserved Areas and Open Access (Unclassed State Forest). However, there is confusion on the status of some lands. For example, in the past, some areas were declared as reserved forest, including existing villages. So, the pre-existing villages became illegal occupants of those lands, at least on record. The boundaries of many forests are not clearly demarcated. Most forests in Arunachal Pradesh (about 80%) are controlled by the local community. The community forests are USF and there are few restrictions on their use by the community and a lack of awareness of conservation needs. Tree cutting is banned without proper working plans, but working schemes have not been approved for most community

[5] WWF Discussions with the local communities revealed that compensation for livestock depredation is a lengthy process. Veterinarians often take close to half the compensations received and the remaining amount gets used in travel costs from far off villages to offices for registration and fees for paperwork. Because of this, some do not take the effort to register their cases.
[6] WWF India pers. Comm.
[7] The Indian government started the Rashtriya Gokul Mission in mid-2014, a national program that involves constructing havens for retired cows, known as goshalas or gaushalas.

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forests and it is difficult to limit the quantum of tree cutting because of pressure from the community and politicians[8]. Secondly, there is intensive farming of tomato and cabbage on the slopes, on extensive tracts of land between Shergaon and Rupa on community land under the USF category. Unfortunately, this is happening on steep slopes, causing forest fragmentation and degradation, soil erosion and depletion of soil fertility. Heavy doses of pesticide and fertilizer are used, which are an environmental and health hazard.

12. *Degradation of wetland and riparian habitats*: **In Dudhwa landscape**, water bodies both inside and outside PAs are important habitats for many species including fishing cat. However, in recent years there has been a gradual decrease in number of water bodies, affecting fishing cat distribution. Reasons include filling up of water bodies due to siltation, and encroachment of wetlands for agriculture. Sugarcane has a reputation as a water-demanding crop, which causes decreases in subsoil water levels, and groundwater is used for the irrigation of summer rice. This has resulted in the depletion of Nagarla wetland near Kishanpur Sanctuary. In Kishanpur, a small river named Ull has dried up in recent years. **In Ranthambhore landscape**, agriculture extends right up to the Banas river and is likely to be on encroached land, with fresh signs of levelling of land on the banks of the Banas. During the summer season riverbank encroachment along the Chambal and Mez increases. Water for irrigation is almost entirely dependent on the rivers and since the river banks in parts of Rajasthan are relatively flat it makes for good agricultural fields. Sand mining is reported to be a problem in the Banas River, disturbing the habitat and creating deep pits in the river bed.

13. *Unsustainable use of Wastelands and ravine in-filling*: **In Ranthambhore Landscape**, flattening of ravines for conversion to agriculture is quite rampant, and is largely ignored by the Revenue Department despite the fact that this is mostly government land, which amounts to encroachment. Ravines are prominent along the Chambal and Banas Rivers, however they are also found at places in the general landscape. Their ecological role is poorly understood but they are likely to provide cover for a diversity of wildlife[9]. Ravines are natural movement paths for small cats and other wild animals, and flattening those and transforming the landuse to agriculture is not ecologically sustainable in the long term.

14. *Stone, sand and gravel mining:* **In Ranthambhore Landscape**, sand and gravel mining is high across the landscape and the people involved are often hostile towards the forest department, making conservation interventions more difficult to carry out. Stone mining is locally high but has far more detrimental effects as the rate of vegetation recovery is slow.

15. *Invasive alien species*: **In Dudhwa Landscape**, water bodies are an important habitat in Dudhwa NP and Kishanpur WLS for fishing cat, swamp deer, otters, etc. Water bodies in both PAs were reported to be threatened by invasion of aquatic weeds. The main culprit in Kishanpur was the prickly water lily *Euryale ferox*. This species impedes the movement of animals, like swamp deer and hog deer, and can cause injuries to them because of its sharp thorns. In Dudhwa, wetlands in Maholi and Rampurwa are infested with spread of *Eichhornia* spp affecting the fish population. Other weeds were reported such as Dhaincha *Sesbania aculeata*. and grassland is under encroachment by woodland species. The invasion of weeds was reported to be a serious problem by the field staff. **In Ranthambhore landscape**, the invasive shrub *Prosopis juliflora* was introduced in the 1980s to provide firewood to communities. In the Chambal region it was planted, along with other species, under the name of ravine restoration with the intention of disrupting movement of bandits. However this programme was discontinued around 1995 (GVR). Prosopis is quite widespread

[8] While the Forest Dept does not currently make management plans for Unclassified State Forests, there is scope for introducing a Joint Forest Management approach that would involve both the government and communities working together to achieve sustainable forest management.

[9] Regular monitoring with camera traps and recent sign surveys by WWF indicate them to be crucial habitats outside PAs for caracals and dispersing tigers; additionally other rare species such as wolves, hyenas and leopards also use them. On-going monitoring of ravines in the Dhaulpur forest division on the banks of the Chambal indicate Caracal kittens. Three tigers have dispersed from Ranthambhore and have been residing in this forest division since January. This division is composed almost entirely of ravines.

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inside Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, and it is very common in the revenue lands. On the banks of Chambal and Sevti Chambal block, Prosopis has formed dense thickets. Its impact on small cat populations is unknown and may vary between species.

16. *Infrastructure development*: **In Pakke-Eaglenest landscape**, a new 90 MW hydro-electric project has been proposed near the northern boundary of Pakke Tiger Reserve. The river diversion (underwater tunnel) will cause the water level in the river to decrease. Thus the river which at present forms a natural barrier will become easier to cross, making the northern boundary vulnerable. A road was proposed from Seijosa to Bhalukpong which would have cut through Pakke Tiger Reserve. Due to continuous advocacy with the government, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh on 16th March 2020 announced a temporary suspension of that road's construction. However, it might be proposed again and might not be the only road proposed. Arunachal Pradesh is fast expanding its road network, especially in the vicinity of Eaglenest which fragments the forested landscape and opens access for hunting and encroachment. **In Ranthambhore landscape**, the proposed Delhi – Mumbai Expressway development will bisect the tiger landscape unless realigned[10]. **In Dudhwa landscape**, A border road proposed along the India-Nepal border would go through Dudhwa National Park and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, which would hinder wildlife connectivity. The State Government has been considering mitigation measures and realignment, which needs to be finalised.

17. *Road kills*: were mentioned as a threat to small cats such as the Fishing Cat and Jungle Cat especially in the Motipur area of Katerniaghat WLS in **Dudhwa landscape**. In **Ranthambhore landscape**, road kills of small animals, especially jackal, take place frequently on the road to Karauli, and possibly other roads as well. In **Pakke – Eaglenest landscape**, there are frequent road kills of leopard cats on the highway.

18. *Climate change*: While this was not emphasized as a direct threat, climate change adds further pressure on habitats and species populations whose resilience has already been weakened by the above-mentioned direct threats, through both short term (e.g. extreme weather events) and long term impacts (e.g. shifts in vegetation zones with increasing surface temperature trends).

19. **The root causes and drivers of these threats** vary with the context of each project landscape. **In Dudhwa,** little natural habitat remains outside the protected areas, being a fertile landscape with abundant water resources that is a major sugar-cane production area, together with rice, wheat and other crops. Therefore working with farming communities to maintain and restore connectivity along river corridors, wetlands and PA buffer zones through sympathetic farming practices is necessary. The landscape runs along the Nepalese border, with indigenous Tharu communities living along the forest edge and inside the forest, with a need for strengthened engagement and community-based forest management. Human population density is increasing in the relatively intensive agricultural areas, which exerts increasing pressures on the water, forest and grassland resources and intensifies human-wildlife conflict. Its location on the porous Indo-Nepalese border increases the prevalence of poaching and IWT.

20. **In Ranthambhore,** the landscape is dotted with human habitations, with a large number of villages present even in the Critical Tiger Habitat. The terrain and shallow soil protect much of the land from being encroached for agriculture, however ravines which are next to rivers are vulnerable and their conversion and encroachment continues at a rapid pace, unhindered by enforcement as they are classified as Wasteland areas. Most of the villages and residents of urban areas are dependent on forests for fuelwood and fodder for animals, either directly as owners of the livestock or as consumers of dairy products. Most of the area (especially the focal areas in Karauli) are backward by national standards[11]. Poverty and lack of alternatives

[10] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/proposed-delhi-mumbai-expressway-faces-rajasthan-tiger-habitat-hurdle/articleshow/67224179.cms

[11] Backward Districts are the least developed areas of the country, comprising mostly marginal farmers and forest dwellers. In many of these districts poverty has increased despite consistent focus of several poverty eradication programmes. Governance has little or no presence in most of these districts. They are priorities for Government-led poverty reduction programmes. See: https://nrega.nic.in/Planning_Commision.pdf and https://pmawards.gov.in/public/List-of-Backward-Districts.pdf

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leaves people with little option apart from depending on forest resources, therefore sustainable land management is a priority for this area.

21. **In Pakke-Eaglenest,** the dependence of indigenous communities on forests is high, both by tradition and necessity. The local communities are also the dominant forest land holders. Although hunting traditions are strong, and demand for certain species in illegal wildlife trade (e.g. bear gall bladders) is significant (linked to being closer to wildlife trade hotspots)[12], the landscape still maintains a high diversity of wildlife and some communities are involved in wildlife conservation despite the fact that sources of income and avenues of employment are few. Since timber cannot be commercially harvested, forest-based livelihood options are crucial for maintaining the value of community forests. Collection and marketing of NTFP, MAP, ecotourism, etc. are important in the local economy. Support and partnerships with local and national NGOs/key individuals are critical for successful conservation. Arunachal Pradesh has few industries and poor connectivity within and between districts. It depends to a large extent on financial assistance provided by the central government through Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Thus various central ministries also have an important role in shaping the sustainable future of the state and in the landscape such as the Ministry of Development of North-East Region.

22. **Project conceptual model:** The diversity of direct and indirect factors that threaten globally significant small wild cat landscapes in India is shown in **Figure 2**. This indicates the relationships between direct threats and various underlying factors (root causes and barriers) and the points of intervention where project strategies (yellow hexagons) will contribute towards a reduction in the level of threats, and therefore contribute towards the long term vision of the project, namely to to put in place an integrated model for wild cat conservation at landscape level that can be upscaled and replicated nationally and in wild cat landscapes of other range States. The outputs and outcomes of these strategies are summarized in the Theory of Change diagram in the following section (**Figure 3**).

[12] For example, see: https://india.mongabay.com/2019/11/commentary-hunting-for-answers-the-scale-and-impacts-of-hunting-and-the-importance-of-listening-to-hunters/;

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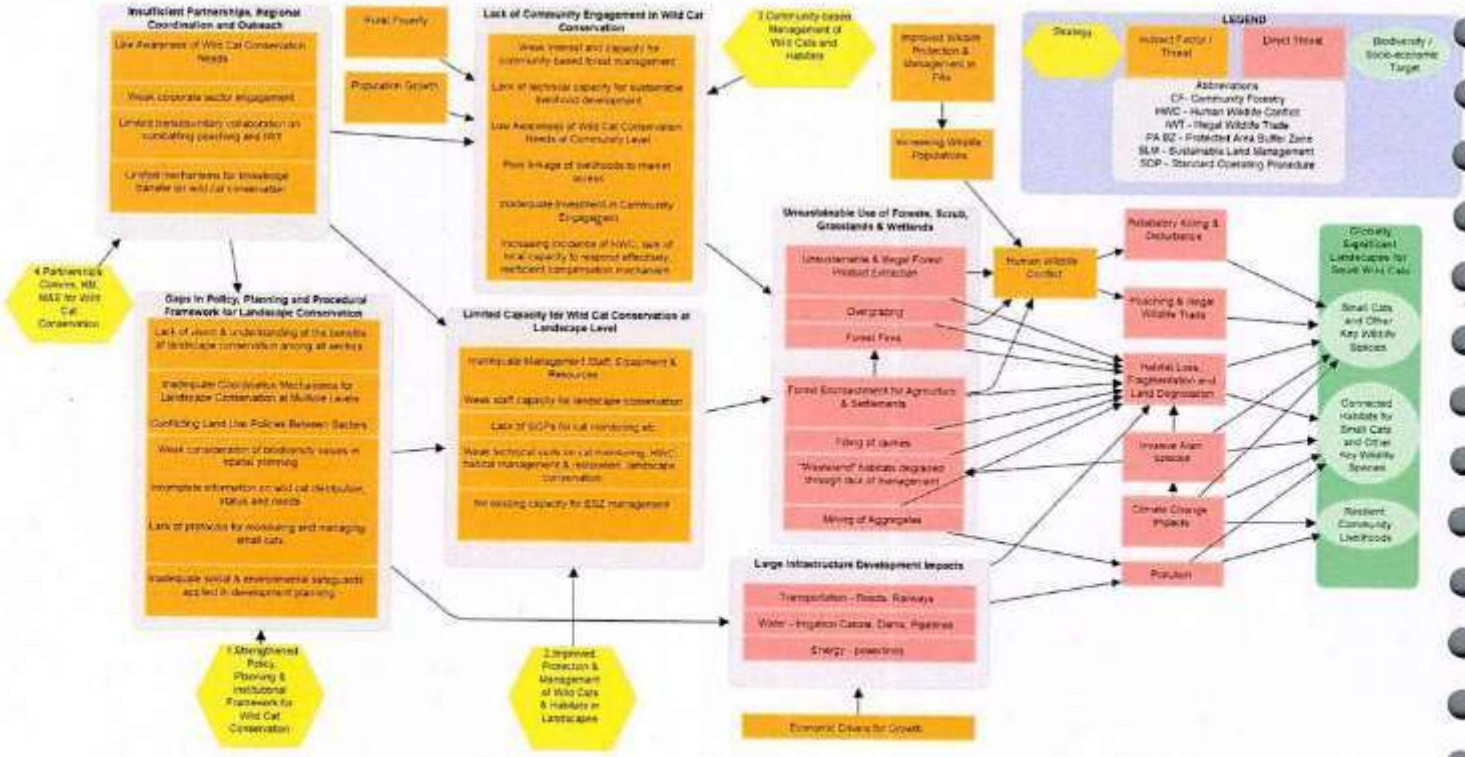


Figure 2. Conceptual diagram for the project

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Barriers

23. While the government has made significant efforts to reduce threats to wild cats and their habitats in the course of tiger conservation and its protected area system, these efforts have been impeded by a number of barriers. These are described below and elaborated further in the situation analyses in **Annexes 7** (Stakeholder Engagement Plan), 8 (Gender Analysis and Action Plan), **10** (METT), **16** (Landscape and PA Profiles), **18** (Baseline on wild cat conservation and frontline staff capacity development scorecards), **19** (State and District CD Scorecards), and **20** (Baseline report on sustainable land management).

Barrier 1: Gaps in the policy, planning and procedural framework for landscape conservation

24. The current poor understanding of the conservation status, needs and threats impacting small cats and lack of understanding of conservation priorities at the landscape level are weaknesses that need to be addressed in order to strengthen the policy, planning and procedural framework for landscape conservation. Although tiger conservation planning has stimulated a landscape approach to conservation in India, this remains very focused on tigers and protected areas, and there remains a lack of vision and knowhow as to how conservation can be integrated with multiple land uses in the production lands outside PAs in buffer zones and corridor areas for the benefit of diverse species including small cats. Related to this, the inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for landscape conservation at district and State levels are weak and ineffective, with conflicting land use policies – for example regarding so-called 'Wasteland' (including ravines, freshwater marshes and scrub forest) management, and biodiversity concerns receive little attention in land use planning outside PAs, evidenced by insufficient consideration of habitat protection and connectivity in land use and development planning. Even within the conservation field, the integration of conservation plans for species, protected areas and issues such as climate change adaptation and control of invasive alien species needs to be strengthened. With regards to small cat conservation, there is a lack of technical protocols to guide responsible agency staff for tasks such as monitoring, HWC management, human rights based approach to anti-poaching enforcement[13] and related subjects.

Barrier 2: Limited capacity for wild cat conservation at landscape level

25. The baseline assessment has determined that the existing staffing capacity for PA and landscape conservation for each project landscape is below that required to meet the needs of coordinated cross-sectoral land use planning and the professional requirements for effective management of wild cats. At State and District level, capacity for integrated landscape management and management of Eco-Sensitive Zones that advances habitat and wildlife conservation outside PAs remains very weak. While the tiger reserves in each landscape are systematically managed according to their Tiger Conservation Plans and evaluated through the national Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR), there remain chronic staffing shortages, lack of the necessary skills among PA staff, lack of equipment and adequate number of vehicles, and lack of opportunity for staff professional development. The METT baseline assessments (**Annex 10**) and analysis of PA management staffing and SWOT analysis in the landscape profiles (**Annex 16**) supported by other baseline assessment inputs (**Annexes 18 & 19**) provide details of these shortcomings. In addition, the living conditions for field staff at Dudhwa pose particular health and safety challenges, and there are needs for improved facilities and equipment in all landscapes. Technical skills need to be strengthened on monitoring wild cat populations and habitats, applying appropriate management techniques for habitat restoration and connectivity, managing HWC effectively and related subjects, through the development of SOPs and providing appropriate training support. All these would also pose motivational challenges for frontline staff of the PA.

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[13] See: https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/people/people_and_conservation/our_work/human_rights/
See also for example, the IUCN Community of Practice on Rights Based Approach to Conservation at https://www.iucn.org/content/join-rights-based-approach-conservation-portal; Conservation Initiative on Human Rights http://www.thecihr.org/

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Barrier 3: Lack of community engagement in wild cat conservation

26. The baseline assessments (**see Annexes 7, 8, 16, 18, 19, 20**) have indicated diverse socio-economic conditions and awareness of small wild cats in local communities and tribal groups across the project landscapes. In some cases, the communities and tribal groups have a strong affinity with the natural environment, traditional knowledge, customs and beliefs that foster a respect for nature, and where opportunities have arisen they have embraced conservation initiatives – for example, the Bugun voluntary community reserve and ecotourism activities near Eaglenest in Arunachal Pradesh[14], and the hornbill nest adoption programme at Pakke involving Nyishi tribal villages[15]. Similar NGO-led interventions are also supporting conservation in Dudhwa (Tharu community's handicraft unit which was set up by WWF is now running on its own and the local community members are earning income from this) and Ranthambhore (Tiger Watch and Moghiya communities). However, such awareness and opportunities are very limited and the successes need to be replicated and upscaled in key landscape areas to foster sustainable land uses and habitat conservation and to reduce threats from hunting, IWT and HWC. While certain government initiatives have also had positive effect, such as the LPG cylinders provided through the Ujwala Yojna scheme and National Livelihood Rural Mission support for backward districts[16] at Dudhwa, there remains much to be done to align such rural development schemes with conservation objectives and to improve their uptake and effectiveness. There is also poor linkage of livelihoods to market access, constraining their sustainability. Many communities near PAs and forested areas suffer significant HWC losses, including locally severe impacts from leopard attacks, elephant crop damage and widespread damage from animals such as wild boar. The trauma involved, lack of HWC response support and current government compensation systems that are slow, complicated and only partially redress losses incurred, often cause negative local attitudes towards wildlife and PAs. Overall, incentives for community engagement in biodiversity conservation remain weak, and community capacity and willingness to apply eco-friendly land uses that will support wild cat conservation are variable and not always supportive. The non-statutory, bottom-up initiative of Community Conservation Areas is widespread across regions of India, however these largely do not overlap with the main geographic range of small cat species. Further there is a lack of technical capacity in community institutions to support habitat and wild cat conservation.

Barrier 4: Insufficient partnerships, regional coordination and outreach

27. Awareness of the status and conservation needs of small wild cats is generally low amongst national and state-level stakeholders. This is unsurprising, given their secretive and generally nocturnal habits and avoidance of human presence and lack of exposure in the media and publications. However, several small cat species are globally threatened (clouded leopard (V), fishing cat (V) or near-threatened: marbled cat, Asiatic golden cat and rusty spotted cat, and the status of some others is of national concern (e.g. caracal) or poorly known (most small cats). Therefore the lack of awareness and scientific understanding of these species and the threats affecting them is an issue for conservation. While there are some partnerships in place in the landscapes (e.g. government-NGOs; NGOs-local communities), these are insufficient to address landscape conservation needs for small cats. NGO-NGO coalition is lacking and needs to be formed for small cat conservation. In addition, the corporate sector is largely not involved, despite strong potential for engagement in conservation action and financing for conservation programmes evidenced under the WB supported initiative to establish an Indian National Wildlife Business Council[17]. Finally, transboundary collaboration for landscape and species conservation, including reduction of poaching and trafficking of wildlife / wild cats (e.g. clouded leopard skins), and to support knowledge exchange and transfer, is limited and should be strengthened especially at the local level where bureaucratic constraints can be limited. Current global / regional tiger conservation initiatives do not currently cover small cat species, which could

[14] https://news.mongabay.com/2018/12/from-a-new-bird-to-a-new-community-reserve-indias-tribe-sets-example/
[15] https://www.conservationindia.org/gallery/the-pakke-hornbill-nest-adoption-program
[16] See: https://pmawards.gov.in/public/List-of-Backward-Districts.pdf
[17] Indian Wildlife Business Council: Case Studies of Interventions by Industry
https://cii.in/PublicationDetail.aspx?enc=lopSLo8/fAGuPzaCOnSLRUSzYgTXWm3GcIqYbN4weLFTAFWPbNJBZaciX9Fy3JltfiD21mwGuxKNhTN/K5o0Ane+CpVrOjLRPeZuo8WmNs96dXnpO1ZiDRgeMZKDZOuY9lnrX/VR/GJZKP3IXEMVDAIdt+cyl+OKE1JlxEtP2EVNvFEIB6nkScvXxopV5wK9

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be incorporated through minor changes and capacity development regarding small cat monitoring and research, etc. Relevant transboundary IWT enforcement issues relating to small cats need to be documented and raised bilaterally or through SAWEN.

Consistency with National Priorities and Relevant Conventions

28. The rationale and policy of this project are fully consistent with broader government planning and policy at national level, including the NWAP, directly contributing towards the implementation of relevant MEAs, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

29. Although prepared prior to the adoption of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (SPB) 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets in 2010, India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2008 is nevertheless broadly aligned with the current global biodiversity agenda. In this regard, India decided that a revision of the NBAP 2008 was not necessary, and instead prepared an addendum in 2014[18] to the NBAP 2008 consisting of 12 National Biodiversity Targets mapped towards the achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The NBTs in **Box 1** are relevant to the current project, with the most pertinent shown in bold text.

Box 1. Relevant National Biodiversity Targets (NBAP 2008/2014)

- *Target 1 - By 2020, a significant proportion of the country's population, especially the youth, is aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably;*
- *Target 2 - By 2020, values of biodiversity are integrated in national and state planning processes, development programmes and poverty alleviation strategies;*
- ***Target 3 - Strategies for reducing rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of natural habitats are finalized and actions put in place by 2020;***
- *Target 4 - By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and strategies to manage them developed so that populations of prioritized invasive alien species are managed;*
- ***Target 5 - By 2020, measures are adopted for sustainable management of agriculture, forestry and fisheries;***
- ***Target 6 - ecologically representative areas on land and in inland waters, as well as coastal and marine zones, especially those of particular importance for species, biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved effectively and equitably;***
- *Target 8 - by 2020, ecosystem services, especially those related to water, human health and livelihoods and well-being are enumerated and measures to safeguard them are identified;*
- *Target 11 - By 2020, national initiatives using communities' traditional knowledge relating to biodiversity are strengthened, with the view to protecting this knowledge in accordance with national legislations and international obligations;*
- *Target 12 - By 2020, opportunities to increase the availability of financial, human and technical resources to facilitate effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the national targets are identified and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization is adopted.*

30. These NBTs will guide investment and resource allocation for biodiversity conservation at the national level, and therefore bear high significance for wild cats and their main habitats – forest, grasslands and wetlands. An overview of implementation of the NBAP was prepared in 2019[19].

31. The international MEA framework relevant to the NBAP includes the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other biodiversity related environmental conventions. These include the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework

[18] https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/in/in-nbsap-v3-en.pdf
[19] https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/about/latest/#in

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Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Actions under NBAP also contribute to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

32. Of the nine small cat species covered by the project, six are on CITES Appendix I and three are on Appendix II. Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a concern for certain species, especially near border areas. The project will seek to strengthen CITES implementation in relation to the identification of small wild cats and their parts in trade, and transboundary collaboration on combatting IWT, in line with CITES decisions on Illegal Trade in Asian Big Cats (Felidae spp)[20]

33. The Ramsar Convention requires the wise use of wetlands, which is relevant in the project context especially for Dudhwa landscape, where there are significant wetland resources of importance for fishing cat and other wildlife, many of which are located in the agricultural landscapes of PA buffer zones and subject to invasive species, nutrient enrichment and lowering of groundwater tables.

34. A comprehensive web of policies and laws has evolved in the country to address various aspects of nature conservation that the NBAP seeks to achieve. The fundamental policy and legal support for its implementation is embedded in the Constitution of India which creates an abiding responsibility of the State and the people of India to take positive action for the protection and conservation of natural resources. Key national policies of relevance to the current project include the National Forestry Policy 1988, the National Environment Policy 2006, and National Agroforestry Policy 2014.

35. The Biological Diversity Act 2002 created a three tier architecture for its implementation at national, state and the local levels. This architecture coordinates the implementation of the NBAP in collaboration with line agencies and other non-government stakeholders. At the national level, this includes the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), linked with central line ministries, institutes and national NGOs; at the State level, it includes State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) linked with State line departments, NGOs, CSOs and industry; and the local level there are Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) linked with local line agencies, Panchayati Raj institutions and other bodies.

36. The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 (amended 2006) empowers the State to declare areas of ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological or zoological association or importance as protected areas, under four categories, namely, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves. The Wildlife Division in the Directorate General of Forests in MoEFCC at Central Government level, and state wildlife departments and their subordinate offices at field level in states implement this Act. The 2006 Amendment brought in a separate chapter on tiger conservation – this included the establishment of a National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under MoEFCC; definitions of a Tiger Reserve, Core Zone, Buffer Zone and Corridor (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries nominally being Core Zones); and management of Buffer Zones became a statutory requirement through the Tiger Conservation Plans (TCPs). Previously management plans only applied to the PAs - not Buffer Zones outside PAs. The TCPs now cover the tiger plus co-predators (e.g. small cats). Later in 2007, the government of India also set up the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau under the same Ministry, to specifically curb poaching and IWT in the country.

37. The Government of India has taken a pioneering initiative for conserving its national animal, the tiger, by launching the 'Project Tiger' in 1973[21]. From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 50 at present, spread out in 18 of India's tiger range states. The tiger reserves are constituted on a core/buffer strategy. The core areas have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary, whereas the buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple use area. The Project Tiger aims to foster an exclusive tiger agenda in the core areas of tiger reserves, with an inclusive people oriented agenda (beneficiary oriented tribal development) in the buffer. Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the MoEFCC providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger

[20] See https://cites.org/eng/dec/valid17/82158 - Decisions 18.100, 18.105 and 18.106 are of particular relevance

[21] For details of NTCA mandate and activities, see: https://projecttiger.nic.in/Index.aspx

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conservation in designated tiger reserves. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body of the Ministry, with an overarching supervisory / coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Details of other relevant legislation are listed in the NBAP.

38. India has also been a key player in the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)[22] which was launched in 2008 as a global alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society, the conservation and scientific communities and the private sector, with the aim of working together to save wild tigers from extinction. The GTI's founding partners included the World Bank, GEF, the Smithsonian Institution, Save the Tiger Fund, and International Tiger Coalition (representing more than 40 non-government organizations). The initiative is led by the 13 tiger range countries (TRCs). The inter-governmental Global Tiger Forum[23] formed in 1993 is based in India and supports range states in their tiger conservation work (see **Partnerships** section below for further information on GTF, who will be an implementation partner).

39. The project is strongly aligned towards implementation of specific aspects of the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-31 (NWAP) [24]. This includes support for chapters on:
    - *Landscape level approach for wildlife conservation*
    - *Conservation of threatened species*
    - *Peoples participation in wildlife conservation*
    - *Control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife*
    - *Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict*
    - *Development of human resources*
    - *Strengthening research and monitoring*

40. The development of Eco-Sensitive Zones around Protected Areas under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 in line with official Guidelines published by the Wildlife Division of MoEFCC in 2011 will be supported in the project landscapes as part of the landscape conservation approach.

41. **SDGs and Aichi Targets:** This project will primarily contribute towards and SDG 15 (Life on land): Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss, supporting activities that address multiple targets. It will also make secondary contributions towards SDG 1: No poverty, 3: Good health, 5: Gender equality, and 13: Urgent action on climate change. The project will contribute towards Strategic Goal C of the Aichi Targets: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, particularly Target 11, in terms of PAs being effectively and equitably managed and well-connected to the wider landscape[25]; and Target 12, to prevent the extinction of known threatened species.

II. STRATEGY

Project Theory of Change

42. The GEF-supported Project Alternative responds to the development challenge by systematically addressing the barriers to achieving wild cat conservation at a landscape level described above, namely: 1) Gaps in the policy, planning and procedural framework, including poor understanding of the distribution, conservation status, needs and threats impacting small cats, lack of understanding of conservation priorities at the landscape level, and weak integration of conservation plans and insufficient consideration of habitat

[22] https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/brief/the-global-tiger-initiative
[23] http://globaltigerforum.org/
[24] http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/nwap_2017_31.pdf
[25] For details, see: https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/targets/T11-quick-guide-en.pdf and https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/rationale/target-11/

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protection and connectivity in land use and development planning; 2) Limited capacity (personnel, equipment, SOPs) at state, landscape and site levels for monitoring wild cat populations and habitats, applying appropriate management techniques for habitat restoration and connectivity, and managing HWC effectively; 3) Lack of community engagement, restricting community capacity and willingness to apply eco-friendly land use and habitat management techniques that will support wild cat conservation and help prevent and manage HWC; 4) Insufficient partnerships, regional coordination and outreach to engage the private sector and identify sustainable financing options, strengthen transboundary collaboration, reduce participation in poaching and trafficking of wild cats, and support knowledge exchange and transfer. In doing so, it takes full account of the substantial baseline summarized for each project component and will coordinate with ongoing initiatives described in the Results and Partnerships section. The connections between the threats, root causes, barriers and intervention strategies are indicated in the Project Conceptual Diagram in **Figure 2**.

43. Overall, this project will secure the conservation of the globally-significant wild cat landscapes of Dudhwa in the northern Indian State of Uttar Pradesh and Pakke-Eaglenest in Arunachal Pradesh in the north-east through a landscape conservation approach in line with the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-31, that integrates conservation programs for individual species (such as tiger, elephant) into area-based planning, connects stakeholders and empowers communities to participate in conservation-related activities, and operates across PAs, identified tiger corridors and in buffer zones surrounding and connecting these areas. In addition, it will complement the existing WWF-led landscape conservation programme at Dudhwa as part of the Terai Arc Landscape, at Pakke-Eaglenest as part of the Brahmaputra Landscape and Ranthambhore in Rajasthan as part of the Western India Tiger Landscape, through co-developed field initiatives in the former two landscapes and limited interventions and knowledge exchange in the third, through Component 1 (Outputs 1.2, 1.3 & 1.4) and Component 4 (Outputs 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 & 4.5). These landscapes are representative of the three biotic provinces in India[26] that are the richest in cat species - the semi-arid Gujarat Rajputana region, the Upper Gangetic Plains and the Eastern Himalayas which together represent nine small cats, of the eleven that occur in India (see **Annexes 16 & 18**).

44. The project's landscape conservation approach represents a shift away from the traditional approach of focusing resources solely on increasingly isolated protected areas, given that these PAs are ecologically and socio-economically inter-dependent on the mosaic of land uses in their surrounding landscapes. The landscape approach recognizes protected areas as core areas for biodiversity conservation and aims to ensure their integration with sustainable land use in buffer zones[27], and biological corridors that connect PAs in order to deliver sustainable and climate-resilient natural resource management, and addresses the conservation of globally significant large ranging mammals (e.g. tiger, rhino, elephant) as well as the suite of wild cat species and their prey. This approach is based on integrated ecosystem management[28] operating at the scales required to capture representative biodiversity and conserve major ecological processes and services. While the project landscapes are based around core conservation areas in the form of important protected areas, the priority for intervention is largely in the buffer zones around these PAs where there is greater interface between local communities and wildlife, greater challenges for habitat conservation and the need to mainstream biodiversity conservation into productive land uses in revenue lands.

45. In the case of small cats, although there is a lack of data concerning their range sizes in India, the landscape approach would secure a mosaic of habitats within key landscapes which would help to preserve a higher diversity of cats and assure the genetic contiguity for small cats across interspersed habitats. Without this, small cat populations could otherwise be easily fragmented given their potentially small home ranges.

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[26] Rodgers, W.A., Panwar, H.S., & Mathur, V.B. (2002) Wildlife Protected Areas in India: a Review (Executive Summary). Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Rodgers W.A. and Panwar H.S. (1988). Biogeographic classification of India. Dehradun: New Forest.

[27] Now being elaborated through Eco-Sensitive Zone planning for all PA buffer zones across India

[28] For example, see: https://www.thegef.org/news/integrated-ecosystem-management

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Fragmentation would lead to increased dispersal distances[29] which could impact finding mates and higher rates of mortality along with reduced genetic diversity which in turn could make them susceptible to diseases and other natural threats. Landscapes also contain a diversity of features such as topography, a matrix of connected habitats and elevations which would support a higher diversity of felids, each of which may be specialised on a particular habitat type - akin to habitat sorting[30].

46. The landscape conservation approach necessitates working across multiple scales and stakeholders in the natural resource management sector, including local communities, local forest user groups, small-scale agriculture users and the private sector. This recognizes that a sustainably managed landscape and provision of ecosystem services is critical for local livelihood provision, and likewise, sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community land use options are key to landscape conservation. The landscape conservation approach recognizes emerging threats to each of the project landscapes, particularly in the form of habitat fragmentation driven by economic development and increasing human populations, and includes coordination with production sectors, towards reducing threats to biodiversity, increasing sector engagement in landscape conservation, and facilitating local – state - national dialogue. The project will also seek to embed Global Wildlife Program threat-reduction priorities regarding combating human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal wildlife trade. However, while the project promotes the landscape conservation approach, this is balanced by a focus on specific intervention sites that are of known importance for small wild cat conservation according to the criteria in **Box 2** below. Finally, the project will aim to mainstream planning for small cat conservation into the programmes of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to ensure its institutionalization for sustainable outcomes and greater potential for upscaling nationally – therefore the term 'wild cats' is largely used in the intervention strategy to reflect the proposed integration of small cat conservation into planning for the large cat species.

47. **The Project Objective** is to secure populations and habitats of wild cats subject to habitat encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern and western India. The project objective will be achieved through four complementary components that aim to build the required enabling policy framework and institutional capacity (Component 1); strengthen government management of wild cats and habitat (Component 2) and build community stewardship (Component 3) at landscape level; and enhance private sector partnerships, regional collaboration, and knowledge transfer and learning supported by gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation (Component 4). The project intervention pathways are described in the theory of change diagram in **Figure 3** below, with supporting assumptions and evidence for the landscape conservation approach and individual project outcomes given in **Table 4**. The baseline situation, incremental reasoning and global environmental benefits are summarized in the Results Section. These assumptions are also included in the Monitoring Plan in **Annex 3**, and will be regularly reviewed during project implementation as part of the PIR reporting, following sound adaptive management and risk management principles.

48. **Component 1** will put in place a landscape-level approach to wild cat conservation that will guide the revision and implementation of existing policies, plans and programs of government departments at national and sub-national levels, and other donor/partner initiatives. GEF support will be used to establish landscape-level master plans for wild cat conservation (**Output 1.1**) in Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest landscapes through a participatory process involving government agencies, communities and other local stakeholders. These master plans will provide the vision and strategic basis for multi-stakeholder engagement in landscape

[29] For example, see: Napolitano C., Díaz D., Sanderson J., Johnson W.E., Ritland K., Ritland C.E., Poulin E. (2015). Reduced Genetic Diversity and Increased Dispersal in Guigna (*Leopardus guigna*) in Chilean Fragmented Landscapes, Journal of Heredity, Volume 106, Issue S1, Pages 522–536, https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esv025

[30] Mukherjee S., Athreya R., Karunakaran P.V. and Choudhary P. (2016). Ecological species sorting in relation to habitat structure in the small cat guild of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Technical Report No. PR-182. 52 pp.

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conservation actions and a framework for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of progress, including demonstration of inter-agency collaboration mechanisms for management of the Environmentally Sensitive Zones (ESZ) that are being established around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries[31]. The implementation of landscape conservation master plans will be supported by outputs under Components 2 (integration of landscape master plan actions into existing site-based conservation and PA management plans), 3 (community mobilization and incentives for collective action towards small cat conservation) and 4 (creation of business partnerships to support private-sector supported conservation and livelihood pilots in project landscapes).

