

**Integrated Landscape Management to Secure  
Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors**

*Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) &  
Process Framework (PF)*

**Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE)  
Government of Nepal  
May 2019**

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## Acronyms

ACOFUN	Association of Collaborative Forests Users of Nepal
BZ	Buffer Zone
BZCFUG	Buffer Zone Community Forest User Group
BZMC	Buffer Zone Management Committee
CBAPU	Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit
CBS	Central Bureau of statistic
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFCC	Community Forest Coordination Committee
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
DFO	[Former District Forest Office] Division Forest Office
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (MoEF)
DoF	[Former] Department of Forests (under former MoFSC)
DoFSC	Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoEF) [under former MoFSC]
DSCWM	[Former] Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (MOFE)
EA	Executing Agency
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
Ha	Hectare
HWC	Human-Wildlife Conflict
IA	Implementing Agency
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IP	Indigenous People
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
IPO	Indigenous Peoples Organization
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plans for Action
LC	Local Communities
LGOA	Local Government Operation Act, 2017
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFSCC	Municipal Forestry Sector Coordination Committees
MOFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MoFSC	[Former] Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (now MOFE)
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NP	National Park
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
PA	Protected Area
PF	Process Framework

POM	Project Operational Manual
PPC	Project Preparation Committee
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
TOR	Terms of Reference
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## कार्यकारी सारांश र सुभावहर

### कार्यकारी सारांश

प्रस्तावित एकीकृत भूव्यवस्थापन आयोजना नेपालको तराई भूपरिधी क्षेत्रका लागि ग्लोबल इन्भाइरमेन्ट फेसिलिटी र डब्लु डब्लु एफको आर्थिक तथा प्राविधिक सहयोगमा नेपाल सरकार, वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयद्वारा निर्माण गरिएको हो । यो आयोजना विश्वव्यापी रूपमा महत्वपूर्ण वनजंगल, वनस्पति र वन्यजन्तुको संरक्षण गर्नका लागि एकीकृत भू-व्यवस्थापन (Integrated Landscape Management- ILM) प्रवर्द्धन गर्ने ढंगबाट निर्माण गरिएको छ । यो आयोजना निर्माणको क्रममा नेपालको तराई भूपरिधी क्षेत्रमा उल्लेख्य जनसंख्याको जीविकोपार्जनमा योगदान पुऱ्याइरहेका जैविक विविधताले भरिपूर्ण वनजंगल, जमिन र जलस्रोतसँग सम्बन्धित पारिस्थितिकीय प्रणालीहरूको उपयोगितालाई समेत ध्यान दिइएको छ । यस आयोजनाको एकीकृत भू-व्यवस्थापन अवधारणाले एकीकृत रूपमा दिगो वन, जमिन र जलस्रोत व्यवस्थापन (समुदायमा आधारित प्राकृतिक स्रोत-साधन व्यवस्थापन) लाई संयोजन गर्ने र महत्वपूर्ण ठूला स्तनधारी वन्यजन्तु प्रजाति (बाघ, एक सिङ