49. Participatory processes will engage stakeholders and conservation partners at national and subnational levels to develop national Species Recovery Action Plans for Caracal, Fishing Cat and Clouded Leopard[32] informed by a national database and atlas on wild cats (**Output 1.2**) – providing a framework for action in support of the landscape master plans and other project activities. Standardized procedures will support the operationalization of landscape conservation master plans, including the development of a monitoring protocol for wild cats, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for HWC management, and strengthening human-rights approaches to wildlife-related law enforcement (**Output 1.3**). Guidelines on small cat conservation will be developed in accordance with landscape-level master plans, SoPs and national species recovery action plans developed under Component 1 and integrated into revised big cat conservation strategies, Tiger Conservation Plans and the management plans of other types of PAs (**Output 1.4**). Landscape conservation priorities for wild cats will be mainstreamed through capacity building of State departments (e.g. Forest, Revenue, Animal Husbandry, Land Use Planning, Agriculture & Fisheries, Water Management), District Administrations and research institutions for landscape conservation (**Output 1.5**).

50. **Components 2 and 3** will be implemented in two project landscapes (Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest), putting in place the required local capacity, collaborations and community stewardship for landscape-scale conservation in globally-significant landscapes for wild cats that are focused on Key Biodiversity Areas where small cat distribution overlaps with big cat habitats (see **Annexes 1 & 16**). **Component 2** will bring together key government departments with roles to play in wild cat conservation to support the implementation of landscape-scale master plans. This will help to build a complementary and coordinated action portfolio for wild cat conservation bringing together big cat and small cat conservation under the guidance and supervision of NTCA. Supporting the implementation of landscape conservation master plans, targeted interventions will be demonstrated to improve key habitats used by wild cats and their diverse prey (**Output 2.1**), including measures such as forest, grassland and wetland habitat management. Finally, frontline staff will be capacitated and equipped to support wild cat conservation, monitoring and enforcement (**Output 2.2**). This will include completion of security assessments and provision of equipment for monitoring and surveillance and training in state-of-the art monitoring protocols (e.g. M-STrIPES 'Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status' protocols and software system), and implementation of SOPs for wild cat conservation developed under Component 1 including training in community engagement and delivery of a human rights-based approach to site-based wildlife law enforcement.

51. Working in parallel with Component 2, in the same wild cat landscapes, **Component 3** will build community stewardship and engagement towards the co-management of wild cat habitats. Target locations for community collaboration on wild cat conservation were determined during the PPG phase, and local

[31] ESZs must be established for National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries under the Environmental Protection Rules 1986. See: http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2The%20Environment%20%28Protection%29%20Rules%2C%201986.pdf According to government guidelines (2011), the purpose of ESZs is to provide a shock absorber for the PAs, and a transition zone between areas of high protection to areas of lesser protection. Their extent is flexible, with width up to 10km from a PA boundary as a general principle. See: http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/1%20Guidelines%20for%20Eco-Sensitive%20Zones%20around%20Protected%20Areas.pdf

[32] Fishing Cat is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and Schedule 1 and rare and is greatly threatened by habitat loss and conflict. Clouded Leopard is Vulnerable and involved in some IWT cases. Caracal is representative of the arid / semi-arid biome and a Schedule 1 species in India and also very rare.

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consultations conducted to confirm support for project activities (see Stakeholder Engagement Plan in **Annex 7B**). The project will strengthen the governance and capacity of existing community and village-level institutions (e.g. Gram Panchayats, Women Self-Help Groups, Eco-Development Committees (EDC), Forest Rights Committees (FRC), Tribal Village Councils (Pakke and Eaglenest), cooperatives, etc.) to take a greater role in wild cat conservation in support of landscape-level strategies (**Output 3.1**). The project will provide training on wild cat habitat management, participatory monitoring and business skills. Community engagement and participation will be enhanced through awareness and outreach programmes for local communities including documentation of related traditional knowledge (**Output 3.2**). A new model for participatory community monitoring of wild cat populations and HWC damage and risks will be operationalized (**Output 3.3**) with the support of village-level institutions, raising understanding of local wild cat population status, the quality and use of habitats within PAs and across the surrounding mosaic of forest and agricultural land, and on the extent of threats impacting habitats, as well as HWC, poaching and roadkills. Incentives will be provided to support community participation in wild cat conservation and reduce pressure on wild cat habitats through diversification of local livelihoods (**Output 3.4**). Uptake of more sustainable land and habitat management practices, and mitigation of any livelihood impacts from the actions in component 2, will be supported by value addition to agriculture products to reduce environmentally damaging farming practices, while improved livestock management will aim to reduce open grazing practices and roaming abandoned cattle. Establishment/enhancement of tourist facilities and homestay tourism programmes where feasible at targeted sites, provided a business model is there, will provide income to communities to reduce dependency on natural resource exploitation. Finally, HWC hotspots will be identified and innovative mechanisms for preventing and managing HWC in areas adjacent to PAs and corridors demonstrated (**Output 3.5**). This will involve the completion of SAFE workshops with communities and local stakeholders applying the WWF SAFE Framework, followed by investment in community-based HWC solutions (e.g. solar electric fencing) that respond to the identified issues.

52. Finally, **Component 4** will build the necessary partnerships and platforms for integrated and collaborative wild cat conservation. The establishment and initial operation of a national-level platform for green business including development of a private-sector[33] fund will be supported (**Output 4.1**) to engage the private sector in small wild cat conservation and facilitate the identification of sustainable financing options to maintain community stewardship outside the core tiger habitats in PAs. This is expected to include partnerships with agricultural (e.g. sugar production at Dudhwa) and tourism businesses operating within the project landscapes, supporting pilot conservation and livelihood initiatives under Component 3. Targeted communications and outreach (**Output 4.2**) will be deployed to targeted audiences at national and subnational levels to address threats and build support for project actions in the landscapes. Transboundary and regional collaboration on wild cat conservation, including with tiger range states, will be enhanced through integrating small wild cat concerns into existing agreements (e.g. on tigers), and strengthening local level collaboration under existing agreements[34] for the sharing of information and knowledge on small wild cat conservation, collaborative training activities, and identification of areas of common concern and agreed joint actions for monitoring, species conservation and combating illegal trafficking (**Output 4.3**). This will explicitly support collaboration with the WWF/GEF-6 Integrated Landscape Management in the Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal (ILaM), and the UNDP/GEF-7 GWP tourism project in Bhutan. Web-based knowledge platforms and e-networks will be established (**Output 4.4**) to facilitate knowledge sharing and information dissemination between landscapes, States and through the Global Wildlife Program, while an effective M&E system (**Output 4.5**) will help ensure project impact and adaptive management and adequate consideration of gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards.

53. Components 1 and 4 will be supported by UNDP, and Components 2 and 3 by WWF as GEF Agency.

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[33] Note – while referred to as private sector here, government-linked corporations are also an important component and are included in this definition

[34] For example, the transboundary conservation agreements on tigers under NTCA – see: https://projecttiger.nic.in/content/52_6_Nepal.aspx

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Project Demonstration Landscape and Intervention Sites

54. As mentioned in the **Development Challenge** (above), the project focuses its main interventions on key landscapes for wild cat conservation in the three biotic provinces situated in northern, northeastern and western India that support suites of small cat species, along with leopard and tiger. Within each of the Biotic Provinces selected, the landscapes for the project work were identified through an assessment of alignment to project objectives, and consultation with experts, officials from the MoEFCC, State Forest Departments, NTCA and GTF. At the PPG inception workshop in July 2019, a scorecard for the various landscapes from a small cat conservation perspective, was presented and deliberated upon. Some criteria were: uniqueness of habitat, representation or presence of small cats, other biodiversity, potential for community participation, law and order issues, key threats and others. Based on this, the final project landscapes were identified. To obtain further clarity on the chosen landscapes and the issues within them, the PPG team conducted visits to each landscape to interact with stakeholders.

55. Three landscapes are targeted by the project, of which two will be the main focus of interventions on the ground in Components 2 and 3: Dudhwa landscape in Uttar Pradesh and Pakke-Eaglenest landscape in Arunachal Pradesh, while Ranthambhore landscape in Rajasthan will receive limited support for species conservation planning, awareness raising and knowledge exchange through Components 1 and 4 only. The locations of these landscapes are shown in **Figure 1** above, threat analysis in **Table 2**, summary of key characteristics in **Table 3** below, maps and coordinates in **Annex 1**, and further details in the landscape and PA profiles in **Annex 16**. Additional baseline information on all three landscapes is provided in **Annexes 18 and 20** and METT baselines for the relevant PAs in **Annex 10**. Each landscape is based around a key PA for wild cat conservation and also extends into surrounding buffer zones that contain important habitats for small cat conservation. Activities will be conducted within PAs, buffer zones (demarcated as Eco-Sensitive Zones up to 10km around each PA) and identified tiger corridors within these landscapes. Project activities will be targeted on specific focal areas within each landscape, based on the criteria in **Box 2** below, including their importance as hotspots for small wild cat conservation. 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).

56.

Box 2. Criteria for Selection of Focal Areas within Landscapes

PRIMARY CRITERIA

- Importance of the focal area as a hotspot for small cats
- KBA / Globally significant biodiversity values
- Level of threat facing small cats and their habitats

>> Conservation priority = biodiversity value versus level of threat

SECONDARY CRITERIA

- Stakeholder support for project intervention
- Policy and planning priorities – good alignment with government plans will support success
- Potential socio-economic benefits to local populations
- Site-related baseline projects to build on, and/or ongoing initiatives to coordinate with, that may strengthen impacts and sustainability
- Site-related cofinancing support for the project intervention
- Operational feasibility – adequate access, staff safety, cost-effectiveness for intervention (e.g. field bases)

Synergy between sites will be targeted for efficient implementation and overall impact and sustainability

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Table 3. Summary of Characteristics for the Project Demonstration Landscapes

Protected Areas	KBAs	Small Cat Species	Other Biodiversity	Key Threats	Intervention Priorities
Landscape: Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh); Area: 4639 km²					
Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (220,177 ha), including: Dudhwa National Park (NP) 49,029 ha Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) 40,009 ha Kishanpur WLS 20,341 ha	18417-Dudhwa NP 18419 – Katerniaghat WLS & Girijapur Barrage 18420- Kishanpur WLS	Fishing Cat VU Jungle Cat Rusty-spotted Cat NT Leopard Cat	*25 globally threatened species, including:* Gharial CR Mugger crocodile VU Long-billed Vulture CR Oriental White-backed Vulture CR Slender-billed Vulture CR Bengal Florican CR Lesser Florican EN Pallas's Fish-Eagle EN Tiger EN Hispid Hare EN Asian elephant EN Ganges river dolphin EN Indian Pangolin EN Hog deer EN Leopard VU Fishing cat VU Sloth bear VU Barasingha VU Sambar VU Greater one-horned rhinoceros VU	Human-wildlife conflict (various species); Free-ranging dog presence; Unsustainable grazing; Changing hydrology and siltation of water-bodies; Hydro-electric power plant / dam on river; Invasive alien species impacting natural habitats	Improving grassland and wetland habitats in Katerniaghat WLS and Dudhwa NP for Fishing Cat; Reducing HWC affecting communities around the PAs, esp. leopard attack fatalities; Improved livestock management and livelihoods to reduce grazing pressure; Engaging sugarcane farming communities in wild cat conservation incl. reduction of HWC and sensitized farming techniques; Strengthened frontline capacity for patrolling, anti-poaching and HWC management; Free-ranging dog control programme
Landscape: Pakke-Eaglenest (Arunachal Pradesh); Area: 2928 km²					
Pakke Tiger Reserve 137,695 ha Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary 21,700 ha Sessa Orchid Sanctuary 10,000 ha	18054-Pakhui or Pakke WLS 18041- Eaglenest and Sessa Sanctuaries 18055-Papum Reserved Forest 18057-Shergaon, Mandla - Phudung and Kalaktang 18051-Nafra - Lada area	Clouded Leopard VU Fishing Cat VU Jungle Cat Leopard Cat Marbled Cat NT Golden Cat NT	*31 globally threatened species, including:* Assam roofed turtle EN Keeled box turtle EN White-rumped vulture CR Bugun Liocichla CR White-winged duck EN Hog deer EN Tiger EN Wild dog EN Chinese pangolin EN Asian Elephant EN Sambar VU Leopard VU Himalayan black bear VU Gaur VU	Poaching / illegal wildlife trade; Human-wildlife conflict (various species); Unsustainable use of fuelwood and NTFPs; Illegal logging; Forest encroachment for agriculture, settlements; Hydro-electric power plant / dam on river; Habitat fragmentation by roads, proposed new road, roadkills;	Restore forest connectivity for critical corridor areas and managing and rehabilitating degraded forest habitats in the ESZ; Reduce forest degradation in PA buffer zones (ESZ) through improved regulation of timber extraction and sustainable forest management; Targeted awareness raising and community engagement to combat poaching and IWT, forest encroachment and degradation;

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				Forest and grassland fires	Livelihoods including community-based tourism programmes, agroforestry and NTFP production
Landscape: Ranthambhore (Rajasthan); Area: 3974 km²					
Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, 1411.29 km² Keladevi WLS 630 km² Karauli Territorial Division	18358-Ranthambore NP and Tiger Reserve	Fishing Cat VU Rusty-spotted Cat NT Caracal Jungle Cat Asiatic Wild Cat	*15 globally threatened species, including:* Mugger crocodile VU Long-billed Vulture CR Oriental White-backed Vulture CR Red-headed Vulture CR Egyptian Vulture EN Black-bellied tern EN Lesser Adjutant VU Sarus Crane VU Tiger EN Leopard VU Sloth bear VU Sambar VU	Free-ranging dog presence; Unsustainable grazing; Unsustainable use of fuelwood and NTFPs; Disturbance from excessive tourism; Ravine in-filling (encroachment); Sand, gravel and stone mining; Invasive alien species impacting natural habitats.	Limited intervention in Component 1 involving species conservation plans, SOPs and guidelines for small cat conservation focusing on Caracal; Limited intervention in Component 4 involving Awareness raising and knowledge exchange regarding small cat and esp. Caracal conservation; Also small grants for CBO/NGO activities outside PAs; Capacity building for Forest Dept staff

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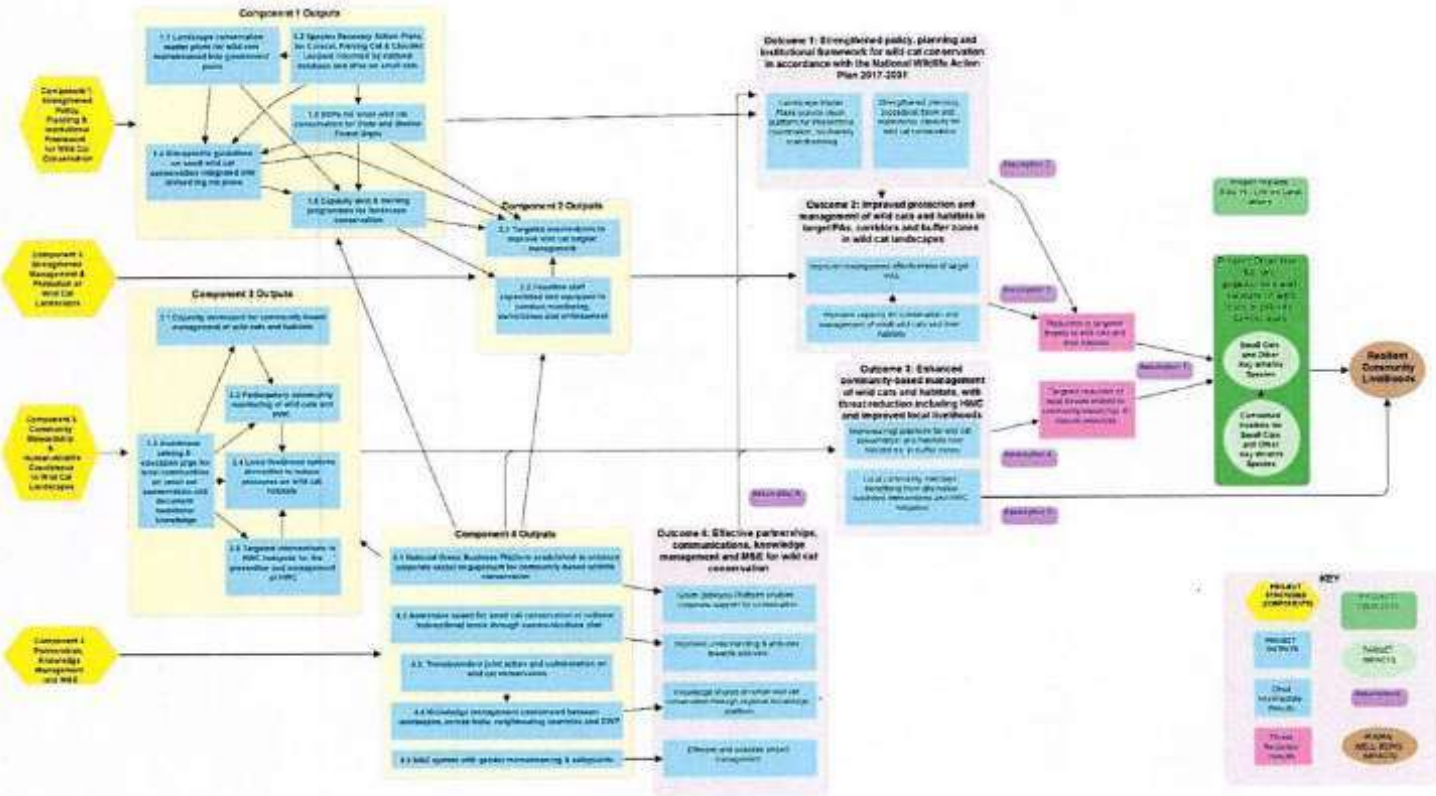


Figure 3. Theory of change diagram for the project

See **Figure 2** for Conceptual Diagram describing current state and points of intervention, and **Table 4** for details of Assumptions

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Table 4. Assumptions and Evidence for the Project Theory of Change

Project Objective	Assumption	Questions for Monitoring Assumptions	Notes and References
To secure populations and habitats of wild cats subject to habitat encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern and western India	#1: The landscape conservation approach will benefit the conservation status of small wild cat populations and their habitats in targeted regions of India	-What tangible changes in the protection and management of key habitats have occurred as a result of the project approach to landscape conservation? -Has the connectivity of habitats for wildlife been emphasized in landscape and sector plans for the targeted areas? -To what extent has small cat conservation been integrated into Tiger Conservation Plans? -How have land uses outside PAs been influenced by the landscape conservation planning approach?	Scientific understanding of the distribution, abundance and conservation status of small wild cats in India is currently very incomplete – with a few exceptions, information is anecdotal and has not been systematically collected. One exception is the 'bycatch' data on non-target species from camera traps during the systematic monitoring of tigers in tiger landscapes, however these data have not been extracted and analysed to date[35]. During the PPG, desk study of available evidence and interviews with stakeholders allowed key threats to wild cats and their habitats to be determined in each landscape (see Development Challenge and **Annexes 16, 18, 20** for details). These included the fragmentation and loss of forested habitat due to agricultural encroachment for forest-dependent species such as the Asiatic golden cat, marbled cat, clouded leopard, rusty-spotted cat and leopard cat; conversion of 'wasteland' scrub, ravines and grassland for agricultural use affecting Caracal and Asian Wildcat; and loss and degradation of wetlands and riparian habitats due to agricultural encroachment affecting the fishing cat. All of these habitat-related threats are driven by land use changes that do not take into consideration habitat integrity and connectivity for wildlife conservation. The landscape conservation approach represents a shift away from the traditional approach of focusing resources solely on increasingly isolated protected areas, given that these PAs are ecologically and socio-economically inter-dependent on their surrounding habitats, corridors and mix-used areas within the landscapes. This approach is enshrined in the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-31 and has been successfully applied to tiger conservation in India, with modelling showing a reduction of extinction risk for a study in Central India, for example[36]. The current project 'piggy-backs' on tiger conservation efforts in each landscape, seeking to strengthen landscape conservation and inclusion of small cats in conservation planning. The landscape approach has also been successfully applied in the transboundary Terai Arc Landscape with Nepal[37]) and in Bhutan (where PAs cover more than 50% of the country and are connected by eight biological corridors[38]). The landscape approach recognizes protected areas as core areas for biodiversity conservation and aims to ensure their integration with sustainable land use in buffer zones, and biological corridors that connect PAs in order to deliver sustainable and climate-resilient natural resource management.

[35] Efforts were made to obtain these data during the PPG, but permission has not yet been received from NTCA
[36] Thatte et al. 2017: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320717307346
[37] http://conservationcorridor.org/cpb/Ministry-of-Forests-and-Soil-Conservation-Nepal_2015.pdf; https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780815515708000104
[38] http://www.tropecol.com/pdf/open/PDF_48_2/05%20Wangchuk.pdf

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Project Outcomes	Assumption	Questions for Monitoring Assumptions	Notes and References
1: Strengthened policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation in accordance with the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031	#2: There is political will to support the inter-sectoral cooperation needed for landscape conservation and to address the needs of small wild cats in addition to flagship species such as tiger, elephant and rhino.	-What tangible examples of coordinated inter-sectoral actions for landscape conservation have occurred? - to what extent have the District Collector's Offices coordinated local sector agency inputs for landscape conservation? - how has inter-sectoral coordination been institutionalized in Eco-Sensitive Zone policies and planning mechanisms? - Has awareness been raised among related sectors to support biodiversity mainstreaming in their practices within the landscapes?	The central policy and planning framework exists in the form of the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031 under the Wildlife Division of the MoEFCC, together with the National Development Agenda, and the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, with the National Biodiversity Action Plan listing MoEFCC and 23 other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India for achieving the National Biodiversity Targets. NITI Aayog is entrusted with coordinating implementation of Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals. The NWAP overtly supports the landscape conservation approach (Chapter 2) and integration of NWAP with other sectoral programmes (Chapter 17), recognizing the need to mainstream biodiversity conservation into production sector agency plans. It includes the establishment of institutional mechanisms at central and state levels to coordinate implementation of the NWAP, and projects for MoEFCC to promote a policy of biodiversity impact assessment for all planned government projects and programmes, and to review wildlife impact assessments. At District level, the District Collector's Offices provide a focal point for integration of sector agencies, that potentially could support planning for buffer / ESZ management. The reality is likely to be challenging (as all intersectoral collaboration is) to the extent that this represents a risk for project success (see **Annex 5**), but project-supported awareness raising, stakeholder engagement and facilitated dialogue towards landscape conservation plans will assist in building the necessary cooperation with the assistance of non-governmental partners.
2: Improved protection and management of wild cats and habitats in target	#3: State, District and village level government institutions	-To what extent do the targeted State, District and village level govt institutions	All three project landscapes include well-established Tiger Reserves that include buffer and corridor areas outside the Protected Areas, whose management is guided by the Tiger Conservation Plans and supported by wider baseline landscape programmes operated by WWF India, as well as a variety of conservation and community livelihood support activities supported by governmental and non-governmental bodies. Consequently, there is some experience of

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PAs, corridors and buffer zones in wild cat landscapes	governing PA buffer areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones and adjacent production landscape areas have sufficient capacity to implement integrated natural resource planning and management	understand and support ESZ policies, plans and management requirements? -What changes in awareness and capacity of targeted agencies have occurred as a result of project intervention? -Have changes in capacity resulted in improved natural resource management?	landscape conservation in each landscape, only this is focused on tigers and the integration of PA management with sustainable land uses in buffer and corridor areas remains weak, often with conflicts due to HWC and heavy anti-poaching enforcement around the PAs. The Eco-Sensitive Zones are in the process of being negotiated for the PAs in each landscape[39], this process itself representing a challenge for intersectoral cooperation and understanding. The project will support capacity development of State and District agencies based on the capacity development assessment during the PPG which identified specific areas for improvement (see **Annex 19**), and for forest department staff (see **Annex 18**). The project will build the vision and awareness for the landscape conservation approach through targeted awareness campaigns, support stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing (see **Annex 7B**), and the development of SOPs in relevant subjects. Project awareness raising will emphasize the importance of ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources in increasing the resilience of COVID-affected communities.
3: Enhanced community-based management of wild cats and habitats, with threat reduction including HWC and improved local livelihoods	#4: Communities are motivated to participate in sustainable livelihood activities that support landscape conservation for the benefit of small cats and other wildlife	-What is the level of participation achieved within targeted communities? -What benefits have participating communities received as a result of their participation? -What recognition have such benefits received in the participating communities? -What actions ensure the	As for Outcome 2, in each of the three landscapes there are examples of communities that are already participating in sustainable livelihood activities that are aligned with conservation benefits, such as Moghiya communities at Ranthambhore collaborating with Tiger Watch to conduct anti-poaching patrols outside the Tiger Reserve and whose women are receiving training in clothes making with Dhugh NGO; Tharu communities at Dudhwa participating in alternative energy solutions and handicraft production with support from WWF India and Forest Department to reduce firewood consumption; and a Bugun community near Eaglenest conducting patrolling and ecotourism for birdwatchers (see **Annexes 7B, 8, 16, 18, 20**). This project will seek to take such examples to another level through providing a landscape conservation framework, opportunities for learning and sharing experiences, and targeted support for livelihood diversification and participation in habitat restoration, participatory monitoring of small wild cats, etc. The project will also enhance the capacities of gram panchayats, villages, community groups and District level government staff for sustainable, community-based approaches for landscape conservation. This will involve building institutional and community capacity to implement interventions to reduce deforestation and habitat degradation, providing technical training and resources for community based approaches to wildlife conservation, and facilitating the simplification of compensation processes for fair settlement of legitimate HWC claims.

[39] in line with the ESZ Guidelines of 9 February 2011

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		sustainability of the livelihood activities? - Do these livelihood activities reduce exploitative or unsustainable practices that impact on small cat habitats or conservation efforts, (such as opening new farmlands in sensitive areas)?	
	#5: Livelihood and HWC mitigation interventions will contribute towards resilient community livelihoods	-What is the level of participation in livelihood and HWC mitigation interventions in targeted communities? -Are any stakeholders spontaneously adopting such practices in the light of project demonstrations? - What tangible benefits have resulted from these practices?	Livelihood interventions are only likely to contribute towards resilient community livelihoods if they are participatory and concerned communities have a significant say in the alternatives to be adopted, and receive sufficient start-up support and technical assistance for these to become sustainable. While project resources are somewhat limited (e.g. compared to many poverty alleviation or rural development-focused projects), the proposed participatory process (see Stakeholder Engagement Plan in **Annex 7B**), financial and technical assistance proposed (see Output 3.4) and considerable project duration (6 years) provide sufficient opportunity to achieve such an outcome. In addition, the landscape scale interventions emphasizing ecosystem conservation and connectivity are consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation (recognized by IPCC as an integral part of adaptation strategy[40]), and systematic participatory planning and investment will address HWC mitigation in key hotspot areas, increasing community livelihood resilience. The project will increase awareness of the risk of zoonotic disease transmission between wildlife and people to encourage reduction of the human-wildlife interface.

[40] Noble, I.R., S. Huq, Y.A. Anokhin, J. Carmin, D. Goudou, F.P. Lansigan, B. Osman-Elasha, and A. Villamizar, 2014: Adaptation needs and options. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L.White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 833-868.

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4: Effective partnerships, communications, knowledge management and M&E for wild cat conservation	#6: Improved knowledge management will increase capacity for more effective conservation management and threat reduction	-What examples are there of increased access to knowledge on landscape conservation for small wild cats at targeted locations? -How has increased access to knowledge informed conservation planning and local action?	This is hard to demonstrate, however the national priority afforded to tiger conservation is an outstanding example of how species conservation can be successful when it receives political backing, a strong planning and implementation framework and substantial outreach. This project aims to build on the established success of the tiger conservation model, adapting this to benefit small cats, and seeking to strengthen engagement among stakeholders in the landscapes around the tiger reserves. In addition, the GEF Global Wildlife Program (9071)[41] and its second phase launched in June 2019 (10200)[42] exemplify a GEF programmatic framework facilitating coordinated knowledge management and cross-fertilisation of the individual projects under its scope, through webinars and sharing of documents, etc. This provides an important and established global mechanism for sharing experiences and results from the current project.

Project Document Annexes referred to above:
Annex 5 - UNDP Risk Register; Annex 7B - Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Project Implementation; Annex 8 - Gender Analysis and Action Plan; Annex 16 - Demonstration Landscape and Protected Area Profiles; Annex 18 - Baseline Analysis Report on Small Wild Cats including Capacity Development Scorecards for Frontline Staff; Annex 19 - Capacity Development Scorecards for Targeted State and District Agencies; Annex 20 - Baseline Analysis Report on SLM for the Project Landscapes

[41] https://www.thegef.org/publications/combatting-illegal-wildlife-trade-2015
[42] https://www.thegef.org/project/global-wildlife-program

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Alignment with GEF-7 Focal Area Strategy

57. This project will address a wide range of threats to poorly known and globally threatened small wild cat species and their habitats, including poaching, illegal trade and human-wildlife conflict, and mainstreaming small wild cat conservation at State and landscape level. These efforts will also benefit a wide range of other wildlife including large cats (tiger and leopard), Asian elephant, and greater one-horned rhinoceros co-existing in the same landscapes. As such, the project is aligned to GEF-7 focal area objective *BD-1-2a: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through Global Wildlife Program to prevent extinction of known threatened species*, and BD-2-7: *Landscapes and marine habitat under improved management (excluding protected areas).*

58. The project aligns to the GWP Theory of Change in the following ways: i) implementation of landscape-level conservation management plans integrated across existing species and site plans and programmes will support improved management of PAs, improve biodiversity management across landscapes and support healthy wildlife populations; ii) increased frontline capacity for patrolling and surveillance activities will improve PA management and support stabilization of wildlife populations with reduced poaching; iii) effective HWC management strategies and the provision of financial incentives to communities will support community participation in wild cat conservation and bring about more positive attitudes towards wildlife and human-wildlife co-existence; iv) targeted awareness, advocacy and social mobilization can achieve a shift in attitudes and behaviours that encourage support for wild cat conservation and reduce participation in poaching and illegal trafficking of wild cats and other co-existing species. The project will make the following contributions to the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program **(Table 5)**.

Table 5. Alignment of the project with the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program framework

GWP Component	Relevant GWP program outcomes	Key project contributions to relevant GWP outcomes	Key project targets
1: Conserve wildlife and enhance habitat resilience	a) Stabilization or increase in populations of, and area occupied by, wildlife at program sites b) Areas of landscapes and terrestrial/ marine protected areas under improved practices and management effectiveness (METT for PAs) c) Formal agreements signed to increase	a) The overall project objective is to *Secure populations and habitats of wild cats subject to habitat encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern and western India*, therefore all project outcomes will contribute towards this GWP outcome b) The project will directly contribute towards the enhanced management of wild cat landscapes including tiger reserves, PAs and wildlife corridors, with a provision of using other types of management units under appropriate laws of the country through planning, capacity development, community engagement and a range of interventions aiming to strengthen species and habitat management (Project Outcomes 1,2,3)	-Landscape conservation master plans for wild cats developed for two globally-significant wild cat landscapes (Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest) with implementation supported by multi-sector partnerships -Tiger Conservation Plans within project landscapes incorporate specific requirements for small wild cat conservation; -Improved management of 389,572 ha[43] of PAs in Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest landscapes indicate "sound" management (as measured by METT scores -Improved management of an estimated 100,000 ha of agricultural and forest mosaic that buffers and connects PAs and

[43] Core and Buffer Areas of Pakke TR, Eaglenest WS, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Dudhwa TR. Excludes ESZ of Eaglenest WS (5588 ha) and Ranthambhore TR (141,128 ha). Project Concept target was 520,949 ha.

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	connectivity of landscapes and establish transnational conservation areas d) Strengthened long-term partnerships, governance, and finance frameworks for PAs e) Increased revenues for protected areas and landscapes	c) Landscape conservation master plans for wild cats will be developed for two globally-significant wild cat landscapes (Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest) with implementation supported by multi-sector partnerships (Project Outcome 1) d) Partnerships, procedures and institutional capacity for landscape management and wild cat conservation within and outside PAs will be strengthened (Project Outcomes 1 and 2), as well as improved knowledge management (Project Outcome 4) e) Public-private-partnerships and private sector funds will support investment in project-related activities in the project landscapes (Project Outcome 4)	provides important habitats for small cats
2: Promote wildlife-based and resilient economies (WBE)	a) Additional livelihood activities established b) Increased Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) strategies and site interventions deployed	a) Capacity development for sustainable livelihood interventions supported by demonstration activities for targeted communities to reduce pressures on wild cat habitats and HWC, including: sustainable livestock management, nature-based tourism, NTFP marketing, agroforestry (Project Outcome 3) b) Innovative solutions for preventing and managing HWC deployed at identified hotspots within wild cat landscapes, and increased adoption of land use and habitat management techniques to minimize potential for conflicts (Project Outcome 3)	-60% reduction in annual incidence of HWC impacting crops, livestock and people in four targeted communities
3: Combat wildlife trafficking	a) Improved enforcement, judicial, and prosecutorial institutional capacity to combat wildlife crime (site-based law enforcement) b) Decreased number of target species poached (i.e. use of SMART tools)	a) Frontline training and equipment for monitoring and surveillance of wild cats and poaching-related activities, strengthening site-based anti-poaching and enforcement capacity (Project Outcome 2) b) Communication initiatives and outreach to minimize local community engagement in poaching, retaliatory killing and illegal trade in wild cats and their body parts, helping build human-wildlife coexistence (Project Outcome 3)	-Improved frontline capacity for conservation and management of small wild cats and their habitats, as measured by Small Cats Capacity Development Scorecard (see Annex 18 for Scorecard baselines) for: Dudhwa Landscape and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscape -Targeted 20% reduction in key threats to wild cat populations and their habitats, as measured by patrol reporting/ MSTRIPES -Improved frontline capacity for conservation and management of small wild cats and their habitats, as measured by Small Cats Capacity Development Scorecard
4: Reduce demand	n/a. *This project does not aim to reduce demand for wildlife products; however, it will aim to raise awareness of wildlife protection law and the impacts of wildlife crime on wildlife populations; see Component 5.*		
5: Coordinate and	a) Enhanced understanding	a) Improved understanding of values of wild cats and more positive attitudes towards small wild cat conservation	-Improved understanding of values of wild cats and more positive attitudes towards small

enhance learning	of wildlife as an economic asset b) Strengthened public-private partnerships for promoting wildlife-based economies c) Enhanced upstream sector engagement (governance, fiscal, finance, and trade) d) Improved coordination among countries, donors and other key stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the GWP	among target audiences (Project Outcome 4) b) National green business platform operationalized and PPPs and private sector funds supporting investment in project-related activities in each of the three landscapes (Project Outcome 4) c) Business and governance partners engaged through green business platform and PPPs, landscape governance platforms and annual stakeholder forum meetings d) Knowledge management to identify, document and share project best practices and lessons learned between project landscapes, across India and other wild cat range countries and across the Global Wildlife Program; and enhanced regional cooperation between India and neighbouring tiger range States and agreed coordinated action portfolio (Project Outcome 4)	wild cat conservation among target audiences including national and state government line agencies (Forest and Wildlife, Environment, Agriculture, Revenue, Rural Development, etc) and concerned NGOs, as measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) score - National-level green business platform operational with TOR, membership of at least 20 corporate bodies, and actively investing through at least one partnership activity in each project landscape - Best practices developed, disseminated and used, targeting: integrated management of ESZs to benefit wildlife, management of targeted Wasteland habitats, small wild cat – friendly agriculture practices, HWC management in targeted communities, community-based monitoring of small wild cats, gender mainstreaming and traditional knowledge relevant to wild cats / habitats

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results

59. **The long-term solution of the project**, namely to put in place an integrated model for wild cat conservation at landscape scale that can be upscaled and replicated nationally and in wild cat landscapes of other range states, will be realized through the achievement of the **Project Objective:** to secure populations and habitats of wild cats subject to habitat encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern and western India. The reduction of threats to wild cats and their habitats as well as benefits to project stakeholders will be reflected through the Project Objective indicators (see Results Framework for details), showing the number of direct project beneficiaries; the area of terrestrial PAs under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (389,572 ha[44]); and the area of landscapes under improved practices benefiting biodiversity (excluding PAs) (100,000 ha)[45]. The GEF funding requested by the Indian government will be used to achieve the Objective Outcomes through achievement of key results under the following Component Outcomes[46]:

[44] Core and Buffer Areas of Pakke TR, Eaglenest WS, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Dudhwa TR. Excludes ESZ of Eaglenest WS (5,588 ha) and Ranthambhore TR (141,128 ha). Project Concept target was 520,949 ha.

[45] Note – the total landscape areas are much larger than this – Dudhwa 4,639km², Pakke-Eaglenest 2,928km², Ranthambhore 3,974km²

[46] Results under component/outcomes 2 & 3 are reflected under the WWF project document, and will not be elaborated in the UNDP Project Document. UNDP's ProDoc will elaborate results under Outcomes 1 and 3.

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Outcome 1: Strengthened policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation in accordance with the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031

- Landscape conservation master plans for wild cats developed for two globally-significant wild cat landscapes (Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest) with implementation supported by multi-sector partnerships;
- National level Species Recovery Action Plans for Caracal, Fishing Cat and Clouded Leopard informed by a national database and atlas on wild cats;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for small cat and leopard conservation developed and institutionalized in State and district forest departments;
- Site-specific guidelines on small cat conservation integrated into revised big cat conservation strategies and management plans of tiger reserves and other PAs;
- Improved institutional capacity of relevant government agencies for landscape conservation incorporating wild cat needs, as measured by Capacity Development Scorecard **(Annex 19)**, for MoEFCC, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh State, District and Municipal Agencies including Forestry, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Medicinal Plants, Tourism, etc) – from a collective baseline score of 34.2 to 48 by end of project.

Outcome 2: Improved protection and management of wild cats and habitats in target PAs, corridors and buffer zones in wild cat landscapes (Managed by WWF)

- Increased management effectiveness of targeted PAs covering 389,572 ha indicate "sound" management (as measured by the GEF-7 Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) – see **Annex 10**), covering: Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (220,177 ha) (Baseline 41 / target 81), Pakke Tiger Reserve (137,695 ha) (52/81), Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary (21,700 ha) (54/81) and Sessa Orchid Sanctuary (10,000 ha) (55/82);
- Improved frontline capacity for conservation and management of small wild cats and their habitats, as measured by Small Cats Capacity Development Scorecard (baseline/target scores, see **Annex 18**) for: Dudhwa Landscape (25/77) and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscape (44/85);
- Based on a Security Audit jointly conducted by GTF (using WWF guidelines), with approval and guidance of the NTCA, improvements to wild cat habitat management demonstrated in landscapes, including:
    - Dudhwa: Natural grassland and wetland habitats in Sujauli Range of Katerniaghat WS & South Sonaripur Range of Dudhwa TR;
    - Pakke-Eaglenest: Forest connectivity enhanced in critical corridor areas through management and restoration of degraded forest habitats in the ESZ;

Outcome 3: Enhanced community-based management of wild cats and habitats, with threat reduction including HWC and improved local livelihoods (Managed by WWF)

- Improved management practices for wild cat conservation and habitat management over 100,000 ha[47] in buffer zones adjacent to PAs and corridors for Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscapes (see **Annexes 16 and 22** for GIS maps of land use in the project landscapes);
- Targeted reduction of locally-specific threats related to community-based management of natural resources for Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscapes;
- Capacity of community and village-level institutions developed for wild cat habitat management, participatory monitoring and institutional management (e.g. financial management, record-keeping);
- Awareness of wild cat conservation raised in local communities (measured by KAP score, see **Annex 21**) and traditional knowledge and practices for wild cat conservation and habitat management documented;

[47] Reduced from 200,000 ha at Project Concept stage: the project has scaled down from 4 to 2 landscapes with pro rata adjustment of this target

- Village-level institutions actively engaged in participatory community monitoring of wild cat populations and HWC;
- Local livelihood options diversified in targeted communities to reduce pressures on wild cat habitats and as mitigations to any livelihood impacts from habitat management under Component 2;
- HWC impacts reduced in targeted HWC hotspots through implementation of mechanisms for the prevention and management of HWC adjacent to PAs and corridors.

Outcome 4: Effective partnerships, communications, knowledge management and M&E for wild cat conservation

- National green business platform operationalized with Terms of Reference, broad membership and private sector fund supporting investment in project-related activities in each of the three landscapes;
- Improved understanding of values of wild cats and more positive attitudes towards small wild cat conservation among target audiences, as measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) score (see **Annex 21** for KAP assessment methodology);
- Improved transboundary cooperation through enhanced incorporation of wild cat considerations in agreements, and strengthened implementation of existing agreements through local-level collaborative actions including staff exchanges, IWT information exchange in support of CITES implementation, cross-representation in events including WWF/GEF-6 Nepal Terai Arc Landscape project;
- At least 20 PAs and institutions share knowledge on small wild cat conservation through regional knowledge platform annually;
- At least 6 project best practices developed, disseminated and used, targeting: integrated management of ESZs to benefit wildlife, management of targeted Wasteland habitats, small wild cat – friendly agriculture practices, HWC management in targeted communities, monitoring of small wild cats, gender mainstreaming and traditional knowledge relevant to wild cats / habitats.

Global Environmental Benefits

60. The global environmental benefits that will result from the GEF Project Alternative include 'mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through the Global Wildlife Program to prevent extinction of known threatened species' and 'addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate'. These will be achieved through the integrated and coordinated management of globally-significant wild cat landscapes in northern, north-eastern and western India; the improved management of 389,572 ha[48] of PAs in Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest landscapes, including improved conservation of associated KBAs (see **Tables 3 & 6**); and improved management of an estimated 100,000 ha[49] of agricultural and forest mosaic that buffers and connects PAs and provides important habitats for small cats. These benefits are reflected in the GEF 7 Core Indicators in **Annex 12**. In addition, the project will contribute directly towards the conservation and sustainable management of globally significant ecoregions – Dudhwa landscape is located in the Global 200 Terai-Duar Savannas and Grasslands ecoregion; Ranthambhore falls in the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests Ecoregion; and Pakke-Eaglenest landscape lies in the East Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot[50], and is part of the "East Himalayan Endemic Bird Area"[51]; its upper reaches are also

[48] Core and Buffer Areas of Pakke TR, Eaglenest WS, Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, Dudhwa TR. Excludes ESZ of Eaglenest WS (5588 ha) and Ranthambhore TR (141,128 ha). Project Concept target was 520,949 ha.

[49] Reduced from 200,000 ha at Project Concept stage: the project has scaled down from 4 to 2 landscapes with pro rata adjustment of this target

[50] Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). 2005. Ecosystem Profile: Indo-Burman Hotspot, Eastern Himalayan Region. WWF US-Asian Program.

[51] Stattersfield, A. J., Crosby, M. J., Long, A. J. and Wege, D. C. (1998) Endemic Bird Areas of the World: Priorities for

recognised among the Global 200 Ecoregions as the "Eastern Himalayan Broadleaf and Conifer Forests" ranked as Vulnerable[52]. Each of these landscapes supports small wild cat populations such as fishing cat (VU) and clouded leopard (VU) (see **Figure 1** and **Annex 18)**, as well as a diversity of other globally significant species including important populations of tiger (EN), leopard (VU), Asian elephant (EN), greater one-horned rhinoceros (VU), hog deer (EN), Barasingha (VU), gharial (CR), Gangetic dolphin (EN), swamp francolin (VU), Bengal florican (CR) Bugun liocichla (CR), and white-rumped, red-headed and Oriental white-backed vultures (all CR) (see the landscape profiles in **Annex 16**). The effective protection and management of such species, together with other species such as Indian (EN) and Chinese (CR) pangolins, Himalayan black bear (VU) and turtles that have been significantly targeted by poaching and the illegal wildlife trade, will contribute towards the goals of the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program in addition to the supporting GEF-7 Biodiversity programs.

Component 1. Enabling policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation

Outcome: Strengthened policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation in accordance with the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031

[Component 1 will be supported by UNDP as GEF Agency]

Without GEF Intervention (Baseline):

61. In the baseline situation, India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2008 with its addendum in 2014 consisting of 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), guides investment and resource allocation for biodiversity conservation at the national level. A comprehensive raft of policies and laws has been put in place to implement the NBAP, including the National Forestry Policy 1988, the National Environment Policy 2006, and National Agroforestry Policy 2014. The Biological Diversity Act 2002 created a three-tier architecture for its implementation at national, state and the local levels, which coordinates implementation of the NBAP in collaboration with line agencies and non-government stakeholders. The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (amended 2006) empowers the State to declare protected areas, implemented by the Wildlife Division in the Directorate General of Forests in MoEFCC at Central Government level, and state wildlife departments and their subordinate offices at field level in states. The 2006 Amendment brought in a separate chapter on tiger conservation, with the establishment of a National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under MoEFCC; definitions of a Tiger Reserve, Core Zone, Buffer Zone and Corridor (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries nominally being Core Zones); and management of Buffer Zones became a statutory requirement through the Tiger Conservation Plans (TCPs). Previously management plans only applied to the PAs - not Buffer Zones outside PAs. The TCPs now cover the tiger plus co-predators (e.g. small cats).

62. Despite this relatively comprehensive policy, planning and institutional framework for nature conservation, important gaps need to be addressed in order to advance the conservation of landscapes for wild cats, beyond the well-recognized needs of tigers and other flagship species. First, the current poor understanding of the distribution, conservation status, needs and threats impacting small cats and lack of understanding of conservation priorities at the landscape level are key weaknesses that need to be addressed. This includes addressing research priorities and analysis of existing camera trap data held by WII/NTCA[53]. Although tiger conservation planning has stimulated a landscape approach to conservation in India, this remains very focused on tigers and protected areas, and there remains a lack of vision and knowhow regarding the integration and harmonization of conservation with multiple land uses in the production lands outside PAs in buffer zones and corridor areas for the benefit of diverse

Biodiversity Conservation. BirdLife International Series No. 7. BirdLife International, U.K. PP Sultana, A. and Khan, J. A. (2000) Birds of Oak forests in the Kumaon Himalaya, Uttar Pradesh, India. Forktail16: 131-146.

[52] Olson, David M., and Eric Dinerstein. "The Global 200: Priority Ecoregions for Global Conservation." Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 89, no. 2 (2002): 199-224. doi:10.2307/3298564.

[53] Planning a national level strategy on conservation of small cats in India. Research Priorities. UNDP, New Delhi, and Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune. Unpublished report. March 2020.

species including small cats. Related to this, the inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for landscape conservation at District and State levels are weak and ineffective, with conflicting land use policies.

63. The development of Eco-Sensitive Zones around Protected Areas under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 in line with official Guidelines published by the Wildlife Division of MoEFCC in 2011 have only been partially identified, with most still at proposal stage, and largely untested implementation procedures (there is no ESZ defined for Dudhwa, the ESZ for Eaglenest was defined remotely and communities are unaware of it, while Pakke Buffer Zone has been notified but communities reportedly oppose it[54]). Even within the conservation field, there is weak integration of conservation plans for species, protected areas and issues such as climate change adaptation and control of invasive alien species. With regards to small cat conservation, there are no guidelines or national species action plans to guide conservation, and a lack of technical protocols to guide responsible agency staff for tasks such as monitoring, HWC management, enforcement that respects human rights, wildlife rescue and care, and related subjects.

64. The main responsibilities and projects of various line agencies and the dominant industries are described in **Annex 20 and Annex 16**. These baseline inputs vary between the landscapes owing to geographical, socio-economic and cultural differences. **In Dudhwa landscape (Uttar Pradesh),** the Forest Department has monthly coordination meetings with SSB (Border Force). The Agriculture Department supports farmers through a wide range of schemes. The Horticulture Department is experimenting with cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants that are not eaten by elephants and yield good returns. Subsidies are given for cultivation of these crops and there is also market integration. The Animal Husbandry Department carries out several animal welfare programmes and activities including livestock census, dairy development schemes. A cattle shed scheme is implemented for stray cattle and for self-owned cattle there is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme. Being rich in water resources there is considerable potential for development of fisheries in the project area with support from the Fishery Department.

65. **In Pakke-Eaglenest Landscape (Arunachal Pradesh)**, due to increased national demand for timber and rapid deforestation the Hon. Supreme Court of India passed a judgement to completely halt all commercial timber extraction, which remains in force. Timber extraction is allowed for domestic, non-commercial use for the local communities outside the protected areas. Extraction of NTFP is also permitted. However, a total ban on forestry is not in the interest of conserving forests because stakeholders may change the land use to agriculture, horticulture or oil palm. Therefore, there is a need to promote sustainable forest management including joint forest management to increase productivity while conserving biodiversity. In addition, there is an absence of well-defined land use policy in Arunachal Pradesh at present. There is need for a comprehensive land use policy and land use plan based on the national land use outlines and State Land Use Boards (SLUB) set up in each state to implement the policies and guidelines issued by the National Land Use and Conservation Board. The State is planning land reforms, with an exercise in progress for cadastral survey to strengthen the mapping and land records data base of the state.

66. Currently, there is emphasis on development of agriculture in the state by intensive and mechanized means, and also government emphasis on industrial development. Outside the PAs, Government programmes include Horticulture Department subsidies for planting fruit tree orchards, and Tourism Department subsidies and loans for establishing home stays, which constitute the main tourism development model. Tourism is seen as an effective intervention for providing monetary benefits to community that has lot of potential in Arunachal Pradesh. The effective ecotourism programme in Eaglenest has created interest and raised expectations. A new Ecotourism Department has been constituted under the Forest Department, however this has not yet started its activities because it is still at the planning stage - these will probably start in 2020.

67. The baseline assessment (see **Annexes 16, 18, 19, 20**) has indicated that the existing capacity for landscape conservation and PA management for each project landscape is below that required to meet

[54] PPG Safeguard field mission report for visit 17-21 February 2020

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the needs of coordinated cross-sectoral planning and land use, and the professional requirements for the effective management of wild cats and their habitats. At State and District level, capacity for integrated landscape management and management of Eco-Sensitive Zones that advances habitat and wildlife conservation outside PAs remains very weak.

With GEF Intervention (Project Alternative):

68. The GEF Alternative for Component 1 will put in place a landscape-level approach to wild cat conservation that goes beyond existing baseline tiger landscape work and which will guide the strengthening and implementation of existing policies, plans and programs of government departments at national and sub-national levels, and other donor/partner initiatives. GEF support will be used to establish landscape-level master plans for wild cat conservation (**Output 1.1**) for Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest landscapes through a participatory process led by NTCA and State Forest Departments involving government agencies, communities and other local stakeholders. These master plans will provide the vision and strategic basis for multi-stakeholder engagement in landscape conservation actions and a framework for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of progress, including demonstration of inter-agency collaboration mechanisms for management of the Environmentally Sensitive Zones (ESZ) that are being established around PAs, and guidelines for specific aspects of wild cat conservation. Participatory processes will engage stakeholders and conservation partners at national and subnational levels to fill information gaps on small wild cat conservation and develop national Species Recovery Action Plans for Caracal, Fishing Cat and Clouded Leopard informed by a national database and atlas on wild cats (**Output 1.2**) – providing a framework for action in support of the landscape master plans and other project activities. Standardized procedures will support the operationalization of landscape conservation master plans, including the development of a monitoring protocol for wild cats, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for HWC management, and strengthening human-rights approaches to wildlife-related law enforcement (**Output 1.3**). Site-specific guidelines on small cat conservation will be developed and integrated into revised big cat conservation strategies and management plans of tiger reserves and other PAs (**Output 1.4**), contributing towards the building of a coordinated action portfolio for wild cat conservation. Landscape conservation priorities for wild cats will be mainstreamed through capacity building of State departments (e.g. Forest, Horticulture, Medicinal Plants, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Tourism, Revenue, Land, Water Management, etc), District Administrations and research institutions for landscape-level conservation (**Output 1.5**). Collectively, this component will result in secure plans for the conservation of globally significant habitats within the targeted landscapes and strengthened State and District level capacity for multi-sectoral engagement, providing the basis for the conservation of targeted wild cat species and a wide range of other globally significant wildlife inhabiting the same landscapes (see landscape profiles in **Annex 16**). Ranthambhore landscape will be included in Outputs 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 only.

Output 1.1: Landscape-level master plans for wild cat conservation developed and institutionalized into government plans and programs

Purpose: For the Dudhwa (UP) and Pakke-Eaglenest (AP) project landscapes, to develop landscape-level master plans for wild cat conservation that integrate actions for wild cat conservation into existing policies, plans, state and national schemes, and other donor/partner initiatives. The landscape master plans for wild cat conservation will provide the vision and strategic basis for multi-stakeholder engagement and a framework for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of progress. Collectively, this approach will contribute towards the conservation of wild cats across these landscapes, including proposed Eco-Sensitive Zones, and contributing towards the conservation of KBAs (**Table 6**).

Approach: Preparation of landscape level master plans for wild cats led by the State Forest Departments with inputs and over-arching approval from NTCA. The process will include delineation of the landscape, defining the extent, zonation, review of existing policies, plans, state and national schemes, other donor/partner initiatives, identification, appraisal and engagement of stakeholders, defining clusters, gap assessment, preparation of strategies/portfolio for stakeholder involvement on a *quid pro quo* basis - partially based on the data to be received from components 2 & 3 and primary/secondary data collected through the master-planning process,

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development of the plans, and institutionalization of each plan. This Output will be led by GTF as a sub-level Responsible Party.

A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA[55]) approach will be integrated and apply in the landscape planning approach and processes to avoid and prevent potential social and environmental impacts linked to development and implementation of landscape master plans. The landscape master plans will be implemented in landscapes with indigenous peoples and communities. If the SESA considerations as part of master plan development determine that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) would be required to be compliant with UNDP SES then the measures outlined in the WWF IPPF will be followed.

Indicative Activities:

1.1.1 Site level stakeholder assessment workshops - identification and appraisal of stakeholders in the targeted landscapes of Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest;

1.1.2 District/State level consultations/workshops for master planning in each landscape including Eco-Sensitive Zones - consultation on existing policies, plans, state & national level schemes, defining clusters at Dudhwa TR, Pakke TR and Eagle Nest WLS;

1.1.3 Master plan preparation for each landscape through Technical Agency/Consultant/Department inputs – including field team deployment, data collection, community focus group discussions, mapping, assessment, plan preparation, etc (see **Annex 23** for additional design considerations);

1.1.4 Editing, designing, printing and dissemination of the master plans;

1.1.5 Facilitate the integration of recommendations from master planning process and activities in Components 2&3 into Tiger Conservation Plans and on-going government/partner initiatives E.g.: State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, through field level meetings/consultations with Tiger Reserve management/field officials and technical assistance toward integration of master plans into Tiger Conservation Plans and on-going Govt. initiatives;

1.1.6 Facilitate the integration of inputs from the master planning process into State and District-level development and land use planning processes, including Eco-Sensitive Zone management, wild cat habitat connectivity, community-based sustainable forest management, and climate-smart land use considerations.

Table 6. List of Key Biodiversity Areas included in the project landscapes

KBA ID	Name	Remarks
18417	Dudhwa National Park	Dudhwa landscape
18419	Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Girijapur Barrage	Dudhwa landscape
18420	Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary	Dudhwa landscape
18358	Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve	Ranthambhore landscape
18041	Eaglenest and Sessa Sanctuaries	NE India landscape
18054	Pakhui or Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary	NE India landscape
18055	Papum Reserve Forest	Buffer of Pakke, NE India landscape
18057	Shergaon, Mandla - Phudung and Kalaktang	Not a PA, NE India landscape
18051	Nafra - Lada area	Adjacent to Eaglenest, not a PA, NE India landscape

Output 1.2: National level Species Recovery Action Plans developed and implemented for Caracal, Fishing Cat and Clouded Leopard informed by a national database and atlas on wild cats

[55] Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) refers to a range of analytical and participatory approaches that aim to integrate social and environmental considerations into policies, plans and programs and evaluate the interlinkages with economic and social considerations.

Purpose: To provide a budgeted framework for systematic conservation actions for the targeted globally significant species of wild cats, informed by compiled data from a range of stakeholders and targeted surveys, enabling gaps to be addressed.

Approach: This Output would be led by a Task Force facilitated by experts on wild cats, and would involve extensive stakeholder consultation at national and state levels[56] in order to gather relevant information on wild cats to inform conservation assessment, distribution atlas and gap analysis, building on the baseline information and making use of existing resources such as research programmes and WII/NTCA camera trap databases[57]. This participatory approach will provide benefits through providing a means of stakeholder engagement and awareness raising regarding the conservation of wild cats. Targeted field surveys supported by Outputs 2.2, 2.3 and 3.3 would provide coverage of key habitats for wild cats within the project landscapes. The Species Recovery Action Plans for Caracal, Fishing Cat and Clouded Leopard will identify the key actions required, institutional responsibilities for implementation and budget. The project will support one review of implementation prior to project close, providing lessons and guidance for government and other partners for remaining implementation. This Output will also contribute towards the development of a national strategy for small wild cat conservation, by learning from good practices from across diverse habitats and regions of India that will help to inform an integrated model for small wild cat conservation through this project. This Output will be led by GTF as a sub-level Responsible Party.

A SESA approach will be integrated and apply in the species recovery planning process for small cat conservation. As part of SESA, a screening procedure will be followed to identify and avoid chances of curtailing of resource management right of Indigenous/Tribal peoples of the project landscapes while formulating operational policies, plans and guidelines for small cat conservation.

Indicative Activities:

1.2.1 National and State Consultations/Workshops (5) for inputs from stakeholders and conservation partners to gather data on wild cat distribution, prey base, habitats and threats (including citizen science approach);
1.2.2 Consultant/Technical agency/consortium for database establishment, data collection, analysis and compilation (see **Annex 23** for additional design considerations). This will include the development of a mobile phone App to support the monitoring of small cats and other wildlife and community-based monitoring of wild cats in Output 3.3 through a citizen science approach to populate the database and atlas, hosted by MoEFCC as the Implementing Partner for the project. Data sharing/accessibility protocols will be developed with key partners in order to secure its value to multiple users and to contribute towards its sustainability. MoEFCC would continue to host and finance the database operation and related App following their own institutional mechanisms after project closure;
1.2.3 Travel and field work for macro surveys and species distribution assessment of targeted regions;
1.2.4 Compilation, design, printing and electronic publication of national wild cat distribution atlas.
1.2.5 Consultation workshops (3) to determine recovery actions focused on the targeted species;
1.2.6 Development of draft national recovery action plans and national strategy for small wild cat conservation
1.2.7 Stakeholder review and input to drafts;
1.2.8 Editing, designing, printing, release and dissemination of action plans.

Output 1.3: Protocol and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for small cat conservation developed and institutionalized in State and District Forest Departments

Purpose: To strengthen operational management by the State and District Forest Departments on key issues that relate to small wild cats and landscape conservation.

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[56] The focus would be on the three project landscape states (including Ranthambhore/Rajasthan), with other Indian states within the species distribution range included to the extent that budget and cofinancing allow

[57] See: Planning a national level strategy on conservation of small cats in India. Research Priorities. UNDP, New Delhi, and Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune. Unpublished report. March 2020.

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Approach: The project will support the development of a Protocol for population assessment and monitoring status for small wild cats, their habitat and prey, as well as SOPs on key issues to facilitate operational management by the Forest Departments at State and District levels and introduce more advanced conservation practices. The SOPs will include the following priorities: i) customization of existing SoP for human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation with a special focus on wild cats; ii) standardized small cat monitoring protocols; iii) human rights-based approach to site-based law enforcement. While the issues listed above are common to all landscapes, a tailored approach will allow them to be adapted to the locally specific conditions, and for specific SOPs on other priorities to be developed and institutionalised for each of the three landscapes (including Ranthambhore) as necessary and as far as project resources allow. This will be assessed through workshops in each landscape. The completed SOPs will be published and distributed and co-financed government efforts will support distribution/rollout of the SOPs nationally through means such as stakeholder workshops. They will support implementation of the National Wildlife Action Plan, Wildlife Protection Act, Forest-dwellers Act, Indian Forest Act, and Biodiversity Act, and community engagement will be integrated in the SOPs. This Output will be led by GTF as a sub-level Responsible Party.

A SESA approach will be integrated and apply in the SOP planning process for small cat conservation. As part of SESA, a screening procedure will be followed to identify and avoid chances of curtailing of resource management right of Indigenous/Tribal peoples of the project landscapes while formulating operational policies, plans and guidelines for small cat conservation.

Indicative Activities:

1.3.1 Convene workshops with scientific institutes and Government agencies to develop a Protocol for population assessment and monitoring status for small wild cats, their habitat and prey;
1.3.2 Technical agency/consultant inputs for drafting of Protocol (see **Annex 23** for additional design considerations);
1.3.3 Editing, designing, printing and dissemination of Protocol;
1.3.4 Convene workshops and consultations with stakeholders and partners for customization of existing SoP for human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation with a special focus on wild cats, SoP on human-rights approach to site-based law enforcement, and other SoPs identified as priorities;
1.3.5 Technical agency/consultant/department to customize the SoP on HWC, draft SoP on human-rights approach to site-based law enforcement and other priority SoPs;
1.3.6 Editing, Designing and Printing of SoPs;
1.3.7 Convene evaluation workshops to confirm best practices and disseminate results (using NTCA Tiger Landscapes as units).

Output 1.4: Site-specific guidelines on small cat conservation integrated into revised big cat conservation strategies and management plans of tiger reserves and other PAs

Purpose: To build a coordinated action portfolio for wild cat conservation bringing together big cat and small cat conservation through integrating small cat conservation needs into conservation strategies and plans that are mainly focused on tigers.

Approach: Site-specific guidelines on small cat conservation will be developed in accordance with the landscape-level master plans developed in **Output 1.1** and integrated into revised big cat conservation strategies, conservation plans of tiger reserves and management plans of other PA types. This will be led by technical experts on small cat conservation working with PA staff, national and landscape government agencies and NGO partners. The guidelines should be coordinated with the SOPs in **Output 1.3** and training for frontline staff in **Output 2.3.**

A Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA) approach will be integrated and apply in the guideline development process for small cat conservation. As part of SESA, a screening procedure will be followed to identify and avoid chances of curtailing of resource management right of Indigenous/Tribal peoples of the project landscapes while formulating operational policies, plans and guidelines for small cat conservation.

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Indicative Activities:

1.4.1 Taking account of the baseline assessment during project preparation (see **Annex 19**), convene a national expert workshop and consultations to determine the priority subjects for guidelines for small wild cat conservation across India and draft a framework based on the outcomes of the national workshop;
1.4.2 For each landscape, confirm priority subjects based on the national framework and local consultations, and draft site-specific guidelines focused on key issues for the conservation of small wild cats taking into account the baseline assessment during project preparation (see **Annex 18**). Examples of landscape specific issues are given below;
1.4.3 Convene workshops for each project landscape to review the draft guidelines and the process for incorporating them into relevant plans. Determine information gaps and research needs, and responsible parties and coordination required for implementation of the guidelines;
1.4.4 Finalize the guidelines and socialize them with staff of the relevant agencies through seminars / training (coordinated with **Output 1.3**);
1.4.5 Coordinate with the Forest Dept, NTCA and other relevant agencies to support the incorporation of the guidelines into relevant work plans, TCPs, Management plans, etc.

Landscape Considerations for Site-specific Guidelines for Small Wild Cat Conservation:

Dudhwa Landscape: *Maintaining habitat connectivity for wildlife in the ESZ; Biodiversity-friendly farming methods for sugarcane, rice and other crops; Sustainable forest management with emphasis on biodiversity conservation and connectivity; Grassland and grazing management for small cats and their prey populations; Wetland and riverbank management for fishing cats; Wild cat kitten identification, rescue and care; Free-ranging dog neutering programmes and management; Reduction of road traffic-related mortality; community-based anti-poaching patrols.*

Ranthambhore Landscape: *Maintaining habitat connectivity for wildlife in the ESZ; Biodiversity-friendly farming methods such as 'cat sanctuary areas' in field margins and reduction in use of pesticides/rodenticides/insecticides; Management of 'Wasteland' - arid scrubland, ravine and inactive sandstone quarry habitats to benefit wild cats; Management and restoration of riverbank habitats (for fishing cats); Free-ranging dog neutering programmes and management; Reduction of road traffic-related mortality; community-based anti-poaching patrols; Management of free-ranging cattle carcasses*[58].

Pakke-Eaglenest Landscape: *Maintaining habitat connectivity for wildlife in the ESZ; Sustainable forest management with emphasis on biodiversity conservation and connectivity; Sustainable land management and farming practices to benefit wildlife and including reduction in use of pesticides / rodenticides / insecticides; Wild cat kitten identification, rescue and care; Free-ranging dog neutering programmes and management; Reduction of road traffic-related mortality; community-based anti-pooching patrols.*

Output 1.5: Capacity of State and District agencies increased for mainstreaming wild cat conservation in landscape management

Purpose: To address existing gaps in institutional capacity and technical skills for planning and implementing landscape conservation including ESZ management among State and District agencies (Forest, Horticulture, Medicinal Plants, Agriculture Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Services, Tourism, Water Management, Rural Development, Land, District Collectors Office, etc.) and to sensitize elected representatives on biodiversity conservation including wild cats.

Approach: The capacity assessments for State and District agencies and training needs assessments conducted during project preparation (see **Annexes 18 & 19**) identified gaps and weaknesses that the project will address.

[58] Most of these carcasses are fed on by feral dogs during the day and several wild carnivore species at night (shown by camera trap images), exacerbating risks of disease transmission between feral dogs and wildlife (Source: WWF India). This issue may also apply to Dudhwa landscape.

The project will develop a set of training modules to support landscape conservation and ESZ management, and will also address locally-specific capacity and training needs through tailored activities (e.g. to address a specific land use issue, reduced chemical use in agriculture, management of free-ranging dog populations in problem areas[59]). Sensitization of targeted stakeholder groups such as elected representatives will aim to strengthen support for landscape conservation. Tiger Reserve staff will be included in training activities (or assist in their provision) in order to strengthen understanding and collaboration between the TRs and government bodies involved in the wider landscape.

Indicative Activities:

1.5.1 Validate and update baseline capacity scorecard assessments and training needs analyses conducted during project preparation (see **Annexes 18 & 19**) at project inception stage;
1.5.2 Prepare capacity development, training and sensitization plans with related State and District agencies on issues such as sustainable agriculture, horticulture using reduced chemical inputs, eco-tourism, management of abandoned cattle, management of free-ranging dog populations, 'wasteland' management, etc;
1.5.3 Develop training materials appropriate for the targeted trainee groups;
1.5.4 Conduct targeted training workshops, refresher courses and sensitization activities such as seminars and events for line departments and other stakeholders according to the training plans (approx. 30 participants / training workshop; 8 workshops for each landscape);
1.5.5 Conduct evaluations of all training activities using post-training questionnaires for all participants; monitor changes in capacity through capacity development scorecard assessments at mid-term and project completion.

[59] NTCA have issued several Advisories relating to disease threats to wildlife including canine distemper (3 Oct 2018) and services of vet doctors to support PA management (28 Nov 2019)

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Component 4. Partnerships, knowledge management and M&E

Outcome: Effective partnerships, communications, knowledge management and M&E for wild cat conservation

[Component 4 will be supported by UNDP as GEF Agency]

Without GEF Intervention (Baseline):

69. While there are some existing partnerships in place in the landscapes, including WWF landscape programmes that collaborate with government, and diverse NGOs working with local communities such as TigerWatch at Ranthambhore, WWF at Dudhwa and Nature Conservation Foundation at Pakke. However, these partnerships tend to focus on specific locations or issues and are insufficient to address landscape conservation needs for small cats. In addition, the corporate sector is largely not involved, despite strong potential for engagement in conservation action and financing for conservation programmes evidenced under the earlier World Bank-supported initiative to establish an Indian National Wildlife Business Council[60] including regional workshops and c.30 companies, some of which took up Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. However, that initiative was too centralized to fully succeed. The formation of the India wildlife Business Council was done though a MoU between the World Bank and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), where a grant was given to CII to initiate a conversation, but everything was managed by CII, which directly did not have much experience of handling wildlife related work. While the industry was on board to some extent, the helping end from the other side (i.e. the conservation fraternity and the government) was not involved to a major extent and kept out of the process.

70. The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is a global UNDP programme that has been implemented in India since May 2015 by the MoEFCC through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). BIOFIN offers a sophisticated and country-specific methodological framework to assess current expenditures and finance needs for implementing the NBAP and suggests innovative and scalable financial solutions to fill the finance gap for achieving the National Biodiversity Targets. Data gathered through detailed country level assessments based on a wide range of consultations has supported the preparation of country specific Biodiversity Finance Plan[61] (BFP) in 2019, which suggests a range of potential financial solutions suited to fill the finance gap for implementing the NBAP. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and CSR programmes are identified as key strategies in the BFP, noting that India ranks high in terms of operational maturity of PPP and creating an ideal environment for PPP projects (especially in the infrastructure sector). During 2006-07 to 2015-16, spread across sectors of roads, civil aviation, housing, ports, railways, sports and tourism, as many as 287 projects have been undertaken adopting PPP model involving a total investment of about USD 4.59 billion[62]. The Draft Forest Policy, 1988 recognizes location-specific PPP models involving Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations, Communities, Public limited companies, etc for achieving the target of increased forest & tree cover in the country'.

71. In India, CSR has become mandatory since 2014, and corporates meeting specified turn-over criteria are required to earmark and spend 2% of their average net profits over the last three years to discharge this responsibility. Eligible activities that could be funded under CSR include livelihoods and environment. CSR funds could be accessed by various societies, NGOs, educational institutions, trusts, community-based organizations, or corporates could spend the money on their own on specified activities. According to the BIOFIN assessments, less than 3% of CSR funds are currently spent on biodiversity-related activities, out of a total of CSR expenditure during 2017-18 of about USD 80 million. According to the BFP, greater awareness

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[60] Indian Wildlife Business Council: Case Studies of Interventions by Industry
https://cii.in/PublicationDetail.aspx?enc=lop5Lo8/fAGuPzaCQn5LRUSzYpTXWm3GclqYbN4weLFTAFWPbNJ8ZaciX9Fy3JjtfiD21mwGuxKNhTN/K5o0Ane+CpVrOjLRPeZuoBWmNs96dXnpO1ZiDRaeMZKDZOuY9InrX/VR/GJZKP3IXEMVDAldt+cyl+OKE1JlxEtP2EVNvFEIB6nk5cyXxopV5wK9

[61] National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), 2019. Biodiversity Finance Plan (Working Document). GoI-UNDP project on Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).
https://www.biodiversityfinance.net/sites/default/files/content/knowledge_products/Biodiversity%20Finance%20Plan%20Report%20Updated%20and%20Final%20%28Digital%20Presence%20-%20Low%20resolution%29%2008-07-2019.pdf

[62] https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Day%201%20-%20Session%202.2%20-%20India%20PPP.pdf

of needs for biodiversity conservation, availability of project proposals to support, and inter-ministerial coordination to guide CSR policy could increase CSR provision towards biodiversity conservation.

72. Awareness of the status and conservation needs of small wild cats is generally low amongst stakeholders, with the exception of certain groups at local level (see baseline awareness assessment results in **Annex 18**). However, given that several small cat species are globally threatened and near-threatened and the status of some others is of national concern (e.g. caracal) or poorly known (most small cats), the lack of awareness and scientific understanding of these species and the threats affecting them is an issue for conservation. While various scientific studies have been carried out, some with community engagement (e.g. on fishing cats[63]), there has been little attempt so far to foster awareness of small cat species. Finally, transboundary collaboration for landscape and species conservation, including reduction of poaching and trafficking of wildlife / wild cats (e.g. clouded leopard skins), and to support knowledge exchange and transfer, is limited and should be strengthened especially at the local level where bureaucratic constraints can be limited. Current global / regional tiger conservation initiatives do not currently cover small cat species, which could be incorporated through minor changes and capacity development regarding small cat monitoring and research, etc. Relevant transboundary IWT enforcement issues relating to small cats need to be documented and raised bilaterally or through the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)[64].

With GEF Intervention (Project Alternative):

73. **Component 4** will build the necessary partnerships and platforms for integrated and collaborative wild cat conservation. The establishment and initial operation of a national-level platform for green business including development of a corporate-sector fund will be supported (**Output 4.1**) to engage the private sector in wild cat conservation and facilitate the identification of sustainable financing options to maintain community stewardship outside the core tiger habitats in PAs. This is expected to include regional dialogues between government, industry and conservation partners operating within the project landscapes and the development of partnerships with agricultural (e.g. sugar production at Dudhwa) and tourism businesses operating within the project landscapes, supporting pilot conservation and livelihood initiatives under Component 3. In contrast to the previous experience with the former Indian Business Council, in this case the Global Tiger Forum, as an implementing arm of the GTI Council and an inter-governmental agency, will facilitate a platform, and will be able to successfully work with multiple confederations, industries, government agencies, as well as find synergies with ongoing government schemes, especially on livelihood and community welfare in wild landscapes. Thus, apart from orienting business leadership, GTF will also provide a platform to handhold and assist the initiatives that these agencies want to support. The MoEFCC's presence as Implementing Partner for the project will also contribute greater sustainability and ownership to the efforts implemented by the business groups, in close coordination with conservation agencies.

74. Targeted communications and outreach (**Output 4.2**) will be deployed to targeted audiences at national and subnational levels to address threats and build support for project actions at community level in the landscapes. Transboundary and regional collaboration on wild cat conservation, including with tiger range states, will be enhanced through integrating small wild cat concerns into existing agreements (e.g. on tigers), and strengthening local level collaboration under existing agreements for the sharing of information and knowledge on wild cat conservation, collaborative training activities, and identification of areas of common concern and agreed joint actions for monitoring, species conservation and combating illegal trafficking (**Output 4.3**). This will explicitly support collaboration with the WWF/GEF-6 Integrated Landscape Management in the Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal, and the UNDP/GEF-7 GWP tourism project in Bhutan. Web-based knowledge platforms and e-networks will be established (**Output 4.4**) to facilitate knowledge sharing and information dissemination between landscapes, States and through the Global Wildlife Program, while an effective M&E system (**Output 4.5**) will help ensure project impact and adaptive management and

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[63] https://scroll.in/article/901975/fishing-cat-researchers-are-trying-to-shed-light-on-the-little-known-felines-that-swim-for-food

[64] SAWEN provides a platform for its member countries to cooperatively work together in the fight against wildlife crime. It focuses on harmonization of policies and laws; strengthening institutional capacity; sharing of knowledge, experiences and technologies among the member countries; and promoting collaboration with national, regional and international partners to enhance the wildlife law enforcement in the region. See: www.sawen.org

adequate consideration of gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards. With the exception of Output 4.3, the Outputs will cover all three project landscapes including Ranthambhore.

Output 4.1: National-level Green Business platform developed for enhancing corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation

Purpose: To engage the corporate sector in conservation initiatives benefiting wild cats and facilitate the development of partnerships and sustainable financing options to maintain community stewardship outside PAs in the demonstration landscapes and elsewhere.

Approach: The project will aim to operationalize a national level Green Business platform, with Terms of Reference, broad membership and investment in project-related activities. This will build on earlier experience with the Indian Wildlife Business Council (see above Baseline and GEF Alternative text). Through a process of advocacy, regional dialogues and fostering local ownership based on community needs, the project will facilitate the development of business partnerships in support of the landscape master plans, multi-sector engagement and sustainable financing of community-based conservation programmes. Through these partnerships, the project will facilitate corporate involvement in local level conservation actions for targeted sectors in each landscape, such as sugar production in Dudhwa; horticulture and tourism in Pakke-Eaglenest; and tourism in Ranthambhore. The project will also support the Green Business platform to develop a Corporate Sector Conservation Fund/Financial Instrument to mobilize funding for local level partnership investment. This Output will be led by GTF as a sub-level Responsible Party.

Both the business partnerships and investments will be screened for social and environmental risks and an exclusionary process applied for high-risk sectors in accordance with UNDP Private Sector Partnerships policy and UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool.

Indicative Activities:

4.1.1 Work with GTF, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and State authorities to approach heads of business and industry, including corporate bodies that have an interest in supporting wildlife conservation (e.g. Sanofi, North Star Asia, Tata group companies, HSBC India, Aircel, etc.) through a series of regional sensitization meetings for raising conservation awareness and promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or direct investments for supporting community livelihoods and income generation. Build support for establishment of the national level Green Business platform and provide input to its design and operations;
4.1.2 Provide technical assistance for the development of a feasibility strategy for a Corporate Sector Conservation Fund/Financial Instrument to be managed by the green business platform. Through this platform, the project will help in reaching out to corporate bodies and government agencies operating in the landscape to extend support to wildlife conservation, especially on issues like planning of smart green infrastructure, innovative business models for community stewardship, as well as deployment of state-of-the-art cost-effective technology, where required. Once the project team is able to gauge the interest, it will work with the local government and interested industry representatives to facilitate technical support and on-site project development for potential initiatives, while aiming to start pilot initiatives through public-private partnerships;
4.1.3 Facilitate the development of a scheme for the generation and disbursement of small community grants (not from GEF funds) by the Green Business Platform including governance mechanism, prospectus, support for leveraging funds and fund raising activities (through fund-raising events, dialogue with private sector/donor agencies, crowd funding initiatives). Proposed projects will be screened for safeguards and climate change adaptation requirements;
4.1.4 Conduct an advocacy programme to mobilize corporate partnerships and CSR funds, and facilitate the development of business partnerships and implementation of pilot initiatives for relevant sectors, including capacity development for the partners involved[65]. The pilot initiatives will support community stewardship, skill development and livelihood-based initiatives, through adoption, procurement and marketing of derived

[65] Capacity building for corporate managers, local community partners and other duty bearers on wildlife conservation business operation of corporate sector bodies.

products, including local crafts, horticulture and medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation, among others (in all landscapes);
4.1.5 Publicize the benefits of the active business partnerships through local, national and international channels (see **Output 4.4**) in order to attract further investment.

Output 4.2: Awareness raised for wild cat conservation at national and sub-national levels through communications strategy and action plan implementation

Purpose: To raise awareness among key target groups at national and subnational levels in order to build their support for wild cat conservation

Approach: The communications programme will be based on a communications strategy and action plan that focuses on raising awareness of the diversity of wild cats in India, their cultural and ecological values (e.g. rodent control), and their conservation status and prevalent threats including poaching, IWT and HWC. This Output will focus on national and landscape-level awareness raising activities that are mutually supportive of the community awareness and education activities in **Output 3.2**. It will target specific groups, including: government agencies and line departments, elected representatives, institutions (academic and research), CSOs, media, private sector, etc.

Indicative Activities:

4.2.1 Establish a communications Task Force including WWF, UNDP, GTF and other experts to convene communications planning meetings and lead the development of a communications strategy and action plan that focuses on building support for wild cat conservation and reducing key threats nationally and especially in the project landscapes. The strategy should include the engagement of partners in each landscape for more effective delivery. Update the action plan annually and coordinate and synergize with initiatives and events on wildlife crime, HWC and wildlife conservation conducted nationwide by Govt agencies, institutions and NGOs. Incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation);
4.2.2 Conduct national- and landscape-level campaigns towards the conservation of small cats, aiming to sensitize specific target groups in line with the communications strategy and action plan (with local actions being covered in Output 3.2). These campaigns will connect wild cat conservation with key environment days, tiger conservation events, other public events and traditional festivals in the project landscapes;
4.2.3 Develop educational and awareness materials that address the targeted audiences and messaging identified in the strategy, such as: printed materials, online materials via websites such as short films on website / YouTube channel;
4.2.4 Monitor changes in awareness of targeted groups through use of KAP assessments, where appropriate.

Output 4.3: Transboundary joint action and collaboration on wild cat conservation

Purpose: To address specific transboundary conservation issues including poaching, illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife relations that impact the project landscapes and small wild cat conservation.

Approach: Dudhwa and Pakke – Eaglenest landscapes lie on India's international borders with Nepal and Bhutan respectively. There are existing transboundary cooperation agreements concerning wildlife conservation at national level under MoEFCC. In addition, local collaboration with adjacent PAs and administrations takes place on an unofficial basis (e.g. participation in workshops, joint monitoring and information exchange). The project will develop a roadmap for transboundary cooperation on wild cat conservation in South Asia through consultations based on experience with tiger conservation. These will be conducted through the MoEFCC, recognizing that official mechanisms are addressed at central government level. The main emphasis would be to advocate extending the existing transboundary partnerships in the Tiger Programme to include small wild

cats while supporting implementation of CITES decisions relating to Asian Big Cats[66] and participation in the South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) for control of wildlife crime. A social and environmental safeguards screening process will be put in place to assess and manage potential downstream impacts arising from implementation of the transboundary conservation roadmap.

At the landscape level, the project will facilitate collaboration, and information and knowledge exchange under existing agreements in order to strengthen the capacity and collaboration of local PA staff and local level transboundary coordination meetings on HWC, poaching and IWT issues. This will also include collaboration with the WWF/GEF project on Integrated Landscape Management for the Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal, which addresses very similar issues to the current project and is contiguous with the Dudhwa landscape, and the GWP GEF-7 project in Bhutan, which includes Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary on the border adjacent to Eaglenest. This Output will be led by GTF as a sub-level Responsible Party.

Indicative Activities:

4.3.1 Conduct consultations with experts and country representatives to identify areas of common concern and possible joint actions for monitoring, species conservation and combatting illegal trafficking, and develop an agreed strategy in the form of a transboundary conservation roadmap for wild cat conservation in South Asia. This will include inputs on the present distribution of wild cats, priority sites, priority actions, agreement at country level and joint efforts on wild cat conservation, and agreed actions by Governments in South Asia, vis-à-vis the existing bilateral instruments;
4.3.2 Conduct advocacy to integrate small wild cats into bilateral agreements for tiger conservation via NTCA, their inclusion in the South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) for control of wildlife crime (e.g. trade in cat skins and bones) in line with CITES implementation and the forthcoming ICCWC Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks[67], and through international big cat organisations (GTF);
4.3.3 Within the framework of existing transboundary agreements and the proposed roadmap, invite staff from neighbouring PAs in Nepal (Shuklaphanta, Bardia and Banke NPs) and Bhutan (Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary - a project site under the GWP GEF-7 project in Bhutan, providing potential for coordination and knowledge exchange between GWP projects) as well as SSB staff to participate in project activities[68,69];
4.3.4 Within the framework of existing transboundary agreements and the proposed roadmap, facilitate local level transboundary coordination meetings on HWC, poaching and IWT between PA management staff, SSB and local administration leaders to facilitate information sharing and targeting of enforcement operations;
4.3.5 Within the framework of existing transboundary agreements and the proposed roadmap, coordinate with Nepalese Govt /WWF to allow Dudhwa landscape staff to participate in annual TAL stakeholder forums, conduct study visits to Nepal TAL to learn about Community-Based Anti-Poaching Unit operations (CBAPUs), Wildlife Crime Control Bureaus and other related activities of the WWF/GEF Project *Integrated Landscape Management for the Terai Arc Landscape* in Nepal; reciprocal invitation of Nepalese GEF project staff to participate in Dudhwa project meetings and activities.

Output 4.4: Knowledge management coordinated between landscapes, across India, neighbouring countries and with the Global Wildlife Program, including sharing of best practices and lessons learned

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[66] See: https://cites.org/eng/dec/valid17/82158 – CITES Decision 18.100 on IWT enforcement for Asian Big Cats; 18.105 on IWT in Leopard parts; and 18.106 on demand reduction and enforcement for Asian Big Cats are of particular relevance.
[67] See: https://cites.org/eng/Wildlife_enforcement_networks_from_around_the_world_meet_to_further_strengthen_collaborative_efforts_against_wildlife_crime_26082019
[68] This may include participation in WWF-supported activities, for example in Output 2.2 (training of frontline staff), Output 3.3 (monitoring of small wild cat species) and Output 3.5 (HWC management). These activities will be delivered in accordance with safeguards policies and requirements of WWF as GEF Agency for Components 2 and 3.
[69] Note: Nepal TAL Project Output 3.3.2 will provide training and operational support to government staff for wildlife crime management. This will target Banke and Bardia national park staff, District Forest Officers, rangers, Wildlife Crime Control Bureaus, and government investigation officers. It includes: Transboundary coordination, including travel to India to exchange information on wildlife crime issues.

Purpose: To ensure that project results, knowledge, experiences and lessons learned are made available to relevant audiences locally, nationally and internationally to inform conservation efforts elsewhere.

Approach: This project is a child project under the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program, which provides a mechanism for coordination and knowledge sharing. During the PPG, the project was represented at the GWP in-person knowledge exchange event in South Africa in October-November 2019. The project is also well aligned with the Global Tiger Initiative / Global Tiger Forum, providing another avenue for international knowledge sharing further to WWF and UNDP's networks. In addition, the project incorporates activities that will strengthen the country's knowledge management system and capacity. This includes the use of a project website/regional knowledge platform for sharing of news and materials online; the publication of project technical reports, awareness materials and technical briefs, which will form part of a project communication strategy; and annual project meetings for stakeholders at landscape level. Knowledge gained through GWP events will be shared across India including the project demonstration landscapes through regional knowledge platform, IUCN Cat Specialist Group and NTCA and GTF channels.

Indicative Activities:

4.4.1 Develop a project knowledge management plan to ensure that project news and results are shared with project stakeholders and related initiatives (e.g. GTI) and updated annually. This will incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation);
4.4.2 Collaborate with and support small cat interest groups for networking and knowledge-sharing;
4.4.3 Develop a project website / regional knowledge platform to share project news, results and information with stakeholders, the wider public in India and international audiences especially across South Asia;
4.4.4 Share technical reports, news articles and awareness materials arising from project activities with stakeholders at all levels through project website/regional knowledge platform, media, etc, and provided to the GWP Secretariat through GWP qualitative reports and coordination meetings;
4.4.5 Develop case studies on key issues relating to landscape conservation for wild cats including stakeholder workshops, and publish them on the regional knowledge platform as technical briefs covering integrated management of ESZs to benefit wildlife, management of targeted wasteland habitats, small wild cat – friendly agriculture practices, HWC management in targeted communities, community-based monitoring of small wild cats, gender mainstreaming and traditional knowledge relevant to small wild cats / habitats;
4.4.6 Hold annual project meetings for updating and consulting with stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, scientists etc.) on project progress, results and lessons learned, including a wrap up/handover meeting in Year 6;
4.4.7 Project participates in GWP virtual and face-to-face knowledge management events, and shares results nationally through the regional knowledge platform, IUCN Cat Specialist Group and MoEFCC/NTCA and GTF channels;
4.4.8 Present project results at national/ international conferences (e.g. CITES COP side events);
4.4.9 Publish and disseminate the project terminal report in both hard copy and electronic formats.

Output 4.5: M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards developed and implemented for adaptive project management

Purpose: To ensure that project implementation meets UNDP, WWF and GEF requirements for Results-based Management, gender mainstreaming, social inclusion and social and environmental safeguards, and is adaptive to changing circumstances.

Approach: Key M&E activities will include the annual project implementation review exercises, mid-term and final project review, for each of which there will be one combined process/report for the project, with UNDP as lead GEF Agency for submission to GEF (as UNDP is leading on Component 4, but with equal inputs from WWF). Monitoring and evaluation activities will include the regular review and updating of the project M&E plan with indicators, baselines and targets, annual work plans and budgets and the generation of comprehensive

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monitoring and progress reports. The project will ensure that gender mainstreaming and SESP requirements are met as an integral part of the project planning, implementation and M&E cycle. Regular Project Steering Committee meetings will enable key stakeholders to be actively involved in the M&E process. Lastly, the project will conduct a Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation to take stock of progress and the implementation process, emerging constraints and (at mid-term stage) to formulate possible remedial measures or adaptive management to ensure optimal implementation efficiency and knowledge generation. Overall, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation will be closely coordinated with the Global Wildlife Program. The project will also build the capacity of project staff for effective project management at all levels of organization through establishment and sharing of clear procedures, orientation and training in line with UNDP and WWF requirements as GEF Project Agencies. Safeguards requirements for UNDP-led Components (1 and 4) are covered here, while those for WWF-led Components (2 and 3) have been incorporated into those sections.

Indicative Activities:

4.5.1 Review and update M&E plan including results framework baselines during project inception phase;
4.5.2 Training for project staff, clarification of stakeholder roles and planning processes at the project Inception workshop;
4.5.3 Coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of UNDP-related safeguards assessments, plans and reports, and coordinate safeguards approaches between the two GEF Agencies (Note: WWF-related safeguards inputs for project landscapes are covered in Components 2 and 3);
4.5.4 Conduct annual review/adaptive management sessions to review M&E data and prepare for each coming year, linked to annual work plan preparation (and mid-year review) as key tools for adaptive management of project activities;
4.5.5 Periodic and joint monitoring visits to field sites;
4.5.6 Conduct Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation in line with UNDP/GEF requirements, and incorporate recommendations of MTR into revised project plans (management response, including a stakeholder consultation workshop) following Project Steering Committee approval, and monitor their implementation;
4.5.7 Project Manager to oversee implementation of the Gender Action Plan (**Annex 8**), appoint Gender Focal Points for all project offices, and recruit a Gender Expert to advise on its implementation;
4.5.8 Gender Expert to advise on implementation and monitoring of the Gender Action Plan, train project management staff on gender equality, and provide technical support to integrate gender into project implementation plans, such as bi/annual work plans and processes;
4.5.9 Project Manager to develop the protocol for collecting detailed gender information/data including the project affected people, project beneficiaries, participants of each project activity, etc., and subsequently be responsible for interpreting the information.

Partnerships

80. The overall coordination of the GEF project will be led by the MoEFCC as the Implementing Partner for the project, through its Wildlife Division. In view of the fact that Tiger Reserves form the main protected areas within each project landscape, the NTCA will play an important role in mainstreaming wild cat conservation into existing tiger conservation plans and processes. Similarly, GTF will facilitate wild cat conservation through its role nationally and internationally in tiger conservation. Given the project's landscape conservation approach and the relatively large geographical areas included in the project's demonstration landscapes in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, it will engage with a wide range of government agencies and other stakeholders at all levels, and will both build on the results of, and intersect with several significant initiatives.

81. At the landscape level, implementation will be led by State Project Management Units under the State Wildlife Department working in close collaboration with the District Forest Divisions, the Tiger Reserves and other PAs located in the landscapes. Engagement with State line agencies, NGOs and institutes, as well as WWF and UNDP will take place through the State Steering Committees, and with local stakeholders including relevant line departments, heads of Gram Panchayats, Community based organizations and Community Level Institutions through the Landscape Level Advisory Committees led by the relevant District Collector.

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GEF Projects

82. The current GEF project is a child project of the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program, its contributions to which are described in **Table 5** above. As such, it will participate in GWP knowledge sharing events and platforms in Component 4 to disseminate lessons learned and project results and experiences globally. At the national level, coordination will be established with the following GEF biodiversity projects.

83. *UNDP/GEF SECURE Project – Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems* (2017-2024). This project takes a landscape approach to the conservation of Himalayan ecosystems, focusing on KBAs, buffer zones, corridors and areas outside traditional protected areas that are of importance for snow leopard are managed in tandem with sustainable use of natural resources and diversification of local livelihoods. As a child project of the GWP, the SECURE project is designed in full accordance with both the GWP and the GEF-supported Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP, 2013) a collaborative program involving the governments of 12 Snow Leopard range states. Consequently, its approach is similar to the current project and although the target landscapes are in different states and at higher altitudes, there are commonalities that would benefit from knowledge exchange. The SECURE project has experiences on implementation of a landscape approach, multi-level project governance (national, State, landscape-level PMU), impacts of COVID-19 on local communities and livelihoods, and on knowledge management and communications from national to local level that have informed the design of this project and will be helpful during inception as COVID-19 impacts on project landscapes are identified in more detail.

84. *UNEP/GEF Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IMWBES) Project* (July 2015 – June 2020). The project aims to complement and build on the existing policy and practice frameworks in order to improve the management effectiveness of nationally and internationally important wetlands in India and to secure the socio-economic and environmental benefits through wetland wise use. Its components address national wetland biodiversity knowledge management, national scale capacity building for applying integrated wetland management, and demonstration of integrated wetland management at sites in Bihar, Kerala and Punjab sites. Its main relevance to the current project concerns the conservation of wetlands for fishing cat nationally, and improved management of Terai wetlands in Dudhwa landscape. However, the wetland project will close before implementation starts later in 2020.

85. FAO/GEF *Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes* (2018-2025). This project aims to mainstream biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into the Indian agricultural sector. Its overall objective to "catalyse transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes". In addition to national mainstreaming, harmonized multi-sectoral approaches to mainstreaming environmental and resilience considerations into agriculture and landuse will be implemented at five landscapes in five States of India: in i) Madhya Pradesh (Chambal landscape – riverine wetlands), ii) Mizoram (Dampa Tiger Reserve), iii) Odisha (Simlipal Tiger Reserve and Asian Elephant Habitat), iv) Rajasthan (Desert National Park) and v) Uttarakhand (Corbett and Rajaji Tiger Reserve and Asian Elephant Habitat). The landscapes selected in these States are anchored around at least one protected area that has significant biodiversity of global importance. Given that three tiger reserves are included in the landscapes, there is potential for exchange of experiences and knowledge between these two projects, especially regarding wild cat-friendly agricultural practices in buffer zones outside protected areas.

86. *WWF/GEF Integrated Landscape Management for the Terai Arc Landscape (Nepal) (2020-2026).* This project in Nepal has a similar landscape conservation approach to the current project, and addresses very similar issues and threats to Dudhwa, which is located in the Indian side of the Terai Arc Landscape, right on the Indian-Nepalese border. As such transboundary collaboration on issues such as anti-poaching patrols, combatting IWT and HWC, and movements of wildlife such as tigers and elephants across the border has been included in both projects and direct cooperation between project PMUs and relevant government authorities is anticipated.

87. *UNDP/GEF Global Wildlife Program Phase 2 Child Project: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the tourism sector in Bhutan* – this project is also at PPG stage, with Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary as one of the project sites. Sakteng is immediately adjacent to Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary across the Bhutan-Arunachal Pradesh border, therefore transboundary collaboration between these two projects through direct cooperation between project PMUs and relevant government authorities is anticipated.

88. *GEF Small Grants Program India*[70] - SGP India has been recognized as one of the upgraded country programmes. As such, SGP India supports vulnerable communities through people-led approaches towards environmental conservation and livelihood enhancement with special focus on thematic areas such as Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, International Waters and Persistent Organic Pollutants. SGP India is being implemented by UNDP in partnership with the MoEFCC. The Centre for Environment Education acts as the National Host Institution (NHI) and has been coordinating and facilitating SGP in India since 2000. 443 community-based action projects have been supported by SGP. The grants are given to CBOs and NGOs for promoting innovation-led rural programmes that are connected to environment and energy conservation, poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood, gender mainstreaming and inclusive community empowerment. To date, SGP benefits have reached more than 600,000 people across India. Coordination with SGP India to build on completed SGP projects and achieve synergy in community-level actions in the project landscapes will be important for Component 3 in particular.

89. Recently closed GEF Biodiversity projects of relevance include the *UNDP/GEF project Developing an effective multiple-use management framework for conserving biodiversity in the mountain landscape of the High Ranges, the Western Ghats, India* (2013-2018), and *UNDP/GEF Mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plant diversity in three Indian states* (2008-2015) – which is relevant to the potential cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants as a livelihood and response to HWC problems, especially in NE India.

Other Initiatives

90. *World Bank India Ecosystems Service Improvement Project (P133803)* (2017 – 2022)[71]. With MoEFCC as the IA, the project aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Department of Forestry and community organizations to enhance forest ecosystem services and improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Central Indian Highlands (in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa). The project components will strengthen capacity and skills of government institutions for Effective Delivery of Forestry and Land Management Programs; improving forest quality and productivity; and scale up integrated SLEM approaches for reducing land degradation and desertification. As such the WB project is somewhat relevant to the project intervention in the Pakke-Eaglenest landscape, which consists of forested foothills and highlands, although the monsoonal evergreen tropical forest there has different characteristics.

91. *USAID/India Forest-Plus 2.0 (Forest For Water And Prosperity)* was launched in September 2019. Under the joint program, USAID will provide technical assistance to MoEFCC to improve management of forested landscapes in the states of Bihar, Kerala, and Telangana. The program will focus on developing tools and techniques to strengthen ecosystem-based management and the inclusion of ecosystem services in forest landscape management, and to enhance the inclusive economic opportunities that emerge from improved landscape management. While working in different landscapes from the present project, there is scope for adopting best practices in inclusive forest management practices, especially for the NE India landscape, where there is a need for strengthening community-based SFM practices.

92. *USAID's Tiger Matters project* with the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) shows how a focused project can have wide impacts in rural development. For example, WCT identified the corridors tigers use to move between tiger reserve areas in the central India, and this has enabled the Government of India to establish new tiger conservation areas and select villages for rural development programs. Tiger Matters, in partnership with the Global Tiger Forum, also builds capacity in the tiger range countries in Asia and supports transboundary efforts to stop illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. The WCT-USAID project is focussing on the Central Indian Landscape that includes the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and

[70] https://www.sgpindia.org/sgp_india.html

[71] https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P133803

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Chattisgarh. The scope of work includes: Training of mid-level and senior-level park management in patrolling strategies and crime control; Monitoring of tiger corridors using remote sensing; Monitoring tiger populations along vital corridors using Camera Trapping; Multi-stakeholder Consultations in the CIL, Sundarbans (Indo-Bangladesh) and Terai region (Indo-Nepal); Development and distribution of training material for frontline forest staff; Equipping Anti-Poaching Camps in various Protected Areas; and building capacity among field staff to tackle conflict situations and rescue animals: A fully-equipped and staffed WCT Rapid Response Unit will be moving through the CIL training forest officials in wildlife rescue and conflict mitigation. This project is highly relevant to interventions in the Ranthambhore landscape, and also has some connection to Dudhwa in the Indian Terai Arc Landscape.

93. *WWF India's landscape conservation programme* - In 2002-03, the landscape approach to conservation was adopted by WWF-India to revolutionize the overall conservation strategy to one that harmonized the needs of wildlife with the needs of local communities. The new approach represented a paradigm shift in focus from one that was selective in its focus only on Protected Areas to one that encompassed vast regions represented by a string of Protected Areas connected through Reserve Forests and human dominated areas. Within and around these critical landscapes, WWF-India has aimed to involve local communities, NGOs and government agencies as major stakeholders in its overall conservation goals. Currently, WWF-India is addressing species conservation through field level activities in different landscapes as well as through direct interventions aimed at conserving a particular species. These programmes focus on threats to wildlife and the issues surrounding these threats. Prominent among these are poaching, human-wildlife conflict, trade in wildlife parts, habitat destruction and legal support. The project activities are carried out at field as well as policy levels. The overall objectives under which these activities are undertaken include the conservation of tiger, elephant and rhino populations in priority landscapes including the Terai Arc Landscape; innovative and scalable models of community based conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and institutional partnerships are established in all landscapes; and landscape and forest conservation priorities are integrated into state development plans and policy advocacy undertaken for forest, species and habitat conservation.

94. *WWF India's programme in the Terai Arc Landscape* (including Dudhwa) focuses on: monitoring of wildlife and key corridors; reducing the dependence of villages on forest resources such as fuel wood; managing human-wildlife conflict; policy and advocacy work promoting broad-based support for conservation by involving the Forest Department, local political leaders and communities; and raising awareness among local communities. In Western India, the landscape programme includes Ranthambhore, focusing on reducing habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation due to developmental projects and encroachment by villagers; addressing human-wildlife conflict; and reducing poaching of tigers, co-predators and prey species. During the PPG, the project team worked closely with the WWF landscape teams and headquarters staff and utilized their in-depth knowledge in the design of the intervention strategies. Continued coordination will be required throughout implementation.

95. *The Global Tiger Forum (GTF)*[72] is an inter- governmental international body established in 1993 with members from willing countries to embark on a global campaign to protect the remaining 5 sub-species of Tigers distributed over 13 Tiger Range countries of the world. It utilizes co-operative policies, common approaches, technical expertise, scientific modules and other appropriate programmes and controls. GTF also aims to provide financial capabilities for tiger conservation and to develop a trust fund to support programme implementation. GTF has been assisting the government of India in preparation of management plans/Tiger conservation plans, capacity development, implementing with WWF-India the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) assessment in 4 states, working collaboratively and raising awareness, sharing information, best practices and technical expertise to increase cooperation and partnership among Tiger Range Countries including organizing bilateral meetings between India and its neighbours Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. USAID's Tiger Matters project, in partnership with GTF, builds capacity in the tiger range countries in Asia and supports transboundary efforts to stop illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. GTF has published a Manual on Protocols for monitoring habitat quality and wildlife populations in tiger landscapes, targeting frontline staff and their trainers, and also a Manual on Technical guidelines for habitat,

[72] http://globaltigerforum.org/about-gtf/

prey and tiger recovery across tiger range countries. Based on the above experience, GTF will play a key role in supporting project implementation, with specific inputs to Components 1 and 4 in particular.

96. *The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Heritage (SACON)* undertakes research on small cats nationally and in specific landscapes and sites, and provided significant input to the PPG process. Relevant research has included ecological species sorting in relation to habitat structure in the small cat guild of Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, research on activity patterns of small and medium sized cats in the Pakke-Eaglenest landscape analysing some 783 records of Leopard Cat, Asiatic Golden Cat, Marbled Cat and Clouded Leopard from 10 locations; national survey of the fishing cat identifying conservation issues, including Dudhwa and Katarniaghat as surveyed sites; and IUCN Red List assessments for species including Fishing Cat, Rusty-spotted Cat, Asiatic Golden Cat, Jungle Cat and Leopard Cat. See **Annex 24** for additional information.

97. *The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)*[73] runs conservation programmes at national and landscapes levels of relevance. Relevant projects include: *The Wildlife Crime Control Division (WCCD)* - consisting of three projects that complement one another, assisting and supporting various government agencies and aimed collectively towards the reduction of crime against wildlife and its habitats across India: The Litigation Project aims to ensure litigation success in cases involving wildlife-related crime; *Guardians of Wild or the Van Rakshak Project* was started in 2001 with the goal of assisting the government in creating a strong, well-equipped and motivated force of frontline field staff, to curb poaching and habitat degradation across the Protected Area network; and *The Wildlife Trade Control Project* comprehensively addresses issues related to the illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives, ensuring that the government machinery is being empowered and trained enough to sustainably manage wildlife crime in the long run. In the NE India project landscape, WTI supports *The Centre For Bear Rehabilitation And Conservation (CBRC)*, established under the Pakke Conservation Project, which is the first specialised rehabilitation centre for Asiatic black bears in India. Supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the centre was established jointly by the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in 2002, with an aim to rehabilitate displaced cubs back into the wild. In Dudhwa landscape, WTI has provided a lot of support over the years, including distribution of first aid kits to frontline staff as part of its Rapid Action Project, and developing strategies to mitigate HWC involving big cats under WTI's Terai Tiger Project – such as integrating local community volunteers into conflict mitigation activities through the formation of Primary Response Teams (PRTs). The project's landscape level activities to build frontline staff capacity, address HWC hotspots and engage communities in anti-poaching and wildlife crime will need to build on and be coordinated with WTI efforts.

98. *The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) -ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development*[74] aims to catalyse innovative ideas and solutions, in India, and globally, to enable business, and its stakeholders, in sustainable value creation. Instituted in 2006, the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognise and reward excellence in businesses that are seeking ways to be more sustainable and inclusive in their activities – to date, 304 businesses have been recognised. The CII will be a key partner in establishing an wildlife business council platform and mobilizing corporate sector funding for wildlife conservation.

Table 7. Intersection of related initiatives with project outputs

Related Initiative	Intersections with Components and Outputs of the Present Project			
	C1			C4
UNDP/GEF GWP SECURE	All Outputs			4.4
UNEP/GEF Wetlands - IMWBES				4.4
FAO/GEF Transforming Agriculture for GEBs & BD				4.4
WWF/GEF ILM for TAL Nepal	1.5			4.3, 4.4
UNDP/GEF GWP Bhutan Tourism Child Project				4.3, 4.4

[73] https://www.wti.org.in/
[74] https://www.sustainabledevelopment.in/

GEF SGP India				4.4
WB India Ecosystems Service Improvement Project				4.4
USAID/India Forest-Plus 2.0				4.4
USAID/WCT Tiger Matters project				4.4
WWF India	All Outputs			All Outputs
GTF	All Outputs			All Outputs
SACON	All Outputs			4.2, 4.3, 4.4
WTI	All Outputs			All Outputs
CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development				4.1, 4.4

Risks

75. The risks for the project have been collectively assessed and identified according to the division of responsibilities for this joint agency GEF project. Under this arrangement, UNDP leads as GEF Agency for Components 1 and 4, following the standard UNDP approach towards assessing and managing risks (see below). Similarly, the risks for Components 2 and 3 were assessed following the WWF GEF Agency procedures (see below). The identified project risks, their overall rating and the mitigation actions required during project implementation are given in **Annex 5**. The assumptions on which these project risks depend are listed in the project's Theory of Change (**Table 4**), with assumptions applied to the project indicators also described in the Monitoring Plan for the project Results Framework (**Annex 3**). Risks are only shown if their rating is considered to be Moderate or High, with the exception of risks identified in the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP, **Annex 4**) which are all described. As per standard UNDP requirements, the Project Manager will monitor risks quarterly and report on the status of risks to the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP Country Office will record progress in the UNDP ATLAS risk log. Risks will be reported as critical when the impact and probability are high. Management responses to critical risks will also be reported to the GEF in the annual PIR.

76. Of the fourteen project risks listed in **Annex 5** that are not related to the SESP or IPPF, two are rated High, three are Substantial, five are Moderate and four are Low. Two High risks and one Moderate risk are directly related to potential impacts of the ongoing COVID19 Pandemic, as follows:

77. Risk #12 (Moderate): *Risk of COVID19 impacts undermining project plans to support ecotourism development in project landscapes*. Project plans for ecotourism development will continue in tandem with other livelihood diversification efforts. These intervention plans should be reviewed on a regular basis once implementation starts in consultation with national and state tourism authorities, and if necessary, other options for sustainable livelihoods considered in the event that the economic viability of ecotourism development in the project landscapes is considered a major risk.

78. Risk #13 (High): *Risk of ongoing or new human disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 Pandemic affecting project implementation*. The project will comply with government directives in order to reduce health risks to project staff and stakeholders. Project start up could be delayed if necessary due to ongoing health risks and operational constraints caused by social distancing, self-isolation and other measures. Flexibility has been provided in the project budget through allowing a six-month buffer at each end for project start-up and completion delays. Implementation may be paused if necessary in affected areas while government disease prevention or control measures are implemented, and resumed at a later time if feasible. The Project Steering Committee will guide project responses through email correspondence for ongoing situations, as required. Revision of the project workplan may be necessary, and an extension request may be required if implementation is substantially delayed. Some adaptive adjustment may be needed to project strategy (e.g. on ecotourism development, business partnerships, or local hunting issues). Project support for PPE and IT communications to facilitate remote working will be provided through Outputs 4.2 and 4.4.

79. Risk #14 (High): *Impacts of exchange rate fluctuations on the budget available to support implementation plans, global economic recession and changes in government priorities impacting delivery of cofinancing commitments for project implementation*. The delivery of government co-financing support for the project

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may be impacted by government prioritization of support for COVID19 response measures. The GEF budget will be reviewed during project inception and any necessary measures taken to address any shortfalls due to exchange rate fluctuations between the GEF approved budget and project start up. Annual budget reviews should track and respond to subsequent fluctuations. Changes in the scope or timing of planned activities may be necessary through workplan adjustments. The Project Steering Committee should monitor and address any significant financial constraints arising due to exchange rate fluctuations and any delays or failures in the delivery of government cofinancing and business partnership financing delivery.

80. An additional two Substantial and two Moderate risks may be exacerbated by COVID19 impacts, therefore additional mitigation measures have been incorporated: Risk # 6 (Substantial): *Increasing human populations combined with increasing wildlife populations in PA, buffer and corridor areas will increase the prevalence of HWC, potentially exacerbated by COVID19-induced movements of people*; Risk #7 (Substantial): *Regional development priorities for settlements, agricultural and irrigation schemes, transportation infrastructure, hydropower and industry take precedence over conservation and NRM plans supported by the project, potentially exacerbated by changes in government priorities related to COVID19 recovery;* Risk #9 (Moderate): *Risk that livelihood incentives are insufficient to change behaviour towards achieving intended conservation outcomes, potentially exacerbated by COVID19 impacts;* and Risk #10 (Moderate): *Risk that targeted communities are not motivated to participate in sustainable livelihood activities that support landscape conservation for the benefit of small cats and other wildlife, potentially exacerbated where increased access to natural resources is important to buffer livelihood impacts due to COVID19.*

81. The other risks identified as Substantial were: #3: *Complex fund flow mechanisms and low capacity to disburse project funds efficiently*; while other Moderate risks were: #1: *Lack of ownership and support of different levels of government institutions could obstruct project implementation*; and #4: *Institutions governing PA buffer areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones and adjacent production landscape areas have inadequate capacity or resources for integrated natural resource planning and management*. See **Annex 5** for further details and mitigation measures.

Social and Environmental Safeguard Risks

82. Potential social and environmental risks for **Components 1 and 4** are captured under the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). The SESP was finalised during project preparation, as required by UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The SESP identified **10 risks** for Components 1 and 4 of this project that could have potential negative impacts in the absence of safeguards**, all of which are rated as Moderate**. **Therefore, the overall SESP risk categorization for the project is Moderate**. The following safeguards are triggered: 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; and Indigenous Peoples. The **Moderate risks** related to **Components 1 and 4** of the project that will be supported by UNDP as GEF Agency are described as follows (see **Annex 4** for additional details).

83. *Risk 1: Upstream risk of restriction of access/use of natural resources and displacement of IPs/ tribal communities through preparation of landscape-level master plans including management of ESZ for wild cat conservation.* A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) approach will be integrated and apply in the landscape planning approach and processes to avoid and prevent potential social and environmental impacts linked to development and implementation of landscape master plans. If the SESA considerations as part of master plan development determine that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) would be required to be compliant with UNDP SES then the measures outlined in the WWF IPPF will be followed (after confirmation that they adhere to UNDP SES requirements). A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) (**Annex 7B**) along with Project-specific grievance redress mechanism will be followed during all phases of the project. The master planning process under Output 1.1 will follow a participatory approach engaging District/State level stakeholder in each landscape including Eco-Sensitive Zones with consultation on existing policies, plans, state & national level schemes, defining clusters at Dudhwa TR, Pakke TR and Eagle Nest WLS. The planning process will also include primary data collection using community focus group discussions, participatory mapping and assessment through deployment of field teams.

84. *Risk 2: Risk of curtailing of customary natural resource management rights of tribal communities in project landscape through operational policy and plans for wild cat conservation.* A targeted SESA approach will be integrated into the policy development/revision and planning process for small cat conservation to identify and consider potential social and environmental risks linked to implementation of the different operational plans and policies. In parallel, the project will include capacity development activities to support the effective implementation of operational policies and SOPs. This is included under Output 1.5 for areas relevant to landscape management. Supported by WWF as GEF Agency, Output 2.2 includes training for frontline staff including community engagement and gender, delivery of a human rights-based approach to site-based wildlife law enforcement, field techniques for monitoring small cats etc. Further, evaluation workshops will be conducted to confirm best practices in implementation and identify lessons learned for implementation of guidelines and SOPs.

85. *Risk 3: Risk of low capacity to implement project activities which could impede compliance with UNDP social and environmental safeguards.* Capacity assessment of implementing agencies for components 1 & 4 has been integrated into project design/preparation and will be considered while doing implementation planning. Capacity development programs are included in Output 1.5 on landscape management considerations, in Output 2.2 under WWF as GEF Agency for frontline staff, and under Output 4.1 for private sector engagement and sensitization. The PMU has a National Safeguards and M&E Officer that will support these processes and provide sensitization training on SES requirements and ensure adequate consideration of SES within these activities.

86. *Risk 4: Project may exclude marginalized/vulnerable groups from participatory processes and/or project benefits due to lack of effective community engagement and support.* A participatory process and stakeholder engagement plan will be in place as an integral part of project planning and implementation. The stakeholder engagement plan will be implemented, and regularly reviewed and updated as needed. The master planning process under output 1.1 will follow a participatory approach including community focus group discussions, participatory mapping and assessment through deployment of field teams. Capacity of the implementing agencies will be developed for effective and inclusive community engagement including engagement of local and indigenous communities and vulnerable groups (e.g. Outputs 1.5, 2.2).

87. *Risk 5: Project activities and approaches to landscape-level planning, operational policy updates, capacity building and corporate sector engagements might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit.* A gender analysis based on specific consultations with women and girls in the demonstration landscapes and review of literatures has been conducted during the PPG (see **Annex 8**). The Gender Action Plan (**Annex 8**) will be implemented with proposed activities to ensure project opportunities and benefits flow to women and girls. The SEP (**Annex 7B**) along with Project-specific grievance redress mechanism will be followed during all phases of the project.

88. *Risk 6: Project landscapes could be impacted by the Supreme Court's ruling that over a million claims of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers are not valid and shall be evicted from forests by July 2019. Though the court later stayed its order to give states more time to examine the rejected land claims, this could potentially result in conflict in demonstration landscapes and disrupt project implementation.* This risk is not related to the project or any of the co-financing but if the Supreme Court's ruling was strictly implemented it may trigger conflicts between State governments and Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers which could disrupt project implementation. The SEP (**Annex 7B**) along with Project-specific grievance redress mechanism will be followed to minimize the possible disruption if created due to Supreme Court's decisions.

89. *Risk 7: Entry of the private sector in conservation (enhancing corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation) could result in risk through partnership with private sector entities that have poor SES track record or risk altering traditional patterns of natural resource use and social power due to market orientated motives.* Any corporate partnerships will be screened and due diligence and an exclusionary process applied for high-risk sectors in accordance with UNDP Private Sector Partnerships policy and UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool. In addition, the activities under Output 4.1 to develop partnerships and implement pilot initiatives with private sector (e.g. Green Business Platform/investment fund/CSR fund/grants etc. made available through private sector investment) will include a screening process to ensure consideration of social and environmental impacts, adherence to SES and exclusion of potential

high-risk activities. The SEP (**Annex 7B**) along with Project-specific grievance redress mechanism will be followed during all phases of the project.

90. *Risk 8: Risk of the project supporting private sector entities that could be noncompliant with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO).* Screening/exclusionary process for partnering with private companies will be a part of project planning and designing of private sector investment in accordance with UNDP due diligence for private sector partnerships (see above risk), including risk of potential noncompliance with ILO standards. Any activities proposed by private sector investment linked to the project will be subject to screening processes and an exclusionary process will apply to ensure that grants/grantees to not cover activities that would be in noncompliance with UNDP SES. Compliance with private sector due diligence will be monitored during implementation by the National Safeguards and M&E Officer in the PMU.

91. *Risk 9: The intended outcomes of (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 4.1) of the Project could be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change and variability, and natural disasters.* A climate risk screening has been completed (**Annex 26**). The potential climate change impacts/vulnerabilities will be considered while selecting corporate investments and designing master planning process for landscape conservation through: 1) Screening of climate change vulnerabilities for all corporate sponsored projects in Output 4.1 and master planning process (1.1), preparation and implementation of recovery action plans (1.2), protocol and standard operating procedures (SOPs) (1.3) and Site-specific guidelines for small cat conservation (1.4); and 2) Integration of inputs from Eco-Sensitive Zone management and climate-smart land use considerations.

92. *Risk 10: Risk that coordination and knowledge exchange actions on transboundary conservation could perpetuate potential safeguards risks linked to law enforcement.* A screening process will be put in place to identify and avoid potential safeguards impacts of the 'roadmap' developed for transboundary coordination on law enforcement for conservation. As needed mitigating measures such as need for capacity development and agreement on law enforcement approaches and standards will be captured in the roadmap development.

93. A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared (see **Annex 7B**), incorporating the project's grievance redress mechanism and will be implemented during designing and implementation of the project.

Stakeholder Engagement and South – South Cooperation

94. Stakeholder engagement during the project preparation period followed a PPG Stakeholder Engagement Plan consistent with UNDP requirements (see **Annex 7A**), listing the consultations required for each stakeholder and a description of the stakeholder engagement process. See Annex 02 of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (**Annex 7B**) for details of community consultations, and **Annex 17** for a record of all stakeholder consultations conducted during the Project Preparation.

95. Visits were conducted to each of the three project landscapes by the PPG team to conduct stakeholder consultations between mid-July and late September 2019. These consultations informed the assessment of small cat and other biodiversity values, the identification and assessment of the threats facing biodiversity, the analysis of barriers towards achieving the project goal, and the description of baseline activities at all levels of governance. These inputs provided the basis for the situation analysis of the project document, including the selection and defining of the project landscapes and targeted intervention areas within these landscapes. Consultations by the gender and community engagement consultant focused on gender analysis/mainstreaming, community engagement and social inclusion, as well as baseline analysis of local livelihoods and socio-economic conditions.

96. Following the guidance provided by GEF gender policy 2017 and GEF policy on stakeholder engagement, community consultations were organized. Nine consultations were organized in the core, buffer, and periphery regions of Dudhwa, Katarniaghat, Kishanpur, and Pilibhit tiger reserves with indigenous "Tharu" community, Scheduled caste, and Other Backward Caste communities. In Ranthambore- Karauli and Kela Devi area, more than ten community consultations were organized with men and women of different communities, including Mogiyas, pastoralist Gujjars, and farming community. In Nameri-Pakke- Eaglenest

area, more than 12 community consultations were organized with Nishi, Bugun, and Shertukpen tribes. 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.

97. Consultations were also conducted with key project stakeholders as research institutes (Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER), Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), SACON (Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History), ENVIS Centre on Wildlife & Protected Areas), NGOs and Donors (Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), Traffic India, Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), FERAL (Foundation for Ecological, Research Advocacy and Learning), Wildlife SOS, Conservation Action Trust (CAT), Wildlife Protection Society of India) and Inter-governmental Organizations (Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and IUCN).

98. The results of the baseline analysis were presented to UNDP, WWF and national government and used to inform the development of a first draft of the project intervention strategy. These materials were then intended to support a series of State-level consultation workshops for the project landscapes to obtain a wide range of stakeholder inputs, for incorporation into the project document. However, this was only completed for Pakke-Eaglenest landscape before the COVID19 pandemic occurred, bringing opportunities for physical consultation to a halt. The full draft project document was then presented to a virtual validation workshop on 8 August 2020.

99. GoI, UNDP, WWF and GEF requirements for gender equality have been addressed during project preparation by an analysis and action plan described in **Annex 8** and integrated into the project strategy as well as the present section on stakeholder engagement.

100. The following stakeholder engagement activities were conducted during project preparation:

101. Project Preparation Workshops for national and state level stakeholders and other key stakeholders, including government, NGOs, and CSOs:

a) PPG Inception Workshop – launch of project development process (mid-July 2019, New Delhi)

b) Pakke-Eaglenest Landscape Stakeholder Consultation Workshop – to review proposed activities (11 March 2020, Arunachal Pradesh)[75]

c) Virtual PPG Validation Workshop – to review the draft project document (8 August 2020).

102. Field level consultations (including meetings with a range of local stakeholders, community groups, site visits, field inspections, and focus group discussions)

a) Preliminary field trip with PPG team, UNDP and WWF staff to Ranthambhore – to announce start of Project Preparation, update the baseline situation on threats and barriers, gather initial baseline information (mid-July 2019);

b) National consultant team field visit to Dudhwa landscape (Uttar Pradesh) – to gather baseline information for situation analysis, conduct stakeholder and gender analysis, proposals for activities (August 2019);

c) National consultant team field visit to Ranthambhore landscape (Rajasthan) – to gather baseline information for situation analysis, conduct stakeholder and gender analysis, proposals for activities (August 2019);

d) National consultant team field visit to Nameri (Assam) and Pakke-Eaglenest landscape (Arunachal Pradesh) – to gather baseline information for situation analysis, conduct stakeholder and gender analysis, proposals for activities (September 2019);

[75] Dudhwa Landscape stakeholder consultation workshop was proposed for March 2020, but was cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions. Selected stakeholders from this landscape took part in the virtual validation workshop in August 2020.

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e) Field trip to Dudhwa landscape with Project Design IC and UNDP to inform design of preliminary activities (September 2019);

103. Individual stakeholder consultations

a) Meetings with individual stakeholders at all levels to discuss specific issues, obtain baseline data, review indicator targets, comments on activities, etc.;

b) Meetings with related projects and initiatives to obtain baseline information on their status of implementation, timing, budget, potential for inclusion as project co-financing, specific areas of collaboration (related to project outputs), mechanisms for collaboration.

104. Gender, Stakeholder Analysis and Safeguards consultations

a) Study conducted by Gender and Community Engagement specialist to ensure that these issues were screened and integrated into the design of project activities, outputs and the M&E framework, based on the above consultations by national consultant team during field trips;

b) Safeguards assessment by contracted specialist (January-March 2020)

105. Based on the above consultations, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Full Project implementation was developed (see **Annex 7B**), which provides details of the different groups of stakeholders, the proposed methods and topics of engagement, and the timing and frequency of such engagement. The plan aims to:

- Establish mechanisms that ensure a high level of ownership across project partners, affected and interested parties throughout the project life cycle to align with the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder project approach.
- Facilitate close engagement and grievances mechanisms of stakeholders in the further development and throughout implementation and closure of the project.
- Establish time frame and methods that ensure stakeholder consultation and disclosure of project information through the project life cycle; and
- Establish and manage communication and engagement mechanisms across partners, affected, and interested parties in a transparent, timely, and clear manner.

The main strategies to be deployed by the project to achieve stakeholder engagement are as follows.

Proposed Strategy to incorporate views of women and other relevant groups

106. The project will use the following methods to ensure that the views of women and vulnerable groups are included in the project design, planning, and implementation of activities at the community level:

- A combination of methods will be used when consulting and engaging local communities while respecting all participants' views and knowledge, including focus group discussions using various criteria depending on the situation (per economic activity, age group, gender, geographical locations, etc.); critical informants discussions (e.g., to understand the historical perspective of certain activities, gender perception, and realities, etc.). In pursuing these methods, the project will ensure that there is enough time, flexibility (e.g., due to disability, some may come from far) to ensure participation of all intended members of communities. This will avoid the risks of vulnerable groups being excluded from taking part due to being banned from public gatherings due to their disability, gender orientation, economic activity, religion, or tribalism.
- In consulting and engaging women and other relevant groups, communication will be simplified to ensure that it fits the local context and helps build confidence. In all meetings, the local language will be used, and where necessary, the translation will be used to tribal languages using members of the communities. Community members and officials will lead the discussions at the community level from the district government.
- A register will be kept (recording the institution/group/village/district government office etc rather than names of all individuals, and recording number of participants and gender), updated regularly, and feedback systems developed to ensure that women and other relevant groups (minorities, elderly, young other marginalized groups) are fully included in consultations, benefit from the project, and informed on the progress project.

Proposed methods to receive feedback and to ensure ongoing communications with stakeholders

107. The following approaches will support communications with stakeholders:

- All stakeholders that have been consulted and identified will be kept in the register (recording the institution/group/village/district government office etc rather than names of all individuals, and recording number of participants and gender) and updated regularly. These stakeholders will be kept abreast of information on project implementation reports and encouraged to provide feedback by individuals taking part in implementing the project through various means, including phone calls, emails, and informal meetings, among others. Almost all stakeholders identified by the project have an interest in the project areas that will facilitate engagement and outreach throughout the project cycle.
- National ministries and agencies that are primary partners to the project will be invited to provide feedback on the project through meetings (or workshops), including the various technical and steering committees set up under the project to design and implement activities throughout the project cycle. The primary partners will also provide feedback through direct engagement with the PMU during the development and execution of activities throughout the project cycle.
- The institutional project arrangement has allocated responsibilities for all parties to monitor and collect feedback from communities and other stakeholders throughout the project cycle. This set-up will allow for collection, analysis, follow-up, accountability, and integration of feedback provided.
- The PMU, executing partners, and partners will take notes during community meetings, interviews, and focus group discussions when exercising their communities' responsibilities. These field notes will be used to write and analyze field reports and monitoring reviews to provide feedback to the project implementation. Notes and reports will be filed.
- As appropriate, regional and local government authorities will be invited to provide feedback through speeches during officiating workshops, the launch of reports, and forums. The politicians will also be engaged and consulted to provide their input through visits to the district and regional offices during the execution of various project activities.
- As it has been done during the project's design process, all other stakeholders that have already been identified will be invited to workshops and meetings as per thematic topics and their interests to provide inputs and feedback during designing activities, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project. These stakeholders will be involved through individual consultation (phone calls, emails), sharing reports (workshops, monitoring) where feedback can be provided to PMU.
- The national-level government ministries, agencies, and members of PMU will also represent the project in various local and international multi-stakeholder meetings, forums, and workshops where feedback can be provided. This engagement will allow for input from various invited stakeholders, forge new partnerships, and identify new stakeholders beyond that have been identified.

Other engagement activities for the stakeholder engagement plan

108. Other engagement activities for the plan will include the following:

- Engagement with women's groups and youth for promoting community stewardship- Women are at the forefront in the fight for natural resource rights and collecting NTFP, fuelwood from the forest, human-wildlife conflict and hence, it would be essential to engage with youth and women groups to increase their awareness on small cat conservation, forest, and biodiversity protection.
- Increased awareness for small cat conservation: According to community members, watchers, and local guides shared that use of posters, signboards can be used for building awareness of community and other stakeholders on small cats.
- Creating a learning and sharing platform at the national level and across the border for sharing of best practices- Many wildlife NGOs working in the Pilibhit area have experience on camera trapping of small cats and running a public campaign community stewardship for conservation issues. But, largely, there is a lack of general knowledge and information regarding the small cat population, habitat, and conservation. Hence, it would be essential to create a national level and cross-border learning and sharing platforms to document, share, and replicate best practices for small cat conservation. It will also help increase the project's outreach to benefit other landscapes not covered under this project.

- Training and capacity building across project partners affected and interested stakeholders. The project will also build capacity on existing multi-stakeholder processes and established forums to provide room for partnerships and consultation with stakeholders beyond those directly affected by the project.
- In all meetings (individual, site visits, workshops, focus group discussions, key informants), records will be kept and documented for analysis, and various reports will be prepared. The documentation will also be used to keep stakeholders informed at different levels on progress, challenges, risks, and emerging opportunities.
- The district and communities will design, make a decision, and provide feedback throughout the project cycle. The identified district and community level state and non-state actors are beneficiaries (or effected parties) and partners to the project.

South – South Cooperation

109. This project is a child project under the GEF-7 Global Wildlife Program (GEF ID 10200), which provides a mechanism for cooperation and knowledge sharing, with both global and all national GWP projects being integrated into the GWP Global Knowledge Exchange Platform. India has a strong engagement in the GWP, being one of the first countries to join the GWP and an active participant in knowledge exchange, including hosting the 2017 in-person knowledge exchange event. During the PPG, the project was represented at the GWP in-person knowledge exchange event in South Africa in October-November 2019. This project will engage in GWP global/regional/thematic knowledge events to increase stakeholder engagement, present on project activities, and share experiences with other similar projects. The project will also actively share knowledge gained through participation in the GWP across national and sub-national networks.

110. The project is also well aligned with the Global Tiger Initiative / Global Tiger Forum, providing another avenue for international knowledge sharing further to WWF and UNDP's networks. In addition, to bring the voice of key stakeholders including the MoEFCC, State government agencies, partner NGOs and engaged communities to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on landscape conservation for wild cats. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on the conservation of wild cats, human-wildlife relations management and combatting poaching and illegal wildlife trade in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in South Asia.

111. Learning opportunities and technology transfer from peer countries will be further explored during project implementation. This will explicitly include collaboration with the WWF/GEF-6 Integrated Landscape Management for the Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal and the GWP GEF-7 tourism project in Bhutan. To present opportunities for replication in other countries, the project will codify good practices and facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as SAWEN, the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform and PANORAMA.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

112. The MoEFCC and UNDP are committed to mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment as well as social inclusion, to ensure that women and men have equal access to, and control over, resources for development, benefits, and decision-making at all stages of development processes, projects, programs or policies. The gender analysis and stakeholder consultations were carried out during project formulation in order to develop and implement a gender mainstreaming action plan (see **Annex 8).**

113. The objective of the gender analysis and gender mainstreaming action plan is to provide a framework for the project implementation team to ensure that women and men will be equally involved in the project and receive equitable social and economic benefits. Its overall strategy is to ensure the equal participation and benefits of women during project implementation, with the support of the gender specialists and

assigned gender focal points, and the collection of detailed sex-disaggregated data on project beneficiaries and participants.

114. Gender mainstreaming involves examining the relationships of men and women in the context of the project - both as actors in the process and as beneficiaries. The gender analysis involved analyzing how social and cultural norms impact the lives of both men and women differently by assigning different job roles, putting differential values on different jobs which translate into wage rates. The gender analysis also explored the structural and cultural barriers that women and men face to challenge gender roles; and tools that can help to break these norms to benefit all target groups.

115. The gender analysis and mainstreaming action plan was developed in accordance with the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021, UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (2014)[76][77], the UNDP Guidance Note on Gender Analysis[78], GEF 2020 Strategy, GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming (2012), the GEF's Gender Equality Action Plan (2014), GEF policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards (2015), GEF Policy on Public Involvement in GEF Projects (2012) and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Public Involvement Policy (2014).

116. Some of the key objectives of the gender analysis for this project were to:

- Understand gender divisions of labor, differential access to natural resources and other basic services to assess the impacts of human-wildlife conflict on women's workload, livelihood, and well-being;
- Assess key livelihood activities and the differential roles of men and women in livelihood activities to understand the impacts of the project;
- Explore traditional knowledge, attitudes and practices of local communities regarding biodiversity conservation and small wild cat population and habitat management;
- Understand social and cultural norms related to small wild cats, women's role in hunting / care of the wild cats and other animals.

117. The gender analysis and action plan were prepared by drawing lessons from primary and secondary assessment, including review of literature regarding women's roles in wildlife management, the status of women in the landscape areas, and existing gender-specific challenges to build location-specific understanding and to inform the preparation of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) questionnaires. FGDs and semi-structured interviews were held with women and men, different government department staff, Civil Society Organizations and activists working in the landscapes to understand gender divisions of labor, gender-specific challenges, gender differential needs, and the different roles that men and women play in relation to the conservation of wild cats. Visits were made to each of the three project landscapes (Dudhwa, Ranthambhore and Pakke-Eaglenest) during the period from mid-July through September 2019 in order to conduct the stakeholder consultations and review the situation on the ground (see **Annex 17** for details of the stakeholder meetings held).

118. The Gender Action Plan includes the following main strategies:

- *Institutional Capacity for Gender Integration:* Gender sensitization of the implementation team is crucial for integrating gender in the project. A gender integration module should be prepared and all the implementation team should be trained. An online gender module can be created and made compulsory for the implementing team, monitoring and evaluation team.
- *Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation:* Monitoring and review process are significant in achieving set objectives. Allocating gender specific indicators against project outputs and outcomes and making the team accountable to report on all the indicators will help to integrate gender concerns in the project. In addition, targeted indicators that reflect progress in the empowerment of women are required beyond simple gender disaggregation of indicator targets.
- *Gender-Disaggregated Data Collection:* Sex-disaggregated data is first step in integrating gender concerns in the system as it helps to understand the existing participation level of women on various trainings and processes. Suggested improvements include the addition of indicators such as the

[76] Dated 24 April 2020
[77] UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES), June 2014.
[78] UNDP, How to Conduct a Gender Analysis, A Guidance Note for UNDP Staff, 2016

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numbers of the female headed households engaged in the project, numbers of female and male participants in the training Programme. Gender assessment of the training programmes and collected MIS data of training participants should be conducted regularly to understand factors affecting women's participation in the training programmes. Hence, integrating gender concerns in the monitoring and review indicators and process will be key to encourage women's participation in the designing, planning and implementation of the project activities.

- *Gender-Responsive Annual Workplans and Budget:* During project implementation, as an integral part of the team that develops the annual workplans, the gender expert will lead on the provision of inputs to ensure that annual workplans are gender-responsive to ensure proper implementation of this gender action plan. Specific annual budget allocation and annual gender budget reporting should be ensured for the achievement of gender goals. Further, communication and documentation process should be gender sensitized to capture gender stories highlighting achievement of both gender strategic and practical needs. The budget aims to support the inputs of a gender specialist on the project team to implement the gender action plan and provide related training for staff etc, produce communications materials and lead the gender-related M&E reporting, inter alia.

119. The Gender Action Plan sets out specific activities designed to ensure the mainstreaming of gender into project Outputs and activities, including the following key actions to maximize equal participation in and benefits from the project:

- The project will recruit gender experts to advise and support implementation of the gender action plan
- Appointment of one staff for each project landscape to act as gender focal point to record, collect and report implementation of this gender mainstreaming and action plan
- Appointment of one staff for each project landscape to act as gender focal point to record, collect and report implementation of this gender mainstreaming and action plan
- Active participation of women and youth in habitat management and rehabilitation interventions, monitoring, and sharing of lessons learned
- Sensitization of forest staff on gender and social concerns of local communities for improving their engagement (organizing one gender and FPIC training in each landscape area)
- Establishment and strengthening of women-based and women-led community institutions (e.g. SHGs) and ensuring their participation in decision-making roles in other community based institutions such as EDCs, BMCs to support community-based conservation approaches - community mobilisation, establishment of relevant local committees, preparation of community conservation plans in participatory manner
- Women are also most involved in domestic chores such as collection of firewood, fodder and water, and primarily responsible for cooking, therefore they should play a prominent role in consultations regarding such interventions (e.g. review of LPG subsidies, water supply, alternative energy and energy-efficient stoves, etc.)
- Inclusion of gender and social concerns in awareness raising plans for each landscape
- Provision of training on improved agricultural and livestock management practices for women farmers
- Promotion of handicraft-making, ecotourism and other livelihoods with womens' groups including technical assistance such as provision of training inputs and materials, and linkages for market access, etc.
- Prioritised engagement of women in developing HWC responses through the SAFE workshops are of great significance (e.g. electrification of villages, provision of solar lights, electric fencing, etc.)
- Sharing of gender sensitive best practices for knowledge management purposes.

120. Gender disaggregated indicators and targets are provided in the project Results Framework (Section IV), including Indicator 1 (number of direct beneficiaries), Indicator 13: Improved understanding of values of wild cats and more positive attitudes towards small wild cat conservation among target audiences, as measured by KAP, and Indicator 15: No. project best practices developed, disseminated and used, targeting:...gender mainstreaming and traditional knowledge relevant to wild cats/habitats.

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Innovation, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up

121. *Innovation*: Project strategies are based on a novel approach of multi-stakeholder engagement and stewardship that have not been adequately applied before in India for integrated conservation of wild cats at the landscape scale. The project will engage communities in wild cat conservation by empowering community-level institutions in co-management and by creating economic incentives for the adoption of wild cat-friendly land and habitat management techniques in the forest and agricultural mosaic surrounding key PAs and corridors; apply a holistic landscape approach that considers the interconnectedness of landscape elements and actors and integrates conservation actions for individual species into a coordinated action portfolio; and engage stakeholders from different administrative units (e.g. States, districts, individual PAs), institutional mandates (e.g. Departments of Forest, Agriculture, Land Resources) and functions (e.g. government, non-government, civil society, community) in wild cat conservation. While India has strongly managed protected areas, the effective management of buffer zone and corridor areas under multiple jurisdictions through a coordinated landscape planning approach will be a new contribution, with particular value in demonstrating how the Eco-Sensitive Zones can be managed in practice.

122. *Sustainability*: long-term ownership over project outputs will be achieved by institutionalizing project plans and approaches (e.g. landscape master plans, database and App on small wild cats, SOPs, guidelines) within national (Wildlife Division and NTCA, under MoEFCC), State, district and local-level institutions, mainstreaming wild cat conservation into the policies and plans of other sectors; integrating project outputs within existing government programs (e.g. conservation plans for tiger reserves and management plans for other PAs) and by creating the economic incentives and public-private partnerships needed to sustain community participation beyond project close. It will demonstrate sustainable land management practices and habitat restoration as part of the management of Eco-Sensitive Zones that are currently being introduced as buffer areas for all PAs.

123. *Scaling up:* The project approaches are strongly aligned with the National Wildlife Action Plan as well as other plans and institutional priorities (e.g. NTCA) and therefore have high potential for up-scaling to other wild cat landscapes in India, as well as neighbouring countries and wild cat range States. The inclusion of the Global Tiger Forum as a sub-level Responsible Party for implementation of this project opens considerable opportunity for mainstreaming small cat conservation into international programmes in support of tiger conservation. The project's efforts to ensure effective 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 coordinated action with neighbouring countries.

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IV. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal(s)[79]: 1, 5, 11, 13, 14, 15				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): UNDP CPD Outcome: Energy, environment and resilience; Output 3.2: Effective solutions developed at national and subnational levels for sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, ozone depleting substances, chemicals and wastes.				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective: ***Secure populations and habitats of wild cats subject to habitat encroachment, human-wildlife conflict, poaching and illegal trade in priority landscapes of northern, north-eastern and western India***	Mandatory Indicator 1: (GEF Core Indicator #11): # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	0	3,200 (1,860 women, 1,340 men)	6,300 (3,690 women, 2,610 men)
	Mandatory Indicator 2: (GEF Core Indicator #1): Terrestrial PAs under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares) as measured by METT (**Annex 10**): A. Dudhwa Tiger Reserve* (220,177 ha) B. Pakke Tiger Reserve* (137,695 ha) C. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary* (21,700 ha) D. Sessa Orchid Sanctuary (10,000 ha) *Includes Core and Buffer Areas, but not ESZ	Area: 0 Baseline METT Scores: A - 41 B - 52 C - 54 D - 55	Area: 389,572 ha Mid-term METT Scores for: A -57 B - 63 C - 64 D - 67	Area: 389,572 ha Completion METT Scores for: A - 81 B - 81 C - 81 D - 82
	Mandatory Indicator 3: (GEF Core Indicator #4): Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding PAs) (Hectares)	0	40,000 ha under improved practices, including: sustainable grazing management; improved arable cropping practices (e.g. reduced chemical use); community-based natural resource management; etc.	100,000 ha under improved practices, including: sustainable grazing management; improved arable cropping practices (e.g. reduced chemical use); community-based natural resource management; etc.
Project Component 1:	**Enabling policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation**			
Project Outcome 1: ***Strengthened policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation in accordance with the National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031***	**Indicator 4:** Landscape conservation master plans developed for globally-significant wild cat landscapes and institutionalized into government plans and programs with implementation supported by multi-sector partnerships	Conservation efforts focus on PAs and dispersed efforts led by diverse parties outside the PAs, with no overall vision or coordination at landscape level	Landscape conservation master plans developed for Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscapes and multi-sector partnerships defined for their implementation	Landscape conservation master plans for Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest Landscapes adopted by the respective State Governments and implementation supported by State Government plans and budgets and multi-sector partnerships
	Indicator 5: Tiger Conservation Plans within project landscapes incorporate specific requirements for small wild cat conservation based on project landscape master plans, Species Recovery Action Plans, SoPs and site specific guidelines	Tiger Conservation Plans do not include measures for small wild cats	One set of recommendations for each project landscape delivered to NTCA for uptake in Tiger Conservation Plans, based on project landscape Master	Tiger Conservation Plans within project landscapes revised to incorporate specific requirements for small wild cat conservation, and

[79] The project will primarily target terrestrial biodiversity conservation (Goal 15 – Life on Land), but also contribute towards other Goals, including: 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 13 (Climate Action), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 14 (Life Below Water) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

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			Plans, Species Recovery Action Plans, SoPs and site specific guidelines	recommendations for upscaling endorsed by NTCA
	Indicator 6: Improved institutional capacity of relevant government agencies for landscape conservation incorporating wild cat needs, as measured by Capacity Development Scorecard **(Annex 19)**, for MoEFCC, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh State, District and Municipal Agencies including Forestry, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Medicinal Plants, Tourism, etc).	Baseline Score: 34.2	Mid-term Score: 39	Completion Score: 48
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	1.1 Landscape-level master plans for wild cat conservation developed and institutionalized into government plans and programs 1.2 National level Species Recovery Action Plans developed and implemented for Caracal, Fishing Cat and Clouded Leopard informed by a national database and atlas on wild cats 1.3 Protocol and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for small cat and leopard conservation developed and institutionalized in State and District Forest Departments 1.4 Site-specific guidelines on small cat (plus leopard) conservation integrated into revised big cat conservation strategies and management plans of tiger reserves and other PAs 1.5 Capacity of State and District agencies increased for mainstreaming wild cat conservation in landscape management.			
Project Component 4	**Partnerships, knowledge management and M&E**			
Outcome 4: ***Effective partnerships, communications, knowledge management and M&E for wild cat conservation***	**Indicator 12:** National-level green business platform operationalized with Terms of Reference, broad membership and investment through partnership in project-related activities	Indian Wildlife Business Council no longer operational despite GTI, WB and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) establishing it in 2012	National-level green business platform established with Terms of Reference and membership including at least 10 corporate bodies	National-level green business platform operational with TOR, membership of at least 20 corporate bodies, and actively investing through at least one partnership activity in each project landscape
	Indicator 13: Improved understanding of values of wild cats and more positive attitudes towards small wild cat conservation among target audiences including national and state government line agencies (Forest and Wildlife, Environment, Agriculture, Revenue, Rural Development, etc) and concerned NGOs, as measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) score. See **Annex 21** for KAP assessment methodology	KAP baseline scores (to be conducted in Year 1)	KAP midterm targets (to be determined in Y1)	KAP completion targets (to be determined in Y1)
	Indicator 14: Annual number of PAs and institutions sharing knowledge on small wild cat conservation through regional knowledge platform	No regional platform for sharing of knowledge on small wild cat conservation	Platform established and operational - 10/year	20/year
	Indicator 15: Number of project best practices developed, disseminated and used, targeting: integrated management of ESZs to benefit wildlife, management of targeted Wasteland habitats, small wild cat – friendly agriculture practices, HWC	0	3	6

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	management in targeted communities, community-based monitoring of small wild cats, gender mainstreaming and traditional knowledge relevant to wild cats / habitats.			
	Indicator 16: Number of annual reflection meetings to review M&E and other data for adaptive management, linked to preparation of progress reports and development of annual workplans	0	3	6
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	4.1 National-level Green Business platform developed for enhancing corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation 4.2 Awareness raised for wild cat conservation at national and sub-national levels through communications strategy and action plan implementation 4.3. Transboundary joint action and collaboration on wild cat conservation 4.4 Knowledge management coordinated between landscapes, across India, neighbouring countries and with the Global Wildlife Program, including sharing of best practices and lessons learned 4.5 M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards developed and implemented for adaptive project management			

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V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) PLAN

124. The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in **Annex 3** details the roles, responsibilities and frequency of monitoring project results.

125. Project Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.

125. Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[80]. The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in Annex, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

126. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Workshop and Report:

127. A project inception workshop will be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement, with the aim to:

a. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
c. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
d. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
e. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
f. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
g. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.
h. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

128. The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. A PIR will be completed for the full project, led by UNDP as GEF Agency seeking WWF inputs as joint GEF Agency. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to

[80] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. The quality rating of the previous year's PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

GEF Core Indicators:

129. The GEF Core indicators included as **Annex 12** will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground-truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website. The required Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METTs) have been prepared **(Annex 10)** and the scores included in the relevant GEF Core Indicators.

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

130. The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC). UNDP will lead on this for both GEF Agencies.

131. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired by UNDP evaluation specialists to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

132. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS-GEF Directorate.

133. The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by 8 June 2024. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's completion.

Terminal Evaluation (TE):

134. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. UNDP will lead on this for both GEF Agencies.

135. The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired by UNDP evaluation specialists to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

136. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS-GEF Directorate.

137. The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by 8 April 2027. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

Final Report:

138. The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

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Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information:

139. To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy[81] and the GEF policy on public involvement[82].

Table 8. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US$) *All in Component 4 unless indicated*	Time frame
Inception Workshops - 3 (1 national and 2 at state level)	Implementing Partner Project Manager	20,000 (10,000 National; 10,000 States)	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Inception Report	Project Manager	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Reflections Meetings to review M&E and other data for adaptive management	Project Manager	None	Annually in preparation for the progress reports and development of the annual workplans
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	Project Manager	18,000 (6,000 x 3 years)	Annually prior to GEF PIR excluding MTR and TE years (covered below). This will include GEF core indicators.
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) [83]	UNDP RTA UNDP Country Office Project Manager	None	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring all risks (Atlas risk register)	UNDP Country Office Project Manager	10,000 (2,000 x 5 years)	On-going.
Monitoring of safeguards according to UNDP SESP	M&E and Safeguards Analyst Landscape M&E and Safeguards/IP Specialist	50,000 (10,000 National; *40,000 Landscapes in Component 3)*	On-going.
Supervision missions[84]	UNDP Country Office	None	Annually
Oversight missions[85]	RTA and BPPS-GEF	None	Troubleshooting as needed

[81] See http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/transparency/information_disclosurepolicy/
[82] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines
[83] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.
[84] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.
[85] The costs of UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF Unit's participation and time are charged to the GEF Agency Fee.

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GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US$) *All in Component 4 unless indicated*	Time frame
Mid-term GEF Core indicators and METT	Project Manager	10,000	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	Independent evaluators	56,500	8 June 2024
Terminal GEF Core indicators and METT	Project Manager	10,000	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Independent evaluators	46,500	8 April 2027
TOTAL indicative COST		**221,000** *= 4.91% of GEF Grant*	

VI. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Roles and responsibilities of the project's governance mechanism:

UNDP, as the implementing Agency of the GEF for Components 1 and 4 will implement components 1 and 4 and manage the funding allocated by the GEF to UNDP in relocation to components 1 and 4, under the implementing modalities based on its own policy and procedures. Management of the funds allocated by the GEF to WWF in relation to the implementation of Components 2 and 3 shall be the exclusively responsibility of WWF and shall be managed by WWF in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Grant Agreement to be entered between WWF and the Government of India. UNDP shall therefore not be held accountable in relation to such funds allocated by GEF to WWF in relation to Components 2 and 3.

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

140. **For UNDP:** The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

141. The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- Risk management as outlined in this Project Document;
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan;
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

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Responsible Parties:

142. The Global Tiger Forum (GTF) will play the following roles during project implementation, defined respectively for UNDP as follows:

143. **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).

National Project Management Unit

144. The National Project Management Unit (NPMU) will be established in the GTF offices. It will comprise a National Project Director, Project Manager (PM), Administrative and Finance Officer and other technical and administrative staff as relevant. The NPMU, in collaboration with the MoEFCC, national Project Steering Committee and State Steering Committees will have overall management and administrative responsibility for facilitating stakeholder involvement and ensuring increased provincial level ownership of the project. The NPMU staff will be located in Delhi to ensure coordination among key stakeholders at the federal level and state level during the project period.

State Steering Committees

145. In order to govern the project at the State level for the two project landscapes, a State Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary/Additional Chief will be formed for each of the two States (Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh). These State Steering Committees will be subordinate to the National Project Steering Committee. The Chief Wildlife Warden /State Project Director will be the Member Convener of each Committee. This committee will be composed of – Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and a senior member from the Wildlife/Forest Department (2); Chairman of State Biodiversity Board (1); elected representative of the region (1); representatives from relevant line departments (4); and members from participating NGOs and research and development Institutions (2); representatives of UNDP and WWF India; and individual experts. Landscape staff will join respective State PSC meetings to provide update reports. The key function of the committee will be to take policy decisions related to program implementation, finance, human resources and operations of project implementation at State level. The State Steering Committees will provide guidance and ensure consistency, synergy and convergence of approaches with other ongoing development projects and processes in the State, and support annual workplan development, implementation and progress reporting. The State Steering Committees would also facilitate block, district and sector agency participation in the landscape level planning operations at village level to ensure convergence of manpower and financial resources. At the State level, oversight and coordination will the responsibility of a State Project Director - a senior officer of the Wildlife Department (cofinanced position). The national PMU will provide coordination support for the State Steering Committees along with support for coordination of activities at State level.

Landscape Level Advisory Committees

146. In each project landscape, a Landscape Advisory Committee will be established, chaired by the District Collector or a senior officer equivalent to his rank. The Committee will have members from relevant line departments, heads of Gram Panchayats, community-based organizations, community level Institutions, other relevant stakeholders, UNDP and WWF India.

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Landscape Planning and Management Unit (LPMU)

147. In each project landscape, there will be a Landscape Planning and Management team headed by the District Collector/Divisional Forest Officer or an officer of equivalent rank from the Forest Department. The DFO/other officer will be supported by landscape level staff including technical experts and specialists. Functioning of landscape project units will be coordinated by the national PMU.

148. **For UNDP:** UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of Components 1 and 4, which will form a UNDP Project Document signed with government. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is also responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Project Steering Committee.

Project organisation structure:

149. The project organization structure is shown in **Figure 4** below.

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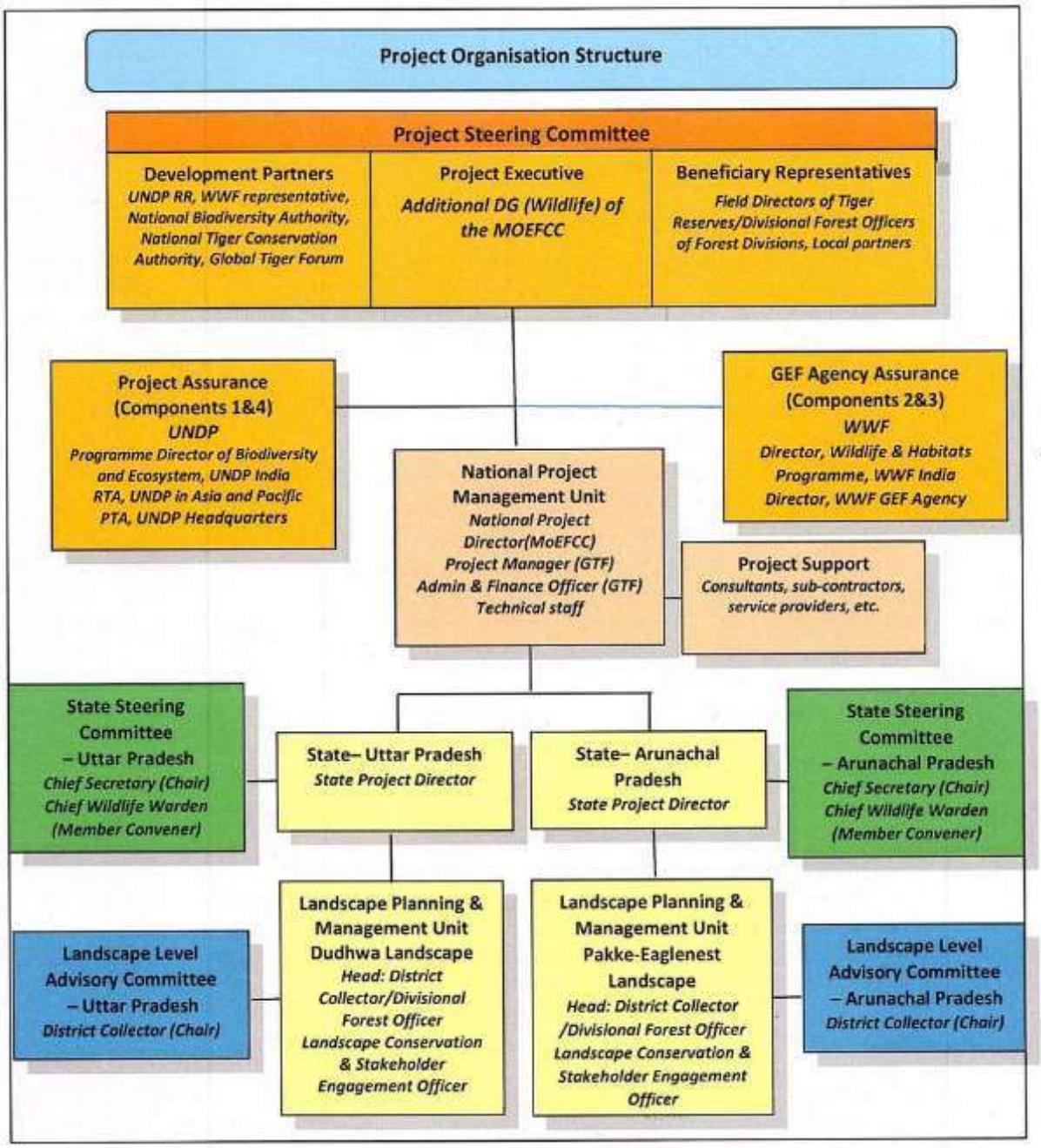


Figure 4. Organogram of the project governance and management structure

Project Steering Committee (PSC):

150. The Project Steering Committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, PSC decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

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151. **For the UNDP-supported project covering Components 1 and 4:** In case consensus cannot be reached within the PSC, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

152. Specific responsibilities of the Project Steering Committee include:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
- Address project issues as raised by the Project Manager;
- Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks;
- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF (components 1 and 4) and WWF GEF (components 2 and 3), and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF(components 1 and 4) and WWF GEF(components 2 and 3);
- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes;
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities;
- Track and monitor co-financing for this project;
- Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year;
- Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;
- Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner;
- Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Address project-level grievances;
- Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
- Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up;
- Ensure highest levels of transparency and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

153. The composition of the Project Steering Committee must include the following roles:

a. Project Executive: Is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs the Project Board. The Executive is normally the national counterpart for nationally implemented projects. The Project Executive is: *Additional DG (Wildlife) of the MoEFCC*

b. Beneficiary Representative(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often civil society representative(s) can fulfil this role. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are:
Field Directors of Tiger Reserves; Divisional Forest Officers of Forest Divisions; Local partners (TBC – e.g. Community reps from each landscape – Eco-Development Committees (Dudhwa), Tribal Councils (Pakke/Eaglenest)

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c. Development Partner(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: *UNDP Resident Representative, WWF representative, National Biodiversity Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum*

d. Project Assurance: UNDP for Components 1 and 4 performs the quality assurance role and supports the Project Steering Committee and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed. The Project Steering Committee cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. UNDP provides a three – tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of the Project Management function.

154. The PSC will have high level, cross-sectoral representation including representatives of the MoEFCC, as the key governmental agency in charge of natural resources and environment and will ensure that other relevant governmental agencies are involved as per their mandate. Representatives of UNDP and WWF will participate in PSC meetings, and the PSC may also include representatives of other national or participating state representatives, non-government organizations, experts and community representatives. Other participants can be invited into the PSC meetings at the decision of the Chair of the Steering Committee, as and when required to enhance its efficacy. It will meet at least twice a year or as needed. The National Project Management Unit will serve as the Secretariat of the Project Steering Committee and the National Project Director (NPD) will take responsibility for calling its meetings, preparation of agenda, documentation and distribution of minutes and ensuring that decisions of the Committee are implemented in letter and spirit.

155. **Project extensions: For UNDP:** The UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extension requests. Note that all extensions incur costs and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis and only if the following conditions are met: one extension only for a project for a maximum of six months; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will be covered by non-GEF resources; the UNDP Country Office oversight costs during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources.

Fund Flow Mechanism

156. GEF funds for project implementation will be routed through the GEF Agencies and UNDP to MoEFCC for onward disbursement at federal and project state levels in accordance with the GoI guidelines for Externally Aided Projects. The National PMU operated by GTF, sub-contracted bodies and consultancy inputs will receive funds directly under contract from MoEFCC. This mechanism is illustrated in **Figure 5** below.

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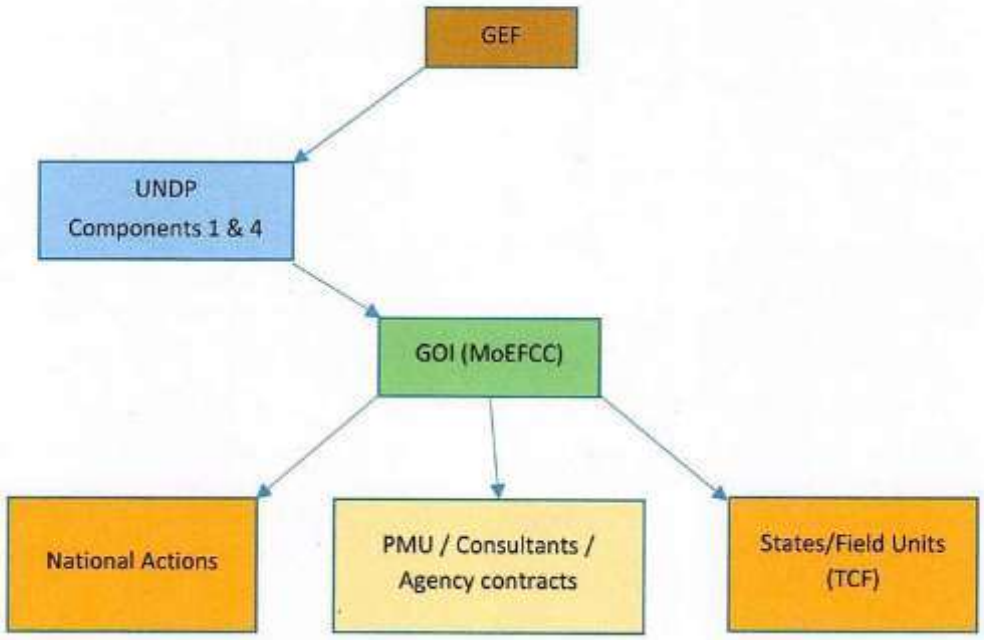


Figure 5. Suggested diagram for fund flow

VII. FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

157. The total cost of the project is USD 60,326,733. This is financed through a GEF grant of USD 1,975,000 administered by UNDP and additional support of USD 58,351,733 including GEF grant of USD 2,525,000 administered by WWF. UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight of the GEF resources and the cash co-financing transferred to UNDP bank account only for component 1 and 4.

Confirmed Co-financing:

158. The actual realization of project co-financing will be monitored during the mid-term review and terminal evaluation process and will be reported to the GEF. **For UNDP:** Note that all project activities included in the project results framework Components 1 and 4 that will be delivered by co-financing partners (even if the funds do not pass through UNDP accounts) must comply with UNDP social and environmental standards. Co-financing will be used for the following project activities/outputs:

Co-financing source	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount (USD)	Planned Co-financing Activities / Outputs	Risks	Risk Mitigation Measures
MoEFCC	In-kind	400,000	In-kind support / technical inputs for project governance and management - PMC	1.Delays in disbursement of govt budgets occur frequently, could be exacerbated by COVID situation. 2.Risk of exchange rate fluctuations, economic	1.PSC to monitor delivery of Co-financing and follow up with relevant govt units 2. PSC to monitor and address significant financial

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				recession and changes in govt priorities impacting delivery of cofinancing, linked to COVID19 pandemic	constraints arising due to exchange rate fluctuations and any delays or failures in cofinancing.
MoEFCC	Public Investment – Investment Mobilized	20,363,591	1.1, 1.3, 1.4; 2.1, 2.2; 3.1-3.5 ; 4.1-4.5 , PMC	As above	As above
State Government of Arunachal Pradesh	In-kind	5,440,487	2.1, 2.2, 3.1-3.5, PMC	As above	As above
	Public Investment – Investment Mobilized	327,166	2.1, 2.2, 3.1-3.5	As above	As above
State Government of Uttar Pradesh	In-kind	17,467,840	2.1, 2.2, 3.1-3.5, PMC	As above	As above
	Public Investment – Investment Mobilized	9,933,649	2.1, 2.2, 3.1-3.5	As above	As above
WWF-US	In-kind	303,000	Component 2 and 3	Government restrictions on INGO operations in India. Possible shifts in cofinancing delivery related to COVID19 Pandemic impacts	Support from MoEFCC and UNDP CO
WWF India	Investment mobilized In-kind	270,000 90,000	Component 2 and 3	Government restrictions on INGO operations in India	Support from MoEFCC and UNDP CO
UNDP	In-kind	250,000	4.2, 4.4, 4.5, PMC	Possible shifts in cofinancing delivery related to COVID19 Pandemic impacts	NA
UNDP	Investment mobilized	550,000	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 4.1-4.5	No significant risks	NA
GTF	In-kind	120,250	PMC	Possible shifts in cofinancing delivery related to COVID19 Pandemic impacts	NA
GTF	Investment mobilized	310,750	1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.4, 4.1	No significant risks	NA
Total		**55,826,733**			

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Budget Revision and Tolerance:

159. As per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP, the Project Steering Committee will agree on a budget tolerance level for each plan under the overall annual work plan allowing the Project Manager to expend up to the tolerance level beyond the approved project budget amount for the year without requiring a revision from the Project Steering Committee. Should the following deviations occur, the Project Manager and UNDP Country Office will seek the approval of the BPPS-GEF team to ensure accurate reporting to the GEF: a) Budget re-allocations among components in the project budget with amounts involving 10% of the total project grant or more; b) Introduction of new budget items that exceed 5% of original GEF allocation.

160. Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount will be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g. UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing).

Audit:

161. The project will be audited as per UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies. Audit cycle and process must be discussed during the Inception workshop.

Project Closure:

162. Project closure will be conducted as per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP. All costs incurred to close the project must be included in the project closure budget and reported as final project commitments presented to the Project Board during the final project review. The only costs a project may incur following the final project review are those included in the project closure budget.

Operational completion:

163. The project will be operationally completed when the last UNDP-financed inputs have been provided and the related activities have been completed. This includes the final clearance of the Terminal Evaluation Report (that will be available in English) and the corresponding management response, and the end-of-project review Project Board meeting. . **Operational closure must happen at the end date calculated by the approved duration after the Project Document signature or at the revised operational closure date as approved in the project extension. Any expected activity after the operational date requires project extension approval.** The Implementing Partner through a Project Steering Committee decision will notify the UNDP Country Office when operational closure has been completed. At this time, the relevant parties will have already agreed and confirmed in writing on the arrangements for the disposal of any equipment that is still the property of UNDP.

Transfer or disposal of assets:

164. In consultation with the Implementing Partner and other parties of the project, UNDP is responsible for deciding on the transfer or other disposal of assets. Transfer or disposal of assets is recommended to be reviewed and endorsed by the project board following UNDP rules and regulations. Assets may be transferred to the government for project activities managed by a national institution at any time during the life of a project. In all cases of transfer, a transfer document must be prepared and kept on file[86]. The transfer should be done before Project Management Unit complete their assignments.

Financial completion (closure):

165. The project will be financially closed when the following conditions have been met: a) the project is operationally completed or has been cancelled; b) the Implementing Partner has reported all financial transactions to UNDP; c) UNDP has closed the accounts for the project; d) UNDP and the Implementing Partner have certified a final Combined Delivery Report (which serves as final budget revision).

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86 See https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PPM_Project%20Management_Closing.docx&action=default.

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166. The project will be financially completed **within 6 months of operational closure or after the date of cancellation**. Between operational and financial closure, the implementing partner will identify and settle all financial obligations and prepare a final expenditure report. The UNDP Country Office will send the final signed closure documents including confirmation of final cumulative expenditure and unspent balance to the BPPS-GEF Unit for confirmation before the project will be financially closed in Atlas by the UNDP Country Office.

Refund to GEF:

167. Should a refund of unspent funds to the GEF be necessary, this will be managed directly by the BPPS-GEF Directorate in New York. No action is required by the UNDP Country Office on the actual refund from UNDP project to the GEF Trustee.

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VIII. TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK PLAN

Total Budget and Work Plan			
Atlas Award ID:	00111018	Atlas Output Project ID:	00110188
Atlas Proposal or Award Title:	Strengthening conservation and resilience of globally-significant wild cat landscapes through a focus on small cat and leopard conservation		
Atlas Business Unit	IND 10		
Atlas Primary Output Project Title	Strengthening conservation and resilience of globally-significant wild cat landscapes through a focus on small cat and leopard conservation		
UNDP-GEF PIMS No.	6355		
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC)		

TBWP India Wild Cat Landscapes Project -UNDP Budget – Components 1, 4 and PMC

GEF Component/ Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/[1] (Atlas Implementing Agent)	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Amount Year 4 (USD)	Amount Year 5 (USD)	Amount Year 6 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
Component 1. Enabling policy, planning and institutional framework for wild cat conservation	MoEFCC	62000	GEF	71600	Travel	7,500	30,000	30,000	25,000	7,500	-	100,000	1
				71800	Contractual Services - IP	6,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	60,000	2
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	40,000	140,000	140,000	80,000	-	-	400,000	3
				72500	Supplies	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	12,000	4
				72800	Information Technology Equipmt	8,000	-	-	-	-	-	8,000	5
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	-	20,000	32,000	10,000	15,000	-	77,000	6
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	15,000	66,000	81,000	46,000	16,000	-	224,000	7
					Total Outcome 1	**78,500**	**270,000**	**297,000**	**175,000**	**52,500**	**8,000**	**881,000**	
Component 4. Partnerships,	MoEFCC	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants			19,500			19,500	39,000	8

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knowledge management and M&E				71300	Local Consultants	10,000	20,000	10,000	12,000	12,000	28,000	92,000	9
				71600	Travel	6,000	16,500	25,000	22,000	22,000	19,500	111,000	10
				71800	Contractual Services - IP	12,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	12,000	120,000	11
				72100	Contractual Services-Companies	17,000	79,000	94,000	94,000	54,000	22,000	360,000	12
				72500	Supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,700	17,700	13
				72800	Information Technology Equipmt	5,800	500	500	500	500	300	8,100	14
				74200	Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs	2,000	10,000	12,000	15,000	10,000	14,000	63,000	15
				75700	Training, Workshops and Confer	31,000	26,000	45,000	15,000	15,000	5,000	137,000	16
					Total Outcome 4	**86,800**	**179,000**	**233,000**	**185,500**	**140,500**	**123,000**	**947,800**	
Project management unit	MoEFCC	62000	GEF	71800	Contractual Services - Implementing Partner	11,500	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	11,500	115,000	17
				72500	Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	5,900	18
				72800	Information Technology Equipment	5,000	500	500	500	500	300	7,300	19
				74100	Professional Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	18,000	20
					Total Project Management	**20,500**	**27,500**	**27,500**	**27,500**	**27,500**	**15,700**	146,200	
					PROJECT TOTAL	**185,800**	**476,500**	**557,500**	**388,000**	**220,500**	**146,700**	**1,975,000**	

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Budget Notes UNDP – Components 1,4 and Project Management Costs

No.	Description
	COMPONENT 1
1	**Travel:** In support of consultations, travel to and within landscapes for Output 1.1 – Years 1-5 ($30,000); Output 1.2 Years 1-5 ($20,000); Output 1.3 Years 2-4 ($7,500); Output 1.4 – Years 2-4 ($7,5000); Output 1.5 Years 1-5 ($35,000); **Total: $100,000**
2	**Contractual Services – Implementing Partner:** Landscape Conservation Planner to facilitate District ($2000/month over 30 months) and State level consultations on landscape planning, and facilitate the coordination and integration of conservation and rural development initiatives to reduce inter-sectoral conflicts, and integration of master plans with existing planning processes (Output 1.1), provide technical advice and workshop facilitation on landscape planning for species recovery plans (Output 1.2), protocol and SOPs (Output 1.3) and guidelines (Output 1.4); provide training inputs on landscape planning (Output 1.5); (All Outputs) **Total: $60,000**
3A	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** Subcontract to GTF for development of landscape master plans = $120,000 (Output 1.1) **Total $120,000**
3B	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** Subcontract to GTF for development of database, atlas and mobile phone application on wild cat monitoring - $80,000 (Output 1.2) **Total $80,000**
3C	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** Subcontract to GTF for developing protocol and SOPs for wild cat conservation = $40,000 (Output 1.3) **Total $40,000**
3D	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** Subcontract to environmental NGOs / academic institutions for developing guidelines for wild cat conservation = $40,000 (Output 1.4) **Total: $40,000**
3E	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** Subcontract to environmental NGOs / academic institutions for developing and implementing training programme for State and District Agencies $120,000 (Output 1.5) **Total $120,000**
4	**Supplies:** paper, stationery, printer cartridges, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc across all Outputs – estimated at $2000/year (plus balancing figure Year 6). **Total: $12,000**
5	**IT Equipment:** 2 computers ($3000), 2 multifunction scanner-printers ($1000), IT accessories and software ($2000) to support landscape master plan development (one set for each landscape, to support GTF inputs and handed over to the State Govts) = $6,000 (Output 1.1) 2 LCD projectors ($1000 each) to support training activities (one for each landscape, to support the State Govts) = $2,000 (Output 1.5) **Total: $8,000**
6	**AV & print production costs:** audio visual and printed materials in support of: Landscape master plans for two landscapes - $12,000 (Output 1.1) Atlas on wild cat distribution - $10,000 (Output 1.2) Species Recovery Plans for 3 cat species - $15,000 (Output 1.2) Protocol and SOPs on wild cats - $10,000 (Output 1.3) Guidelines on small cat conservation - $10,000 (Output 1.4) Training materials - $20,000 (Output 1.5) **Total: $77,000**

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7	**Training, meetings and field training:** Consultation meetings for development & implementation of landscape master plans = 8 x 2 landscapes x $5000 = $80,000 (Output 1.1) National and regional meetings (5 x $5000) for development of database, atlas and mobile phone app - $25,000 (Output 1.2) Consultation meetings to develop Species Recovery Plans for 3 cat species - 3x$5,000 = $15,000 (Output 1.2) Consultation meetings for developing protocol and SOPs for wild cat conservation - 4 x $5,000 = $20,000 (Output 1.3) Consultation meetings for developing guidelines for wild cat conservation 2 landscapes x $10,000 = $20,000 (Output 1.4) Support for training events for State and District Agencies - 8 events x 2 landscapes x $4000 = $64,000 (Output 1.5) **Total: $224,000**
	COMPONENT 4
8	**International Consultants:** International Consultant for MTR/TE - 30 days at $650/day for both MTR (Y3) and TE (Y5) = $39,000 (Output 4.5) **Total: $39,000**
9	**Local Consultants:** KAP consultant for baseline and completion assessments - 10 weeks at $1000 / week Y2, 10 weeks Y6 = $20,000 (Output 4.2) Website design consultant - 8 weeks at $1000/week Y1-2 = $8,000 (Output 4.4) Case study consultants (writers) - 24 weeks at $1000/week Y3-6 = $24,000 (Output 4.4) National Consultant for MTR / TE - 30 days at $200 for MTR (Y3) and 30 days at $200 for TE (Y5) = $12,000 (Output 4.5); Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist 8 weeks/Y1 and Y2, and 4 weeks/Year for Y3-Y5 for PMU/executing partner training, local stakeholder consultations and support for Gender Action Plan implementation and monitoring, provide technical support to the PMU to integrate gender into project implementation plans, including annual work plans = 28 weeks @$1000 (Y1-6) = $28,000 (Output 4.5); **Total: $92,000**
10	**Travel:** - for consultations, partnership development in project landscapes - $10,000 (Output 4.1) - for awareness campaigns, KAP baseline and completion assessments in project landscapes - $15,000 (Output 4.2) - for transboundary meetings and visits to project landscapes - $17,000 (Output 4.3) - for annual stakeholders meetings, case study field visits and consultations, presenting results at international conferences - $21,000 (Output 4.4) - for Communications, Awareness and KM officer - $12,000 (Output 4.4) - for MTR ($5,000) Y3 and TE ($5,000) Y5 = $10,000 (Output 4.5); - for Gender consultant training and annual field visits - $10,000 (Output 4.5) -for annual monitoring of project RF indicators and safeguards-related consultations by M&E and Safeguards Analyst - $16,000 (Output 4.5): **Total: $111,000**
11	**Contractual Services – Implementing Partner:** M&E and Safeguards Analyst (at $2,000/month) for coordinating updating of annual indicators for PIR, MTR and TE (10 months), overseeing implementation of the M&E plan and ensuring alignment of project M&E with GWP M&E requirements(20 months), reviewing and revising annual work plan activities based on lessons learned (5 months), stakeholder/social inclusion consultations (5 months), coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of any required ESIAs and safeguards plans in line with SESP requirements (20 months) (Output 4.5) **Total: 120,000**
12A	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** -Subcontract to GTF to develop and operationalize Green Business Platform, business partnership development in landscapes, fund development, grant scheme for community-based conservation projects - $120,000 (Output 4.1) **Total: $120,000**

12B	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** -for coordination of communications task force, development of communications action plan and strategy; incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation); conduct national- and landscape-level awareness campaigns; develop awareness materials and monitoring results; - $80,000 (Output 4.2) - for development and implementation of knowledge management plan; incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation); develop a project website / regional knowledge platform to share project news, results and information; develop case studies on key issues relating to landscape conservation for wild cats including stakeholder workshops - $100,000 (Output 4.4) **Total: $180,000**
12C	**Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions:** - Subcontract to GTF to develop and implement transboundary conservation roadmap and local level transboundary actions - $60,000 (Output 4.3) **Total: $60,000**
13	**Supplies** for production of project communications and knowledge materials and M&E reports, etc. (all Outputs) **Total: $17,700**
14	**IT Equipment**: For communications, knowledge management and M&E activities - computers 2 @ $1500 = $3000, printer/scanner/fax multifunction 1 @ $500; digital camera 1@$800; IT accessories & repairs $2,000, software $1,800 **Total: $8,100**
15	**AV and Printing Production Costs**: - for brochures and reports for Green Business Platform and grant scheme - $10,000 (Output 4.1) - for awareness material printing production - $15,000 (Output 4.2) - for supporting materials for transboundary site work - $3000 (Output 4.3) - for KM reports, case studies, stakeholder meeting materials, terminal report - $29,000 (Output 4.4) - for Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports, M&E reports, gender, safeguards reports - $6,000 (Output 4.5) **Total: $63,000**
16	**Training, Workshops and Conferences**: - National and regional workshops x 5 at $10,000 for development of Green Business Platform, business partnership development - $50,000 (Output 4.1) - for communications strategy planning meetings (Y1, Y2) - $2,000 (Output 4.2) - for transboundary collaboration and action planning meetings / visits (Y3-Y5) - $30,000 (Output 4.3) - for annual stakeholder meetings $5,000 x 5 years = $25,000 (Output 4.4) - for project Inception stakeholder workshops – national and state-level $20,000 (Y1) (Output 4.5) - for post-MTR stakeholder consultation workshop to validate findings and help support finalization and implementation of MTR management response $10,000 (Y3) (Output 4.5) **Total: $137,000**
	PROJECT MANAGEMENT COSTS
17	**Contractual Services – Implementing Partner**: Project Manager – 60 months over 6 years at $1000/month (50% time; co-financed by GTF) = $60,000 Project Admin and Finance Officer – 60 months over 6 years at $916.67/month = $55,000 **Total = $115,000**
18	**Supplies**: paper, stationery, printer cartridges, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc: National project management at $1,000 / year over 6 years

	Total = $5,900
19	**IT Equipment:** National project management - computers 2 @ $1500 = $3000, printer/scanner/fax multifunction 1 @ $500; IT accessories & repairs $2,000, software $1,800 **Total = $7,300**
20	**Professional services**: Annual audit for Components 1 and 4 ($3,000/ year for 6 years). **Total $18,000**

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Summary of Funds

Donor	Amount Year1	Amount Year 2	Amount Year 3	Amount Year 4	Amount Year 5	Amount Year 6	Total
GEF - UNDP	185,800	476,500	557,500	388,000	220,500	146,700	**1,975,000**
GEF - WWF	82,326	535,650	702,720	587,115	469,284	147,905	**2,525,000**
UNDP	133,333	133,333	133,333	133,333	133,333	133,333	**800,000**
WWF-US	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	**303,000**
MoEFCC and other govt sources	8,988,789	8,988,789	8,988,789	8,988,789	8,988,789	8,988,789	**53,932,733**
WWF India	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	**360,000**
Global Tiger Forum	71,833	71,833	71,833	71,833	71,833	71,833	**431,000**
TOTAL	**9,572,581**	**10,316,605**	**10,564,675**	**10,279,571**	**9,994,240**	**9,599,061**	**60,326,733**

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IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

The project document shall be the instrument envisaged and defined in the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document, attached hereto and forming an integral part hereof, as "the Project Document".

This project will be implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change ("Implementing Partner") in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA *[or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document]*, the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:
   a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
   b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

2. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

3. The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that no UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml.

4. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by the Implementing Partner, and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other entities involved in Project implementation, either as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, and any individuals performing services for them under the Project Document.

   (a) In the implementation of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 of 9 October 2003, concerning "Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" ("SEA").

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(b) Moreover, and without limitation to the application of other regulations, rules, policies and procedures bearing upon the performance of the activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to above, shall not engage in any form of sexual harassment ("SH"). SH is defined as any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

5. a) In the performance of the activities under this Project Document, the Implementing Partner shall (with respect to its own activities), and shall require from its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 (with respect to their activities) that they, have minimum standards and procedures in place, or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative action. These should include: policies on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; policies on whistleblowing/protection against retaliation; and complaints, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. In line with this, the Implementing Partner will and will require that such sub-parties will take all appropriate measures to:

   i. Prevent its employees, agents or any other persons engaged to perform any services under this Project Document, from engaging in SH or SEA;

   ii. Offer employees and associated personnel training on prevention and response to SH and SEA, where the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have not put in place its own training regarding the prevention of SH and SEA, the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties may use the training material available at UNDP;

   iii. Report and monitor allegations of SH and SEA of which the Implementing Partner and its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 have been informed or have otherwise become aware, and status thereof;

   iv. Refer victims/survivors of SH and SEA to safe and confidential victim assistance; and

   v. Promptly and confidentially record and investigate any allegations credible enough to warrant an investigation of SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations being conducted by itself or any of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4 with respect to their activities under the Project Document, and shall keep UNDP informed during the investigation by it or any of such sub-parties, to the extent that such notification (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety or security of persons, and/or (ii) is not in contravention of any laws applicable to it. Following the investigation, the Implementing Partner shall advise UNDP of any actions taken by it or any of the other entities further to the investigation.

   b) The Implementing Partner shall establish that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, when requested by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf to provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner, and each of its sub-parties referred to in paragraph 4, to comply of the foregoing, as determined by UNDP, shall be considered grounds for suspension or termination of the Project.

6. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).

7. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP

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will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.

8. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

9. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or using UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.

10. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to the Implementing Partner: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.

11. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP has the obligation to conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP projects and programmes in accordance with UNDP's regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The Implementing Partner shall provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to the Implementing Partner's (and its consultants', responsible parties', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

12. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform one another in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

13. Where the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). The Implementing Partner shall provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

13. UNDP shall be entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

14. Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the Implementing Partner agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to the Implementing Partner for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.
Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

14. Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those

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shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

15. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.

16. The Implementing Partner shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are included, *mutatis mutandis*, in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI. MANDATORY ANNEXES

Annex 1: Project Map and Geospatial Coordinates of Project Sites

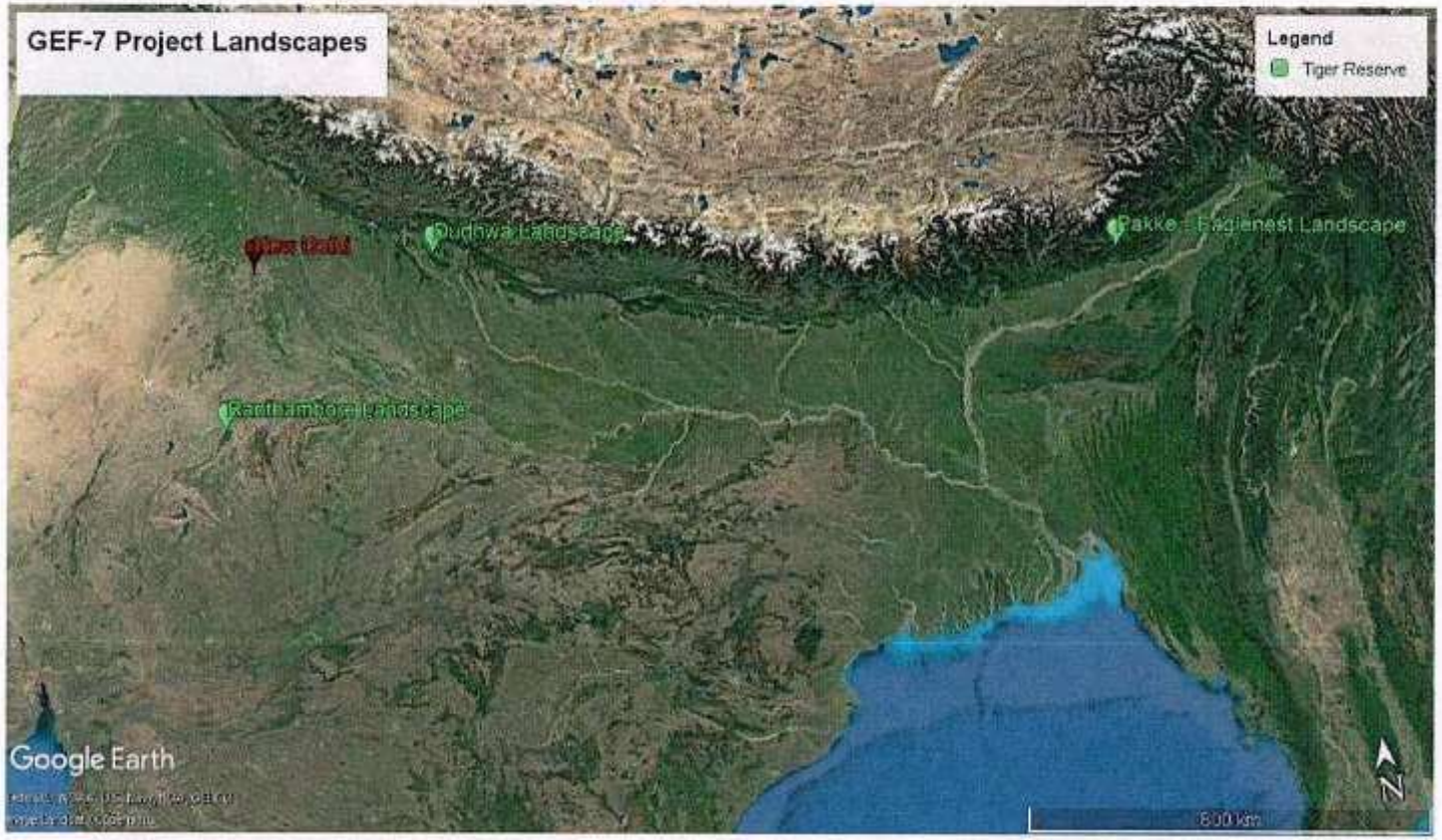


Figure A1-1: Map showing the locations of the three project landscapes

Map Disclaimer: The designations of the geographical entities and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

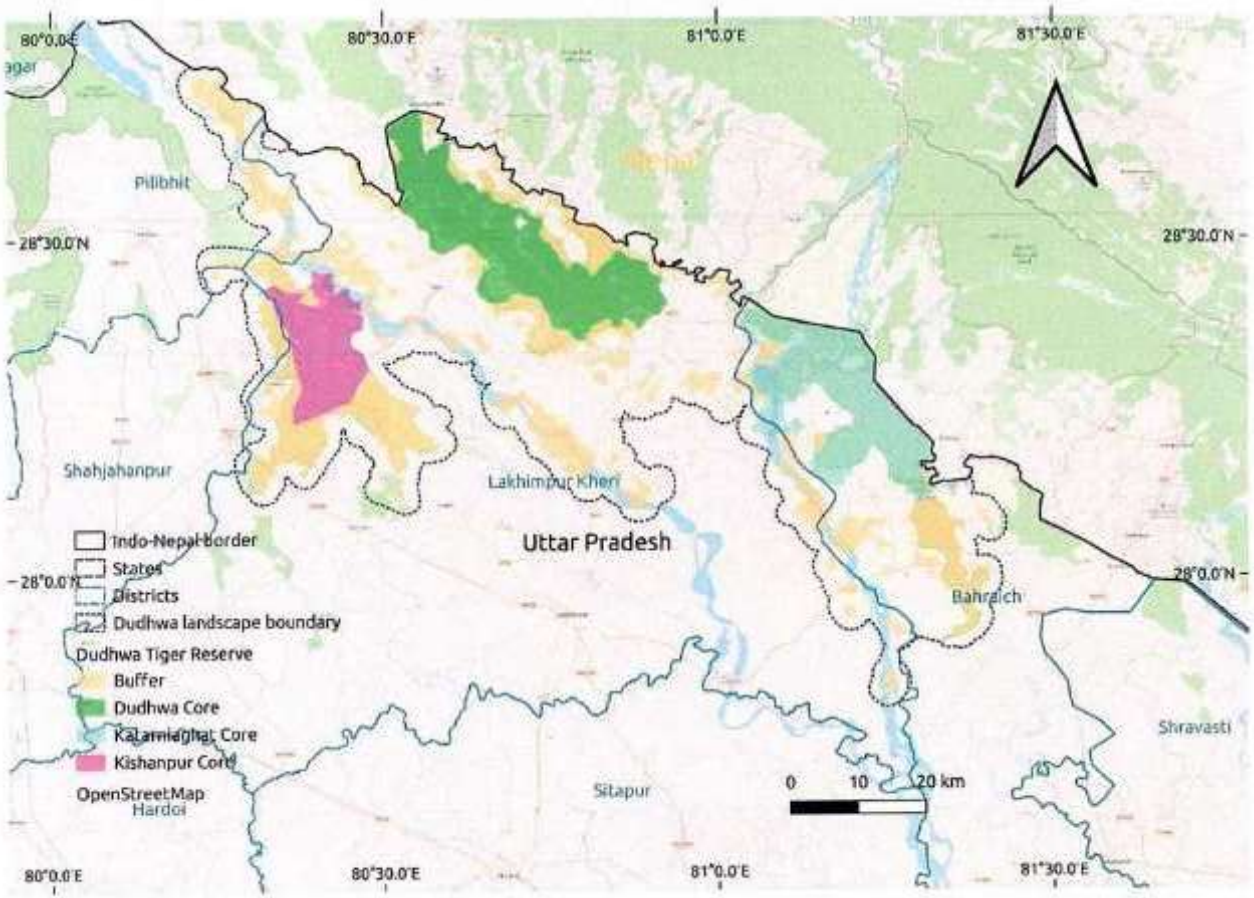


Figure A1-2: Map of Dudhwa Landscape, Uttar Pradesh

Map Disclaimer: The designations of the geographical entities and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Landscape Coordinates: Lower left - 80°11'29.647"E, 27°48'25.066"N; Upper Right - 81°25'50.183"E, 28°45'33.678"N

Area: 4639 km^2

Protected Areas
Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, incorporating:
Name: Dudhwa National Park
WDPA site code[87]: 691
Status: National Park
Location: 28° 29' 27" N, 80° 42' 08" E
Province: Uttar Pradesh
District / City / County: Lakhimpur-Kheri District
Area: 490 km²
Elevation Range: 150-184 m

Name: Kishanpur WLS
WDPA site code: 1824
Status: Wildlife Sanctuary
Location: 28° 29' 27" N, 80° 42' 08" E
Province: Uttar Pradesh
District / City / County: Lakhimpur-Kheri District
Area: 227 km²
Elevation Range: 150-184 m

Name: Katerniaghat WLS
WDPA site code: 1807
Status: Wildlife Sanctuary
Location: 28° 14' 40" N, 81° 11' 29" E
Province: Uttar Pradesh
District / City / County: Bahraich
Area: 400.69 km²
Elevation Range: 170-190 m

[87] WDPA site codes can be found on the World Database of Protected Areas website: www.protectedplanet.net

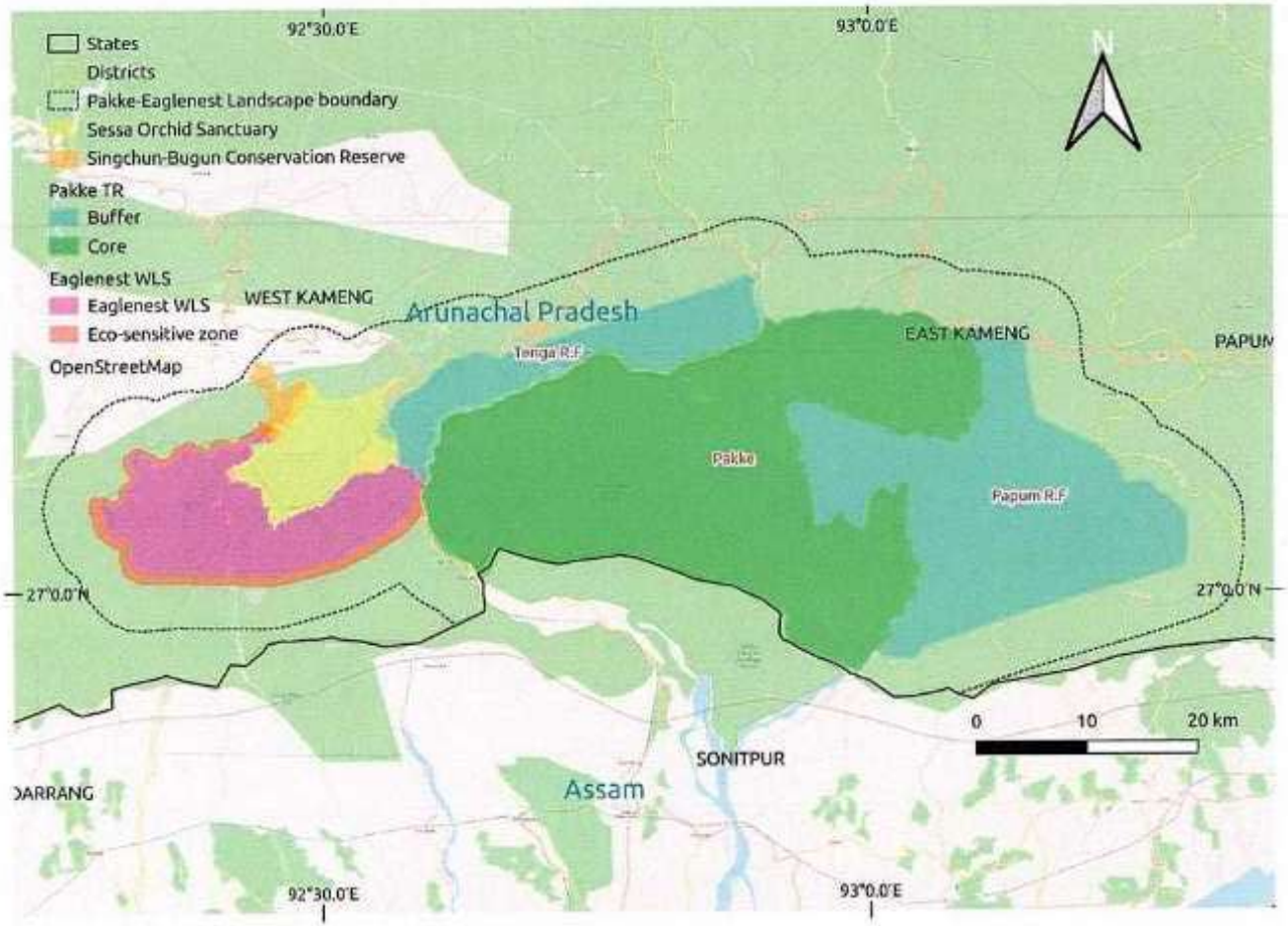


Figure A1-3: Map of Pakke – Eaglenest Landscape, Arunachal Pradesh
Map Disclaimer: The designations of the geographical entities and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Landscape Coordinates: Lower left- 92°14'30.277"E, 26°54'52.675"N; Upper Right -93°20'26.861"E, 27°18'12.275"N
Area: 2928 km^2

Protected Areas
Name: Pakke Tiger Reserve
WDPA site code: 4530
Status: Tiger Reserve
Location: 27° 19' 07" N, 92° 51' 37" E
Province: Arunachal Pradesh
District / City / County: East Kameng District
Area: 862 km²
Elevation Range: 100-2000 m

Name: Sessa Orchid Sanctuary
WDPA site code: 62666
Status: Wildlife Sanctuary
Location: 27.2°N 92.5°E
Province: Arunachal Pradesh
District / City / County: West Kameng District
Area: 100 km²
Elevation Range: 1100 - 1800 m

Name: Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary
WDPA site code: 62670
Status: Wildlife Sanctuary
Location: 27° 08' 00" N, 92° 21' 47" E
Province: Arunachal Pradesh
District / City / County: West Kameng District
Area: 217 km²
Elevation Range: 334-3213 m

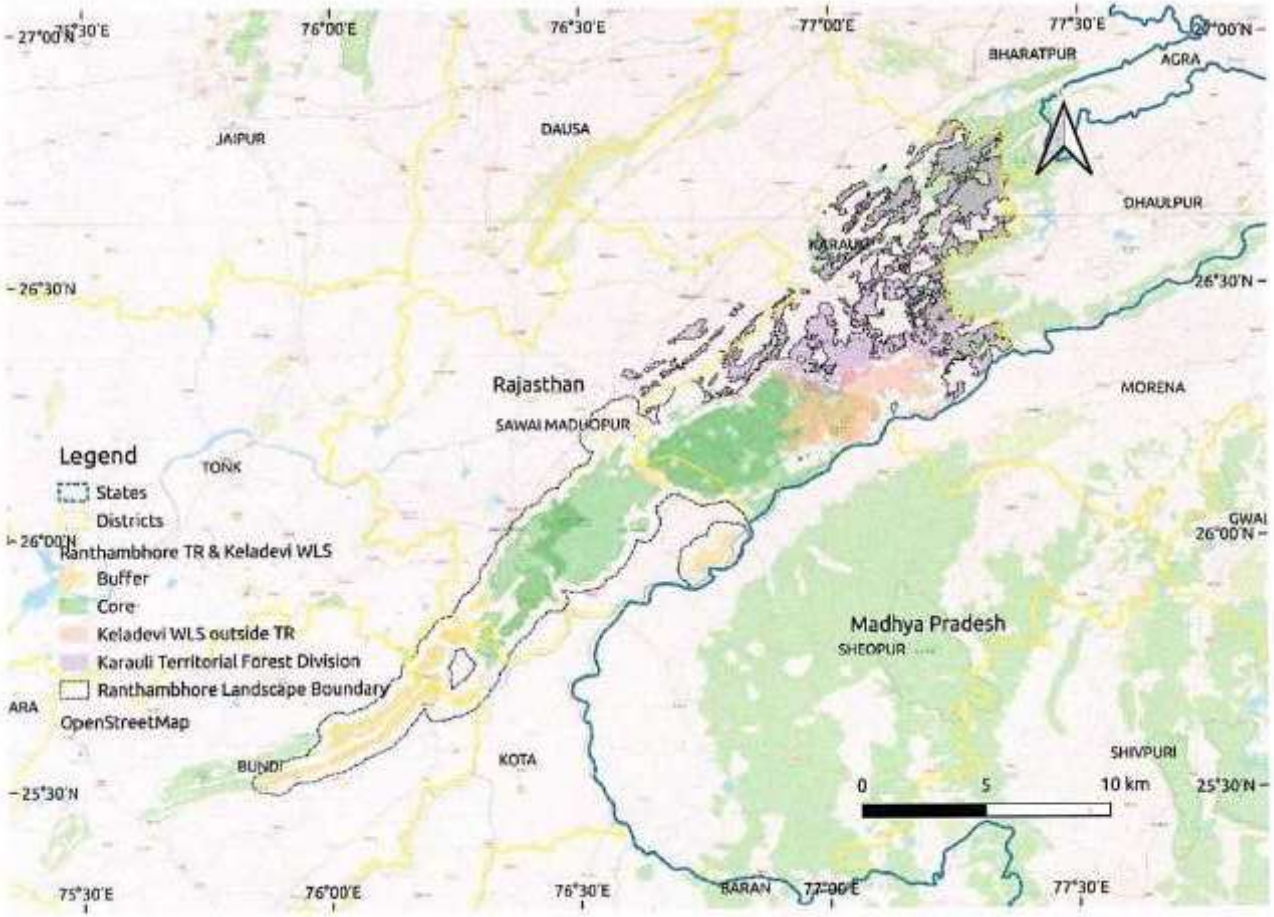


Figure A1-4: Map of Ranthambhore Landscape, Rajasthan
Map Disclaimer: The designations of the geographical entities and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Landscape Coordinates: Lower left- 75°50'14.429"E, 25°29'29.81"N; Upper Right -77°22'43.774"E, 26°49'21.398"N
Area: 3974 km^2

Protected Areas
Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, incorporating:
Name: Ranthambore National Park (1980)
WDPA site code: 1808
Status: National Park
Location: 26° 02' 14" N, 76° 28' 50" E
Province: Rajasthan
District / City / County: Sawai-Madhopur District
Area: 392 km²
Elevation Range: 200-500 m

Name: Keladevi WLS (1983)
WDPA site code: 17380
Status: Wildlife Sanctuary
Location: 26° 02' 14" N, 76° 28' 50" E
Province: Rajasthan
District / City / County: Karauli District
Area: 630 km²
Elevation Range: 200-500 m

Name: Sawai-Mansingh WLS (1984)
WDPA site code: 17379
Status: Wildlife Sanctuary
Location: 26° 02' 14" N, 76° 28' 50" E
Province: Rajasthan
District / City / County: Sawai-Madhopur District
Area: 290 km²
Elevation Range: 200-500 m

Annex 2: Multi-Year Work Plan

A. UNDP-supported Components 1 and 4

Note – Implementation will take place across 5 years out of a 6 year period, with only limited project management start up activities in the first half of Year 1 and winding down activities in the second half of Year 6.

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities	Year 1*				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Start-up	Wrap-up																									
Outcome 1	Output 1.1	1.1.1																								
		1.1.2																								
		1.1.3																								
		1.1.4																								
		1.1.5																								
		1.1.6																								
	Output 1.2	1.2.1																								
		1.2.2																								
		1.2.3																								
		1.2.4																								
		1.2.5																								
		1.2.6																								
		1.2.7																								
		1.2.8																								
	Output 1.3	1.3.1																								
		1.3.2																								
		1.3.3																								
		1.3.4																								
		1.3.5																								
		1.3.6																								

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities	Year 1*				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
		1.3.7																								
	Output 1.4	1.4.1																								
		1.4.2																								
		1.4.3																								
		1.4.4																								
		1.4.5																								
	Output 1.5	1.5.1																								
		1.5.2																								
		1.5.3																								
		1.5.4																								
		1.5.5																								
Outcome 4	Output 4.1	4.1.1																								
		4.1.2																								
		4.1.3																								
		4.1.4																								
		4.1.5																								
		4.1.6																								
	Output 4.2	4.2.1																								
		4.2.2																								
		4.2.3																								
		4.2.4																								
	Output 4.3	4.3.1																								
		4.3.2																								
		4.3.3																								
		4.3.4																								
		4.3.5																								
		4.4.1																								

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities	Year 1*				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5				Year 6			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Output 4.4	4.4.2																								
		4.4.3																								
		4.4.4																								
		4.4.5																								
		4.4.6																								
		4.4.7																								
		4.4.8																								
		4.4.9																								
	Output 4.5	4.5.1																								
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Annex 3: Monitoring Plan:

This Monitoring Plan and the M&E Plan and Budget in Section VI of this project document will both guide monitoring and evaluation at the project level for the duration of project implementation.

See separate file

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Annex 4: Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP)

See separate file

Annex 5: UNDP ATLAS Risk Register

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
	Enter a brief description of the risk. Risk description should include future event and cause. Risks identified through HACT, PCAT, SES, Private Sector Due Diligence, and other assessments should be included.	Social and Environmental Financial Operational Organizational Political Regulatory Strategic Other Subcategories for each risk type should be consulted to understand each risk type (see UNDP Enterprise Risk Management Policy)	Describe the potential **effect** on the project if the future event were to occur. Enter **likelihood** based on 1-5 scale (1 = Not likely; 5 = Expected) Enter **impact** based on 1-5 scale (1 = Negligible 5 = Extreme *Based on Likelihood and Impact, use the Risk Matrix to identify the Risk Level (high, Substantial, Moderate or Low)*	What actions have been taken/will be taken to manage this risk.	The person or entity with the responsibility to manage the risk.
1	Lack of ownership and support of different levels of government institutions could obstruct project implementation	Operational	Overlapping mandates of central government units, and challenges in cooperation during project preparation indicate that there is a risk of non-cooperation due to institutional mandate and other factors. **Moderate** L= 3 I= 3	Project Steering Committee to promptly review and decide on any such issues arising during implementation.	Project Manager
2	Government staff turnover may impede project implementation: inexperienced staff may therefore have to lead on some activities.	Operational	Regular staff turnover is a normal feature of the Government of India civil service. As a consequence, staff that have gained knowledge, played important coordination roles or taken part in training activities may be transferred to a role that does not allow their experience to be gainfully applied. The project would then have to repeat such orientation and training with replacement staff.	The project generally aims to build capacity within the government agencies involved in landscape conservation and related issues, and will train staff from each competent authority, as well as other related agencies. This will increase the depth of experience and skills available both for the project and future work.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
			Low L= 3 I= 2		
3	Complex fund flow mechanisms and low capacity to disburse project funds efficiently	Operational	Government mechanisms for the receipt, disbursement and accounting of international funds are bureaucratic and inefficient, carrying the risk of substantial delays and possible failures in implementation **Substantial** L= 3 I= 4	Project fund flow has been arranged through GTF to facilitate efficient transfer (see Governance and Management Arrangements section). Project Steering Committee to promptly review and propose solutions to any significant problems or delays impacting disbursement and progress of planned activities.	Project Manager
4	Institutions governing PA buffer areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones and adjacent production landscape areas have inadequate capacity or resources for integrated natural resource planning and management	Strategic	Local level institutions have received little support in the past for landscape level conservation including inter-sectoral coordination and the technical skills to address unsustainable land management practices. **Moderate** L= 3 I= 3	The project will enhance capacities of gram panchayats, villages, community groups and District level government staff for sustainable, community-based approaches for landscape conservation. This will involve building institutional and community capacity to implement interventions to reduce deforestation and habitat degradation, and providing technical training and resources for community based approaches to wildlife conservation.	Project Manager
5	Intended project outcomes for landscape conservation, ecosystem management and restoration and CBNRM are undermined by climate change and variability, and natural disasters.	Environmental	The three project landscapes are geographically and climatically distinct, yet all are subject to stresses associated with climate change, including droughts, floods and erratic monsoon rains. These short term events can have serious local impacts on wildlife including direct mortality and dispersion into human-dominated areas. Longer term trends affect ecological zones, species distribution, phenology, occurrence of IAS etc. **Low** L= 3 I= 2	The project's landscape conservation approach will incorporate climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation measures as far as possible, in order to respond to climate change risks identified during screening (see Annex 26) and incorporate both ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction considerations into planning for habitat management, community livelihoods and land management practices. This will take into account, for example, increased climatic variability, increase in frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as droughts and floods, and ecological shifts.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
6	Increasing human populations combined with increasing wildlife populations in PA, buffer and corridor areas will increase the prevalence of HWC, potentially exacerbated by COVID19-induced movements of people	Strategic	Wildlife populations in and around PAs are increasing as a result of conservation efforts, while at the same time human population density and development is increasing in the production landscapes around the PAs (see night-time photo sequences in landscape profiles, **Annex 17**). This increasing interface inevitably results in the increased occurrence of HWC, which may be locally severe. Movements of urban workers back to their home villages due to COVID19 impacts on employment may swell rural populations, increase dependency on natural resources, and increase HWC **Substantial** L= 3 I= 4	Build capacity of local government to respond to HWC through a strategic approach that: reduces opening of new farmland and settlement in HWC sensitive areas; reduces existing HWC in targeted hotspots through locally appropriate preventive measures and technologies; facilitate the simplification of compensation processes for fair settlement of legitimate claims. Increase awareness of the risk of zoonotic disease transmission between wildlife and people to encourage reduction of the human-wildlife interface. Factor in local COVID19 related impacts in HWC mitigation planning.	Project Manager
7	Regional development priorities for settlements, agricultural and irrigation schemes, transportation infrastructure, hydropower and industry take precedence over conservation and NRM plans supported by the project, potentially exacerbated by changes in government priorities related to COVID19 recovery	Strategic	The central and State governments have a mandate for development that does not always address impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and the provision of ecosystem services. This often drives the fragmentation of forested landscapes and wildlife populations, direct loss of wildlife habitats and roadkill mortality. New government programmes supporting post-COVID economic recovery may shift priorities and/or over-ride normal planning processes **Substantial** L= 3 I= 4	This is a systemic problem requiring the mainstreaming of environmental and biodiversity safeguards into development planning. This is a complex issue that requires substantial resources to address across three States. The project will support this as far as possible through awareness raising, development of landscape conservation strategies, capacity development for key sectors and engagement of all sectors in project planning and implementation. Project awareness raising will emphasize the importance of ecosystem services and sustainable use of natural resources in increasing the resilience of COVID-affected communities.	Project Manager
8	Improvements to agriculture, livestock management and other livelihood improvements increase pressures on land and natural resources	Strategic	Project supported livelihood improvements may increase production and intensity of land use, and attract local population growth. This might create additional pressure on the environment Low	The project activities are carefully designed and will require careful implementation and monitoring to ensure that the intended effects of improving the sustainability of land use and reducing environmental damage result from the	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
			L = 2 I = 2	planned activities – in addition to benefiting local communities.	
9	Risk that livelihood incentives are insufficient to change behaviour towards achieving intended conservation outcomes, potentially exacerbated by COVID19 impacts	Strategic	The project will support a range of livelihood diversification activities with the aim of reducing unsustainable land uses that impact natural habitats, but these may not be sufficient or sustainable, especially in view of potentially increased economic hardship associated with COVID19 impacts Moderate L=3 I=3	Incentives and technical assistance for livelihood diversification will be targeted in specific areas where there are clear issues to resolve, including support for COVID19 affected communities. Proposals for livelihoods will be based on consultation and agreement of local communities, and socialized before uptake. As far as possible these incentives and TA will be mainstreamed within government programmes and conducted with line agency support for greater sustainability.	Project Manager
10	Risk that targeted communities are not motivated to participate in sustainable livelihood activities that support landscape conservation for the benefit of small cats and other wildlife, potentially exacerbated where increased access to natural resources is important to buffer livelihood impacts due to COVID19	Operational	The project will target certain communities in key areas of the project landscapes to conduct livelihood diversification activities, small cat monitoring, habitat restoration and other activities. Some communities may not wish to participate if they feel that their access to natural resources may be affected. Moderate L=3 I=3	Consultations during the PPG covered many communities in the project landscapes, including assessment of their potential for engagement. A number of communities stressed concerns that access to natural resources should not be affected, also reflected in the social safeguards assessments by UNDP and WWF. To counter this risk, the project will follow a consultative process including FPIC with the concerned communities, and any activities will only be conducted with the full agreement of the communities. The project will emphasize livelihood support to COVID19 affected communities.	Project Manager
11	The joint GEF agency oversight may pose a risk of confusion and conflict in safeguard management responsibilities	Operational	Management of potential adverse social and environmental impacts associated with activities of the UNDP and WWF supported GEF funded Project will be done in line with the requirements of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) respectively. For safeguards purposes, Component 1 and 4 will be implemented by UNDP GEF Agency and components 2 and 3 will be implemented by WWF GEF Agency. Such joint oversight	Clear division of responsibilities has been agreed for management of E&S Safeguards. UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) will apply to activities funded under component 1 and 4 whereas WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) will apply to activities funded under component 2 and 3.	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
			responsibilities may create confusion and chances of overlooking could be high, particularly when issues/risks are equally applicable for all components. Low L=2 I=2	In addition, coordination between two GEF agencies will be put in place. The National Safeguards and M&E Officer in the PMU has the specific role of ensuring coordination on safeguards oversight and monitoring between the two GEF Agencies. The two GEF Agencies will also maintain regular coordination on the issue and potential escalation of safeguard risks or emergence of new risks will be assessed in a coordinated way through the annual PIR process that will be led by UNDP.	
12	Risk of COVID19 impacts undermining project plans to support ecotourism development in project landscapes	Strategic	In Q1-2 of 2020, COVID19 has had a massive impact on tourism globally and nationally. It is unclear how quickly and to what extent the industry will recover. Moderate L=3 I=3	Project plans for ecotourism development will continue in tandem with other livelihood diversification efforts. These intervention plans should be reviewed on a regular basis once implementation starts in consultation with national and state tourism authorities, and if necessary, other options for sustainable livelihoods considered in the event that the economic viability of ecotourism development in the project landscapes is considered a major risk.	Project Manager
13	Risk of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and other human disease outbreaks affecting project implementation	Operational	During project preparation, the COVID-19 pandemic halted all international travel and social distancing measures prevented PPG stakeholder meetings taking place from March 2020. At the time of writing (May 2020), the scale, duration and impact of this pandemic upon project implementation cannot be confirmed, but it has the potential to be High. MoEFCC Wildlife Division issued an advisory for National Parks, Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves staff on 6 April 2020 on response to COVID-19. I=5, L=4 High	The project will comply with government directives in order to reduce health risks to project staff and stakeholders. Project start up could be delayed if necessary due to ongoing health risks and operational constraints caused by social distancing, self isolation and other measures. Flexibility has been provided in the project budget through allowing a six month buffer at each end for project start-up and completion delays. Implementation may be paused if necessary in affected areas while government disease prevention or control measures are implemented, and resumed at a later time if feasible. The	Project Manager

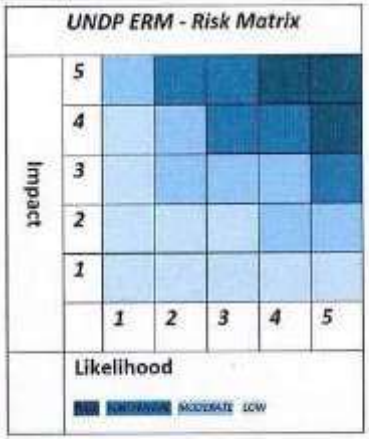
#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
				Project Steering Committee will guide project responses through email correspondence for ongoing situations, as required. Revision of the project workplan may be necessary, and an extension request may be required if implementation is substantially delayed. Some adaptive adjustment may be needed to project strategy (e.g. on ecotourism development, business partnerships, or local hunting issues). Project support for PPE and IT communications to facilitate remote working will be provided through Outputs 4.2 and 4.4.	
14	Impacts of exchange rate fluctuations on the budget available to support implementation plans, economic recession and changes in government priorities impacting delivery of cofinancing commitments for project implementation	Financial	The early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first quarter of 2020 have seen the greatest disruption of financial markets and currencies in recent decades. This has strengthened the USD against local currencies, with exchange rates extremely dynamic at the time of writing (March 2020) adding uncertainty to the budgeting of activities. There is a significant risk of global economic recession impacting national economies, and changes in government priorities for COVID19 response that may impact delivery of government cofinancing and business partnership financing for project implementation. I=5, L=4 High	The GEF budget will be reviewed during project inception and any necessary measures taken to address any shortfalls due to exchange rate fluctuations between the GEF approved budget and project start up. Annual budget reviews should track and respond to subsequent fluctuations. Changes in the scope or timing of planned activities may be necessary through workplan adjustments. The Project Steering Committee should monitor and address significant financial constraints arising due to exchange rate fluctuations and any delays or failures in the delivery of government cofinancing and business partnership financing delivery that may have been impacted by changes in priorities due to COVID19.	Project Manager
1	Upstream risk of restriction of access/use of natural resources and displacement of IPs/ tribal communities through preparation of landscape-level master plans including	Social	Tribal/indigenous communities may be excluded from the master planning processes and/or project benefits and access to basic services or resources may be restricted while implementing species recovery action plans. I = 3	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
	management of ESZ for wild cat conservation.		L = 3 Moderate		
2	Risk of curtailing of customary natural resource management rights of tribal communities in project landscape through operational policy and plans for wild cat conservation.	Social	Although the project doesn't have any direct impact on community rights, the activities under Outputs 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 are intended to strengthen wild cat conservation, which could potentially include regulations / restrictions on management rights / access to and use of resources through the updating of operational policies, plans and guidelines. Thus, the rights of tribal/indigenous peoples may be curtailed while developing or updating these operational policies, plans and guidelines, or improper application of policies and plans could result in unintended impacts and restrictions. I = 2 L = 3 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager
3	Risk of low capacity to implement project activities which could impede compliance with UNDP social and environmental safeguards.	Social	This risk applies for multiple outputs under components 1 and 4. Officials of State and District Forest Departments including technical agencies/consultants under these department have limited capacity to apply SOPs, particularly for HWC management, and strengthening human-rights approaches to wildlife-related law enforcement under Output 1.3, activities 1.3.4 and 1.3.5. These specific SOPs must be compatible with SES requirements. Risks of limited capacity of State and District agencies also applies to implement Site-specific guidelines (Output 1.4) and Capacity development for mainstreaming wild small cat conservation in landscape management (Output 1.5). Similarly, issues of low or limited capacity such as lack of knowledge regarding small cats and their conservation, human rights and economic rights of local community, sustainable natural resource management may limit the success of implementation of output 4.1 (development of National-level Green Business platform for enhancing corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation.	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
			I = 3 L = 3 Moderate		
4	Project may exclude marginalized/vulnerable groups from participatory processes and/or project benefits due to lack of effective community engagement and support	Social	The findings of community consultations conducted during PPG suggest that marginalized groups including tribal, scheduled caste and youth have limited access to information and awareness of their rights and entitlements, and therefore there is a risk that they might not be aware of or included in project consultations and activities. I = 3 L = 3 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager
5	Project activities and approaches to landscape-level planning, operational policy updates, capacity building and corporate sector engagements might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit.	Social	Despite participatory processes for planning in Component 1, the risk of exclusion of women and girls while developing the national-level green business platform for enhancing corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation (Output 4.1) still exists due to the existing gender divisions of labor, gender-specific challenges, gender differential needs, and the different roles that men and women play in relation to the conservation of wild cats. I = 3 L = 3 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager
6	The project landscapes could be impacted by the Supreme Court's ruling that over a million claims of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers are not valid and shall be evicted from forests by July 2019. Though the court later stayed its order to give states more time to examine the rejected land claims, this could potentiall result in conflict in	Social	This risk is not directly related to the project or any of the co-financing. If the Supreme Court's decisions will be strictly implemented, it may trigger conflicts between State governments and Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers which could disrupt project implementation. I = 4 L = 2 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
	demonstration landscapes and disrupt project implementation.				
7	Entry of the private sector in conservation (enhancing corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation) could result in risk through partnership with private sector entities that have poor SES track record or risk altering traditional patterns of natural resource use and social power.	Social	This risk is related with project output 4.1 (promotion of corporate sector engagement for community-based wildlife conservation. This may expose risk on potential partnerships with private sector entities that do not have a good SES/CSR track record or risk to indigenous and tribal communities' traditional resource use and access to lands if conservation activities are not delivered in a way that identifies and mitigates potential SES impacts. I = 3 L = 2 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager
8	Risk of the project supporting private sector entities that could be noncompliant with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO).	Social	Implementation of pilot initiatives of conservation business (output 4.1) will comprise a number of interventions targeted on specific sectors that involve hiring of staff and works. Development of business partnerships and implementation of pilot initiatives on the identified areas of interest and other interventions may also require additional workforce. These initiatives will also help in escalating the development activities around the project site which will demand a constant supply of labor for many sectors. I = 3 L = 2 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager
9	The intended outcomes of (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 4.1) of the Project could be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change and variability, and natural disasters.	Environmental	The three project landscapes are geographically and climatically distinct, yet all are subject to stresses associated with climate change, including droughts, floods and erratic monsoon rains. These short-term events can have serious local impacts on wildlife including direct mortality and dispersion into human-dominated areas. Longer term trends affect ecological zones, species distribution, phenology, occurrence of IAS etc.	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Likelihood	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
			I = 2 L = 3 Moderate		
10	Risk that coordination and knowledge exchange actions on transboundary conservation could perpetuate potential safeguards risks linked to law enforcement.	Social	A 'roadmap' for transboundary coordination on law enforcement will be developed based on the framework of existing transboundary agreements and the roadmap will identify the areas for collaboration. Nepal, Bhutan and India may have different legislative measures and approaches of law enforcement for conservation and transboundary coordination and differing levels of capacity and there is the risk that the roadmap could include activities or actions that could result in perpetuation of potential safeguards risks linked to law enforcement if sufficient measures, norms and capacity are not in place. I = 2 L = 3 Moderate	See SESP for details (entries are long)	Project Manager



Annex 6: Overview of Technical Consultancies/Subcontracts

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
Project Management		
Local / National contracting:		
Project Manager USD 2,000 per month (of which 50% cofinanced by GTF, so $1000/month under GEF funds)	12 months per year; 60 months total	The Project Manager will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the mobilisation of project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. <u>Duties and Responsibilities</u> • Manage the overall conduct of the project. • Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved annual workplan. • Overall responsibility to ensure that the project complies with WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) and UNDP's Environment and Social Safeguards. • Execute activities by managing personnel, goods and services, training and low-value grants, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors' work. • Monitor events as determined in the project monitoring plan, and update the plan as required. • Provide support for completion of assessments required by UNDP, spot checks and audits. • Manage requests for the provision of UNDP financial resources through funding advances, direct payments or reimbursement using the FACE form. • Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports. • Monitor progress, watch for plan deviations and make course corrections when needed within project board-agreed tolerances to achieve results. • Ensure that changes are controlled and problems addressed. • Perform regular progress reporting to the project board as agreed with the board, including measures to address challenges and opportunities. • Prepare and submit financial reports to UNDP and WWF on a quarterly basis. • Manage and monitor the project risks – including social and environmental risks - initially identified and submit new risks to the Project Board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log; • Capture lessons learned during project implementation. • Prepare revisions to the multi-year workplan, as needed, as well as annual and quarterly plans if required. • Prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. • Ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the GEF PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the GEF PIR. • Prepare the GEF PIR; • Assess major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF;

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		• Monitor implementation plans including the gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan, and any environmental and social management plans; • Monitor and track progress against the GEF Core indicators. • Support the Mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation process. • Discuss with the WWF and UNDP GEF Agencies any necessary changes to the project activities and budget, prior to making such changes • Provide a 6-month project progress report
Project Administration and Finance Officer USD 916.67 per month	12 months per year; 60 months total	The Project Assistant/Finance Officer will be responsible for finance, administration and IT. • Keep records of project funds and expenditures, and ensure all project-related financial documentation are well maintained and readily available when required by the Project Manager; • Review project expenditures and ensure that project funds are used in compliance with the Project Document and GoI financial rules and procedures; • Validate and certify FACE forms before submission to UNDP; • Provide necessary financial information as and when required for project management decisions; • Provide necessary financial information during project audit(s); • Review annual budgets and project expenditure reports, and notify the Project Manager if there are any discrepancies or issues; • Consolidate financial progress reports submitted by the responsible parties for implementation of project activities; • Liaise and follow up with the responsible parties for implementation of project activities in matters related to project funds and financial progress reports. • Assist the Project Manager in day-to-day management and oversight of project activities; • Assist in the preparation of progress reports; • Ensure all project documentation (progress reports, consulting and other technical reports, minutes of meetings, etc.) are properly maintained in hard and electronic copies in an efficient and readily accessible filing system, for when required by PSC, UNDP, WWF project consultants and other PMU staff; • Provide PMU-related administrative and logistical assistance.
Professional Services for financial NIM auditor	Annual service contract over 6 years	See UNDP standard TOR for this service.
Component 1		
Local / National contracting:		
Landscape Conservation Planner USD 2,000/month	30 months input over 6 years	The Landscape Conservation Planner will work closely with the Project Manager to provide overall technical guidance and support for the accomplishment of all Component 1 Outputs, including: Output 1.1: • Facilitate District and State level consultations on landscape planning

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		• Facilitate the coordination and integration of conservation and rural development initiatives to reduce inter-sectoral conflicts • Facilitate the integration of master plans with existing planning processes, including Tiger Conservation Plans and on-going government/partner initiatives e.g.: State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans • Facilitate the integration of master plans into State and District-level development and land use planning processes, including Eco-Sensitive Zone management, wild cat habitat connectivity, and climate-smart land use considerations Output 1.2: • Coordinate the proposed Task Force facilitated by experts on wild cats, and facilitate extensive stakeholder consultation at national and state levels in order to gather relevant information on wild cats to inform conservation assessment, distribution atlas and gap analysis • Provide technical advice and workshop facilitation on landscape planning for species recovery plans for selected small wild cat species Output 1.3: • Provide technical advice and workshop facilitation on landscape planning for protocol and SOPs on small wild cat management • Facilitate the development of a national strategy for small wild cat conservation, by learning from good practices from across diverse habitats and regions of India that will help to inform an integrated model for small wild cat conservation through this project. Output 1.4: • Provide technical advice and workshop facilitation on landscape planning for the development guidelines on management of habitats for wild cat populations Output 1.5: • Provide training inputs on landscape conservation planning for State and District agencies All Outputs • Capture best practices and lessons learned and facilitate their documentation, dissemination and replication/upscaling
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to GTF for development of landscape master plans	Years 1-4	Output 1.1: • Coordinate and facilitate site level stakeholder assessment workshops - identification and appraisal of stakeholders in the targeted landscapes of Dudhwa and Pakke-Eaglenest • Coordinate and facilitate District/State level consultations/workshops for master planning in each landscape including Eco-Sensitive Zones - consultation on existing policies, plans, state & national level schemes, defining clusters at Dudhwa TR, Pakke TR and Eagle Nest WLS • Coordinate and facilitate Master plan preparation for each landscape through Technical Agency/Consultant/Department inputs – including field team deployment, data collection, community focus

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		group discussions, mapping, assessment, plan preparation, etc (see Annex 23 for additional design considerations) • Coordinate the editing, designing, printing and dissemination of the master plans • Facilitate the integration of recommendations from master planning process and activities in Components 2&3 into Tiger Conservation Plans and on-going government/partner initiatives E.g.: State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, through field level meetings/consultations with Tiger Reserve management/field officials and technical assistance toward integration of master plans into Tiger Conservation Plans and on-going Govt. initiatives. • Facilitate the integration of inputs from the master planning process into State and District-level development and land use planning processes, including Eco-Sensitive Zone management, wild cat habitat connectivity, and climate-smart land use considerations.
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to GTF for development of database, atlas and mobile phone application on wild cat monitoring	Years 1-4	Output 1.2: • Coordinate and facilitate National and State Consultations/Workshops (5) for inputs from stakeholders and conservation partners to gather data on wild cat distribution, prey base, habitats and threats (including citizen science approach) • Provide technical inputs, coordination and facilitation support for database establishment, data collection, analysis and compilation (see Annex 23 for additional design considerations). • Lead development of a mobile phone App to support the monitoring of small cats and other wildlife and community-based monitoring of wild cats in Output 3.3 through a citizen science approach to populate the database and atlas. • Coordinate field work for macro surveys and species distribution assessment of targeted regions according to available resources • Coordinate the compilation, design, printing and electronic publication of a national wild cat distribution atlas • Coordinate and facilitate consultation workshops (3) to determine recovery actions focused on the targeted species • Coordinate the development of draft national recovery action plans and national strategy for small wild cat conservation • Coordinate stakeholder review and input to drafts • Coordinate editing, designing, printing, release and dissemination of action plans
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to GTF for developing protocol and SOPs for wild cat conservation	Years 2-3	Output 1.3: • Convene workshops with scientific institutes and Government agencies to develop a Protocol for population assessment and monitoring status for wild cats, their habitat and prey • Provide technical inputs for drafting of Protocol (see Annex 23 for additional design considerations) • Coordinate editing, designing, printing and dissemination of Protocol • Convene workshops and consultations with stakeholders and partners for customization of existing SoP for human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation with a special focus on wild cats, SoP on human-rights approach to site-based law enforcement, and other SoPs identified as priorities.

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		• Provide technical inputs to customize the SoP on HWC, draft SoP on human-rights approach to site-based law enforcement and other priority SoPs. • Coordinate the editing, designing and printing of SoPs • Convene evaluation workshops to confirm best practices and disseminate results (using NTCA Tiger Landscapes as units)
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to environmental NGOs / academic institutions for developing guidelines for wild cat conservation	Years 3-4	Output 1.4: • Convene and facilitate a national expert workshop and consultations to determine the priority subjects for guidelines for small wild cat conservation across India and draft a framework based on the outcomes of the national workshop; • For each landscape, confirm priority subjects based on the national framework and local consultations, and draft site-specific guidelines focused on key issues for the conservation of small wild cats taking into account the baseline assessment during project preparation (see Annex 18). • Convene and facilitate workshops for each project landscape to review the draft guidelines and the process for incorporating them into relevant plans. Determine information gaps and research needs, and responsible parties and coordination required for implementation of the guidelines; • Finalize the guidelines and socialize them with staff of the relevant agencies through seminars / training (coordinated with Output 1.3) • Coordinate with the Forest Dept, NTCA and other relevant agencies to support the incorporation of the guidelines into relevant work plans, TCPs, Management plans, etc.
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to environmental NGOs / academic institutions for developing and implementing training programme for State and District Agencies	Years 1-4	Output 1.5: • Validate and update baseline capacity scorecard assessments and training needs analyses conducted during project preparation (see Annexes 18 & 19) at project inception stage; • Prepare capacity development, training and sensitization plans with related State and District agencies on issues such as sustainable agriculture, horticulture using reduced chemical inputs, eco-tourism, management of abandoned cattle, management of free-ranging dog populations, 'wasteland' management, etc. • Develop training materials appropriate for the targeted trainee groups; • Conduct targeted training workshops, refresher courses and sensitization activities such as seminars and events for line departments and other stakeholders according to the training plans (approx. 30 participants / training workshop; 8 workshops for each landscape) • Conduct evaluations of all training activities using post-training questionnaires for all participants

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
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Component 4		
Local / National contracting:		
M&E and Safeguards Analyst USD 2,000 per month	Years 1-6	Under the overall supervision and guidance of the Project Manager, the M&E and Safeguards Analyst will have the responsibility for delivery of M&E and social and environmental safeguards plans. The position will lead on implementation

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		of safeguards requirements for Components 1 and 4, as well as on coordination on safeguards across the two agencies (UNDP and WWF). Specific tasks include the following: M&E: • Monitor project progress and participate in the production of progress reports including PIR ensuring that they meet the necessary reporting requirements and standards; • Update results framework indicator data for PIR, MTR and TE • Ensure project's M&E meets the requirements of the Government, the UNDP Country Office, and UNDP-GEF; develop project-specific M&E tools as necessary; • Facilitate coordination between GEF Agencies on application of safeguards standards and management requirements • Ensure alignment of project M&E with GWP M&E requirements • Oversee and ensure the implementation of the project's M&E plan, including periodic appraisal of the Project's Theory of Change and Results Framework with reference to actual and potential project progress and results; • Oversee/develop/coordinate the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan; • Oversee and guide the design of surveys/ assessments commissioned for monitoring and evaluating project results; • Coordinate and facilitate logistics for mid-term and terminal evaluations of the project; including management responses; • Facilitate annual reviews of the project and produce analytical reports from these annual reviews, including learning and other knowledge management products; • Review and revise annual work plan activities based on lessons learned • Support project site M&E and learning missions; • Visit project sites as and when required to appraise project progress on the ground and validate written progress reports. Safeguards: • Coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of any required ESIAs and safeguards plans to ensure that UNDPs SES policy is fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled • Ensure social and environmental grievances are managed effectively and transparently; • Review the SESP annually, and update and revise corresponding risk log; mitigation/management plans as necessary; • Ensure full disclosure with concerned stakeholders; • Ensure environmental and social risks are identified, avoided, mitigated and managed throughout project implementation
National Consultant for Midterm Review USD 1,000 per week	6 weeks in Year 3	Output 4.5; see UNDP standard TOR for this position.
National Consultant for Terminal Evaluation USD 1,000 per week	6 weeks in Year 6	Output 4.5; see UNDP standard TOR for this position.

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist USD 1000 per week	28 weeks (8 weeks year 1 and Year 2 then 4 weeks per year for years 2-5)	Output 4.5: • Train PMU and executing partner project staff and focal points in gender mainstreaming and social inclusion • Monitor progress in implementation of the project Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan ensuring that targets are fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled; • Oversee/develop/coordinate implementation of all gender and social inclusion-related work including stakeholder consultations; • Review the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually, and update and revise corresponding plans as necessary; • Work with the M&E and Safeguards Analyst to ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluation fully address the gender and social inclusion issues of the project
KAP Survey Consultant USD1000 / week	10 weeks in Year 2; 10 weeks in Year 6	Output 4.2 • The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey Consultant is responsible for coordinating and implementing the baseline and completion assessments required to monitor changes in KAP occurring as a result of project interventions according to the framework and methodology presented in **Annex 21.** The consultant is responsible for: • Designing the detailed KAP survey methodology, questionnaires and qualitative survey methods • Selection, training and coordination of field surveyors • Developing sampling methods and survey plans • Coordinating baseline and completion KAP assessment surveys • Compilation, checking, analysis and reporting of results to the PMU
Website design consultant USD $1000/week	8 weeks in Years 1-2	Output 4.4: • Develop a project website / regional knowledge platform to share project news, results and information with stakeholders, the wider public in India and international audiences especially across South Asia • Develop social media platforms for the project • Train project communications staff to update and maintain the website and social media platforms • Create a window for the project on the MoEFCC website
Case study consultants (writers) USD $1000/week	24 weeks in Years 3-6	Output 4.4: Develop case studies (written text, supported by photos and where appropriate video footage) on key issues relating to landscape conservation for wild cats through participatory methods including stakeholder workshops, and publish them on the regional knowledge platform as technical briefs covering the following subjects as a minimum: • Integrated management of ESZs to benefit wildlife • Management of targeted wasteland habitats • Small wild cat – friendly agriculture practices • HWC management in targeted communities • Community-based monitoring of small wild cats • Gender mainstreaming and traditional knowledge relevant to wild cats / habitats.

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: -Subcontract to GTF to develop and operationalize Green Business Platform, business partnership development in landscapes, fund development, grant scheme for community-based conservation projects	Years 1-6	Output 4.1: • Work with CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and State authorities to approach heads of business and industry, including corporate bodies that have an interest in supporting wildlife conservation through a series of regional sensitization meetings for raising conservation awareness and promoting CSR or direct investments for supporting community livelihoods and income generation. • Build support for establishment of the national level green business platform and provide input to its design and operations. • Provide technical assistance for the development of a feasibility strategy for a Corporate Sector Conservation Fund/Financial Instrument to be managed by the green business platform • Facilitate the development of a scheme for the generation and disbursement of small community grants (not from GEF funds) by the green business platform including governance mechanism, prospectus, support for leveraging funds and fund raising activities (through fund-raising events, dialogue with private sector/donor agencies, crowd funding initiatives) • Conduct an advocacy programme to mobilize corporate partnerships and CSR funds for project related initiatives in each landscape based on relevant issues, such as sandstone mining in Karauli (Ranthambhore), sugar production (Dudhwa), tourism in Eaglenest (Pakke-Eaglenest), and horticulture and medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation (in all landscapes). • Facilitate the development of business partnerships and implementation of pilot initiatives on the identified areas of interest, supporting implementation of the landscape master plans and multi-sector engagement (Output 1.1) • Publicize the benefits of the active business partnerships through local, national and international channels (see Output 4.4) in order to attract further investment.
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: -Subcontract to NGO / technical institution to provide communications, awareness raising and knowledge management inputs	Years 1-6	Output 4.2 • Coordinate a project communications Task Force, and development of a communications strategy and action plan to build support for wild cat conservation and reduce key threats nationally and especially in the project landscapes • Incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation) • Update the action plan annually and coordinate and synergize with initiatives and events on wildlife crime, HWC and wildlife conservation conducted nationwide by Govt agencies institutions and NGOs. • Conduct national- and landscape-level campaigns towards the conservation of small cats, aiming to sensitize specific target groups in line with the communications strategy and action plan (with local actions being covered in Output 3.2). These campaigns will connect wild cat conservation with key environment days, tiger conservation events, other public events and traditional festivals in the project landscapes • Develop educational and awareness materials that address the targeted audiences and messaging identified in the strategy, such as: printed materials, online materials via websites such as short films on website / YouTube channel

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
		• Monitor changes in awareness of targeted groups through use of KAP assessments, where appropriate. Output 4.4 • Develop and implement knowledge management plan to ensure that project news and results are shared with project stakeholders and related initiatives (e.g. GTI), and updated annually; • Incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation); • Provide content for and maintain the project website / regional knowledge platform to share project news, results and information, with support from the website design consultant; • Coordinate the development and dissemination of case studies on key issues relating to landscape conservation for wild cats including stakeholder workshops, with support from case study consultants (writers) • Convene annual project meetings for updating and consulting with stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, scientists etc.) on project progress, results and lessons learned, including a wrap up/handover meeting in Year 5. • Coordinate project participation in GWP virtual and face-to-face knowledge management events, and sharing of results nationally through the regional knowledge platform and NTCA and GTF channels
Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: - Subcontract to GTF to develop and implement transboundary conservation roadmap and local level transboundary actions	Years 2-6	Output 4.3: • Conduct consultations with experts and country representatives to identify areas of common concern and possible joint actions for monitoring, species conservation and combatting illegal trafficking, and develop a transboundary conservation roadmap for wild cat conservation in South Asia • Conduct advocacy to integrate small wild cats into bilateral agreements for tiger conservation via NTCA, their inclusion in the South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) for control of wildlife crime (e.g. trade in cat skins and bones), and through international big cat organisations (GTF) • Invite staff from neighbouring PAs in Nepal (Shuklaphanta, Bardia and Banke NPs) and Bhutan (Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary - a project site under the GWP GEF-7 project in Bhutan, providing potential for coordination and knowledge exchange between GWP projects) as well as SSB staff to join project training courses and activities on related subjects such as HWC management, anti-poaching patrolling, monitoring of small wild cat species • Facilitate local level transboundary coordination meetings on HWC, poaching and IWT between PA management staff, SSB and local administration leaders to facilitate information sharing and targeting of enforcement operations. • Coordinate with Nepalese Govt /WWF to allow Dudhwa landscape staff to participate in annual TAL stakeholder forums, conduct study visits to Nepal TAL to learn about Community-Based Anti-Poaching Unit operations (CBAPUs), Wildlife Crime Control Bureaus and other related activities of the WWF/GEF Project Integrated Landscape Management for the Terai Arc Landscape in Nepal; reciprocal invitation of Nepalese GEF project staff to participate in Dudhwa project meetings and activities.
International contracting:		
Midterm Reviewer	6 weeks in Year 3	Output 4.5; see UNDP standard TOR for this position.

Consultant/Individual/Contractor	Time Input	Tasks, Inputs and Outputs
USD 3,250 per week		
Terminal Evaluator USD 3,250 per week	6 weeks in Year 6	Output 4.5; see UNDP standard TOR for this position

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Annex 7A: PPG Stakeholder Engagement Plan
See separate file

Annex 7B: Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Project Implementation
See separate file

Annex 8: Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan
See separate file

Annex 9: Procurement Plan – for first year of implementation especially
See separate file

Annex 10: GEF-7 Biodiversity Tracking Tool – METT for pilot sites (Excel Workbook)
See separate file

Annex 11: Additional Agreements
See separate files – cofinancing letters.

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Annex 12: GEF Core indicators

Core Indicator 1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use					(Hectares)
			Hectares (1.1+1.2)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
				389,572		
Indicator 1.1	Terrestrial protected areas newly created					
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Sum				

Indicator 1.2	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
					Endorsement	MTR	TE
Dudhwa Tiger Reserve	*691*	IV	*220,177*		*41*	*57*	*81*
Pakke Tiger Reserve	*4530*	IV	*137,695*		*52*	*63*	*81*
Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary	*62666*	IV	*21,700*		*54*	*64*	*81*
Sessa Orchid Sanctuary	*62670*	IV	*10,000*		*55*	*67*	*82*
		Sum	*389,572*				

Core Indicator 2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use					(Hectares)
			Hectares (2.1+2.2)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 2.1	Marine protected areas newly created					
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)				
		(select)				
		Sum				

Indicator 2.2	Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					

Core Indicator 3	Area of land restored					(Hectares)
			Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 3.1	Area of degraded agricultural land restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	

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			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 3.3	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 3.4	Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 4 **Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)** ***(Hectares)***

		Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)			
		Expected		Expected	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		200,000	*100,000*		

Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Dudhwa Landscape – community-based NRM and engagement in habitat management, improved livestock management, improved arable cropping practices (e.g. reduced chemical use); ecotourism development, HWC mitigation such as solar fencing and non-wildlife attracting crops	*NA*	*50,000*		
		Pakke – Eaglenest Landscape – community-based NRM and engagement in habitat management, improved arable cropping practices (e.g. reduced chemical use); agroforestry, NTFP/medicinal plant production, ecotourism development, HWC mitigation such as solar	*NA*	*50,000*		

		fencing and non-wildlife attracting crops				

Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations			
Third party certification(s):	Hectares			
	Expected		Achieved	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems			
	Hectares			
	Expected		Achieved	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided			
Include documentation that justifies HCVF	Hectares			
	Expected		Achieved	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 5	**Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity**			***(Hectares)***
Indicator 5.1	Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations			
Third party certification(s):	Number			
	Expected		Achieved	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 5.2	Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxial			
	Number			
	Expected		Achieved	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 5.3	Amount of Marine Litter Avoided			
	Metric Tons			
	Expected		Achieved	
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 6	**Greenhouse gas emission mitigated**			***(Metric tons of CO_2e)***
	Expected metric tons of CO_2e (6.1+6.2)			
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Expected CO2e (direct)				
Expected CO2e (indirect)				

Indicator 6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector			
	Expected metric tons of CO_2e			
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Expected CO2e (direct)				
Expected CO2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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Indicator 6.2	Emissions avoided Outside AFOLU					
			Expected metric tons of CO_2e			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Expected CO2e (direct)				
		Expected CO2e (indirect)				
		Anticipated start year of accounting				
		Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3	Energy saved					
			MJ			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 6.4	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology					
		Technology	Capacity (MW)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)				
		(select)				

Core Indicator 7	**Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management**	***(Number)***

Indicator 7.1	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 7.2	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 7.3	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 7.4	Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			Rating		Rating	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 8	**Globally over-exploited fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels**	***(Metric Tons)***

Fishery Details	Metric Tons			
	PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 9	**Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products**	***(Metric Tons)***

Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3)	
Expected	Achieved

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		PIF stage	PIF stage	MTR	TE
Indicator 9.1	Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)				

			Metric Tons			
	POPs type		Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				

Indicator 9.2	Quantity of mercury reduced					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 9.3	Hydrochloroflurocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out				
		Metric Tons			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 9.4	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste				
		Number of Countries			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 9.5	Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities				
	Technology	Number			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 9.6	Quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided				
		Metric Tons			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	PIF stage	Endorsement

Core Indicator 10	**Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources**	***(grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)***

Indicator 10.1	Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air				
		Number of Countries			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Indicator 10.2	Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented				
		Number			
		Expected		Achieved	
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

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Core Indicator 11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment					(Number)
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Female	*3,000*	*3,690*		
		Male	*3,000*	*2,610*		
		Total	*6,000*	*6,300*		

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Annex 13: GEF 7 Taxonomy

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
☒Influencing models			
	☒ Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	☒ Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	☒ Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	☒ Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	☒ Deploy innovative financial instruments		
☒Stakeholders			
	☒Indigenous Peoples		
	☒Private Sector		
		☒Large corporations	
		☒SMEs	
		☒Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
	☒Beneficiaries		
	☒Local Communities		
	☒Civil Society		
		☒Community Based Organization	
		☒Non-Governmental Organization	
		☒Academia	
	☒Type of Engagement		
		☒Information Dissemination	
		☒Partnership	
		☒Consultation	
		☒Participation	
	☒Communications		
		☒Awareness Raising	
		☒Education	
		☒Public Campaigns	
		☐Behavior Change	
☒Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	☒Capacity Development		
	☒ Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	☒Targeted Research		
	☒Learning		
		☒Theory of Change	
		☒Adaptive Management	
		☒Indicators to Measure Change	
	☒Innovation		
	☒Knowledge and Learning		
		☒Knowledge Management	
		☒Innovation	
		☒Capacity Development	
		☒Learning	
	☒Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
☒Gender Equality			
	☒Gender Mainstreaming		
		☒Beneficiaries	
		☒Women groups	
		☒Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		☒Gender-sensitive indicators	
	☒Gender results areas		
		☐ Access and control over natural resources	

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		☒Participation and leadership	
		☒Access to benefits and services	
		☒Capacity development	
		☒Awareness raising	
		☒Knowledge generation	
☒**Focal Areas/Theme**			
	☐**Integrated Programs**		
		☐Commodity Supply Chains ([8]Good Growth Partnership)	
			☐ Sustainable Commodities Production
			☐Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐Financial Screening Tools
			☐High Conservation Value Forests
			☐High Carbon Stocks Forests
			☐Soybean Supply Chain
			☐Oil Palm Supply Chain
			☐Beef Supply Chain
			☐Smallholder Farmers
			☐Adaptive Management
		☐ Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			☐Resilience (climate and shocks)
			☐Sustainable Production Systems
			☐Agroecosystems
			☐Land and Soil Health
			☐Diversified Farming
			☐ Integrated Land and Water Management
			☐Smallholder Farming
			☐Small and Medium Enterprises
			☐Crop Genetic Diversity
			☐Food Value Chains
			☐Gender Dimensions
			☐Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		☐ Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			☐Sustainable Food Systems
			☐Landscape Restoration
			☐ Sustainable Commodity Production
			☐Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			☐Integrated Landscapes
			☐Food Value Chains
			☐Deforestation-free Sourcing
			☐Smallholder Farmers
		☐Sustainable Cities	
			☐Integrated urban planning
			☐Urban sustainability framework
			☐Transport and Mobility
			☐Buildings
			☐Municipal waste management
			☐Green space
			☐Urban Biodiversity
			☐Urban Food Systems
			☐Energy efficiency
			☐Municipal Financing
			☐ Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			☐Urban Resilience
	☒**Biodiversity**		

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		☒Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			☒Terrestrial Protected Areas
			☐ Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			☒Productive Landscapes
			☐Productive Seascapes
			☒ Community Based Natural Resource Management
		☒Mainstreaming	
			☐ Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			☒ Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			☒Tourism
			☒Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			☐Fisheries
			☐Infrastructure
			☐Certification (National Standards)
			☐ Certification (International Standards)
		☒Species	
			☒Illegal Wildlife Trade
			☒Threatened Species
			☒ Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			☐Crop Wild Relatives
			☐Plant Genetic Resources
			☐Animal Genetic Resources
			☐Livestock Wild Relatives
			☒Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		☒Biomes	
			☐Mangroves
			☐Coral Reefs
			☐Sea Grasses
			☒Wetlands
			☒Rivers
			☐Lakes
			☒Tropical Rain Forests
			☒Tropical Dry Forests
			☐Temperate Forests
			☒Grasslands
			☐Paramo
			☐Desert
		☒Financial and Accounting	
			☐Payment for Ecosystem Services
			☐ Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			☐Conservation Trust Funds
			☒Conservation Finance
		☐Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			☐Biosafety
			☐ Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	☐**Forests**		
		☐Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			☐REDD/REDD+
		☐Forest	
			☐Amazon
			☐Congo
			☐Drylands
	☐**Land Degradation**		
		☐Sustainable Land Management	
			☐Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands

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			☐ Ecosystem Approach
			☐ Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			☐ Community-Based NRM
			☐ Sustainable Livelihoods
			☐ Income Generating Activities
			☐ Sustainable Agriculture
			☐ Sustainable Pasture Management
			☐ Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			☐ Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			☐ Sustainable Fire Management
			☐ Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		☐ Land Degradation Neutrality	
			☐ Land Productivity
			☐ Land Cover and Land cover change
			☐ Carbon stocks above or below ground
		☐ Food Security	
	☐ **International Waters**		
		☐ Ship	
		☐ Coastal	
		☐ Freshwater	
			☐ Aquifer
			☐ River Basin
			☐ Lake Basin
		☐ Learning	
		☐ Fisheries	
		☐ Persistent toxic substances	
		☐ SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		☐ Targeted Research	
		☐ Pollution	
			☐ Persistent toxic substances
			☐ Plastics
			☐ Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			☐ Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		☐ Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		☐ Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		☐ Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		☐ Large Marine Ecosystems	
		☐ Private Sector	
		☐ Aquaculture	
		☐ Marine Protected Area	
		☐ Biomes	
			☐ Mangrove
			☐ Coral Reefs
			☐ Seagrasses
			☐ Polar Ecosystems
			☐ Constructed Wetlands
	☐ **Chemicals and Waste**		
		☐ Mercury	
		☐ Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		☐ Coal Fired Power Plants	
		☐ Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		☐ Cement	
		☐ Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		☐ Ozone	
		☐ Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	

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		☐ Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		☐ Waste Management	
			☐ Hazardous Waste Management
			☐ Industrial Waste
			☐ e-Waste
		☐ Emissions	
		☐ Disposal	
		☐ New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		☐ Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		☐ Plastics	
		☐ Eco-Efficiency	
		☐ Pesticides	
		☐ DDT - Vector Management	
		☐ DDT - Other	
		☐ Industrial Emissions	
		☐ Open Burning	
		☐ Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		☐ Green Chemistry	
	☐ **Climate Change**		
		☐ **Climate Change Adaptation**	
			☐ Climate Finance
			☐ Least Developed Countries
			☐ Small Island Developing States
			☐ Disaster Risk Management
			☐ Sea-level rise
			☐ Climate Resilience
			☐ Climate information
			☐ Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
			☐ National Adaptation Programme of Action
			☐ National Adaptation Plan
			☐ Mainstreaming Adaptation
			☐ Private Sector
			☐ Innovation
			☐ Complementarity
			☐ Community-based Adaptation
			☐ Livelihoods
		☐ **Climate Change Mitigation**	
			☐ Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			☐ Energy Efficiency
			☐ Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			☐ Technology Transfer
			☐ Renewable Energy
			☐ Financing
			☐ Enabling Activities
		☐ **Technology Transfer**	
			☐ Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			☐ Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			☐ Endogenous technology
			☐ Technology Needs Assessment
			☐ Adaptation Tech Transfer
		☐ **United Nations Framework on Climate Change**	
			☐ Nationally Determined Contribution
		☒ **Climate Finance (Rio Markers)**	☐ Paris Agreement
			☐ Sustainable Development Goals

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			☐ Climate Change Mitigation 0 ☒ Climate Change Mitigation 1 ☐ Climate Change Mitigation 2 ☐ Climate Change Adaptation 0 ☒ Climate Change Adaptation 1 ☐ Climate Change Adaptation 2

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Annex 27: GEF Budget template

GEF Budget template: India Wild Cat Landscapes Project -UNDP Budget – Components 1, 4 and PMC

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Goods	IT Equipment: 2 computers ($3000), 2 multifunction scanner-printers ($1000), IT accessories and software ($2000) to support landscape master plan development (one set for each landscape, to support GTF inputs and handed over to the State Govts) = $6,000 (Output 1.1) 2 LCD projectors ($1000 each) to support training activities (one for each landscape, to support the State Govts) = $2,000 (Output 1.5) Total: $8,000	8,000		8,000			8,000	MoEFCC
Goods	IT Equipment: For communications, knowledge management and M&E activities - computers 2 @ $1500 = $3000, printer/scanner/fax multifunction 1 @ $500; digital camera 1@$800; IT accessories & repairs $2,000, software $1,800 Total: $8,100		8,100	8,100			8,100	MoEFCC
Goods	IT Equipment: National project management - computers 2 @ $1500 = $3000, printer/scanner/fax multifunction 1 @ $500; IT accessories & repairs $2,000, software $1,800 Total = $7,300			-		7,300	7,300	MoEFCC
Contractual Services – Individual	Contractual Services – Implementing Partner: Landscape Conservation Planner to facilitate District ($2000/month over 30 months) and State level consultations on landscape planning, and facilitate the coordination and integration of conservation and rural development initiatives to reduce inter-sectoral conflicts, and integration of master plans with existing planning processes (Output 1.1), provide technical advice and workshop facilitation on landscape planning for species recovery plans (Output 1.2), protocol and SOPs (Output 1.3) and guidelines (Output 1.4); provide training inputs on landscape planning (Output 1.5); (All Outputs) Total: $60,000	60,000		60,000			60,000	MoEFCC

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Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Contractual Services – Individual	Contractual Services – Implementing Partner: M&E and Safeguards Analyst (at $2,000/month) for coordinating updating of annual indicators for PIR, MTR and TE (10 months), overseeing implementation of the M&E plan and ensuring alignment of project M&E with GWP M&E requirements(20 months), reviewing and revising annual work plan activities based on lessons learned (5 months), stakeholder/social inclusion consultations (5 months), coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of any required ESIAs and safeguards plans in line with SESP requirements (20 months) (Output 4.5)		52,000	52,000			52,000	MoEFCC
Contractual Services – Individual	Contractual Services – Implementing Partner: M&E and Safeguards Analyst (at $2,000/month) for coordinating updating of annual indicators for PIR, MTR and TE (10 months), overseeing implementation of the M&E plan and ensuring alignment of project M&E with GWP M&E requirements(20 months), reviewing and revising annual work plan activities based on lessons learned (5 months), stakeholder/social inclusion consultations (5 months), coordinate the development, implementation and monitoring of any required ESIAs and safeguards plans in line with SESP requirements (20 months) (Output 4.5)			-	68,000		68,000	
Contractual Services – Individual	Contractual Services – Implementing Partner: Project Manager – 60 months over 6 years at $1000/month (50% time; co-financed by GTF) = $60,000 Project Admin and Finance Officer – 60 months over 6 years at $916.67/month = $55,000 Total = $115,000			-		115,000	115,000	MoEFCC

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Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to GTF for development of landscape master plans = $120,000 (Output 1.1) Total $120,000 Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to GTF for development of database, atlas and mobile phone application on wild cat monitoring - $80,000 (Output 1.2) Total $80,000 Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to GTF for developing protocol and SOPs for wild cat conservation = $40,000 (Output 1.3) Total $40,000 Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to environmental NGOs / academic institutions for developing guidelines for wild cat conservation = $40,000 (Output 1.4) Total: $40,000 Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: Subcontract to environmental NGOs / academic institutions for developing and implementing training programme for State and District Agencies $120,000 (Output 1.5) Total $120,000	400,000		400,000			400,000	MoEFCC

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Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: -Subcontract to GTF to develop and operationalize Green Business Platform, business partnership development in landscapes, fund development, grant scheme for community-based conservation projects - $120,000 (Output 4.1) Total: $120,000 Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: -for coordination of communications task force, development of communications action plan and strategy; incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation); conduct national- and landscape-level awareness campaigns; develop awareness materials and monitoring results; - $80,000 (Output 4.2) - for development and implementation of knowledge management plan; incorporate virtual communications tools and building capacity of the PMU/stakeholders/tools for virtual communications as a backstop to avoid delay in project activities in case face-to-face training/workshops are delayed (COVID19 mitigation); develop a project website / regional knowledge platform to share project news, results and information; develop case studies on key issues relating to landscape conservation for wild cats including stakeholder workshops - $100,000 (Output 4.4) Total: $180,000 Contractual Services – Companies/Institutions: - Subcontract to GTF to develop and implement transboundary conservation roadmap and local level transboundary actions - $60,000 (Output 4.3) Total: $60,000		360,000	360,000			360,000	MoEFCC
International Consultants	International Consultants: International Consultant for MTR/TE - 30 days at $650/day for both MTR (Y3) and TE (Y5) = $39,000 (Output 4.5) Total: $39,000			-	39,000		39,000	MoEFCC

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Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Local Consultants	Local Consultants: KAP consultant for baseline and completion assessments - 10 weeks at $1000 / week Y2, 10 weeks Y6 = $20,000 (Output 4.2) Website design consultant - 8 weeks at $1000/week Y1-2 = $8,000 (Output 4.4) Case study consultants (writers) - 24 weeks at $1000/week Y3-6 = $24,000 (Output 4.4) Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist 8 weeks/Y1 and Y2, and 4 weeks/Year for Y3-Y5 for PMU/executing partner training, local stakeholder consultations and support for Gender Action Plan implementation and monitoring, provide technical support to the PMU to integrate gender into project implementation plans, including annual work plans = 28 weeks @$1000 (Y1-6) = $28,000 (Output 4.5); Total: $92,000		80,000	80,000			80,000	MoEFCC
Local Consultants	Local Consultants: National Consultant for MTR / TE - 30 days at $200 for MTR (Y3) and 30 days at $200 for TE (Y5) = $12,000 (Output 4.5);			-	12,000		12,000	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training, meetings and field training: Consultation meetings for development & implementation of landscape master plans = 8 x 2 landscapes x $5000 = $80,000 (Output 1.1) National and regional meetings (5 x $5000) for development of database, atlas and mobile phone app - $25,000 (Output 1.2) Consultation meetings to develop Species Recovery Plans for 3 cat species - 3x$5,000 = $15,000 (Output 1.2) Consultation meetings for developing protocol and SOPs for wild cat conservation - 4 x $5,000 = $20,000 (Output 1.3) Consultation meetings for developing guidelines for wild cat conservation 2 landscapes x $10,000 = $20,000 (Output 1.4) Support for training events for State and District Agencies - 8 events x 2 landscapes x $4000 = $64,000 (Output 1.5) Total: $224,000	224,000		224,000			224,000	MoEFCC

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training, Workshops and Conferences: - National and regional workshops x 5 at $10,000 for development of Green Business Platform, business partnership development - $50,000 (Output 4.1) - for communications strategy planning meetings (Y1, Y2) - $2,000 (Output 4.2) - for transboundary collaboration and action planning meetings / visits (Y3-Y5) - $30,000 (Output 4.3) - for annual stakeholder meetings $5,000 x 5 years = $25,000 (Output 4.4)		107,000	107,000			107,000	MoEFCC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training, Workshops and Conferences: - for project inception stakeholder workshops – national and state-level $20,000 (Y1) (Output 4.5) - for post-MTR stakeholder consultation workshop to validate findings and help support finalization and implementation of MTR management response $10,000 (Y3) (Output 4.5)			-	30,000		30,000	
Travel	Travel: In support of consultations, travel to and within landscapes for Output 1.1 – Years 1-5 ($30,000); Output 1.2 Years 1-5 ($20,000); Output 1.3 Years 2-4 ($7,500); Output 1.4 – Years 2-4 ($7,5000); Output 1.5 Years 1-5 ($35,000); Total: $100,000	100,000		100,000			100,000	MoEFCC
Travel	Travel: - for consultations, partnership development in project landscapes - $10,000 (Output 4.1) - for awareness campaigns, KAP baseline and completion assessments in project landscapes - $15,000 (Output 4.2) - for transboundary meetings and visits to project landscapes - $17,000 (Output 4.3) - for annual stakeholders meetings, case study field visits and consultations, presenting results at international conferences - $21,000 (Output 4.4) - for Communications, Awareness and KM officer - $12,000 (Output 4.4) - for Gender consultant training and annual field visits - $10,000 (Output 4.5)		85,000	85,000			85,000	MoEFCC
Travel	Travel: - for MTR ($5,000) Y3 and TE ($5,000) Y5 = $10,000 (Output 4.5); -for annual monitoring of project RF indicators and safeguards-related consultations by M&E and Safeguards Analyst - $16,000 (Output 4.5):			-	26,000		26,000	

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Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Sub-component 1	Sub-component 4					
Office Supplies	Supplies: paper, stationery, printer cartridges, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc across all Outputs – estimated at $2000/year (plus balancing figure Year 6). Total: $12,000	12,000		12,000			12,000	MoEFCC
Office Supplies	Supplies for production of project communications and knowledge materials and M&E reports, etc. (all Outputs) Total: $17,700		17,700	17,700			17,700	MoEFCC
Office Supplies	Supplies: paper, stationery, printer cartridges, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc: National project management at $1,000 / year over 6 years Total = $5,900			-		5,900	5,900	MoEFCC
Other Operating Costs	AV & print production costs: audio visual and printed materials in support of: Landscape master plans for two landscapes - $12,000 (Output 1.1) Atlas on wild cat distribution - $10,000 (Output 1.2) Species Recovery Plans for 3 cat species - $15,000 (Output 1.2) Protocol and SOPs on wild cats - $10,000 (Output 1.3) Guidelines on small cat conservation - $10,000 (Output 1.4) Training materials - $20,000 (Output 1.5) Total: $77,000	77,000		77,000			77,000	MoEFCC
Other Operating Costs	AV and Printing Production Costs: - for brochures and reports for Green Business Platform and grant scheme - $10,000 (Output 4.1) - for awareness material printing production - $15,000 (Output 4.2) - for supporting materials for transboundary site work - $3000 (Output 4.3) - for KM reports, case studies, stakeholder meeting materials, terminal report - $29,000 (Output 4.4)		57,000	57,000			57,000	MoEFCC
Other Operating Costs	AV and Printing Production Costs: - for Mid-term and terminal evaluation reports, M&E reports, gender, safeguards reports - $6,000 (Output 4.5)			-	6,000		6,000	
Other Operating Costs	Professional services: Annual audit for Components 1 and 4 ($3,000/ year for 6 years). Total $18,000			-		18,000	18,000	MoEFCC
Grand Total		**881,000**	**766,800**	**1,647,800**	**181,000**	**146,200**	**1,975,000**	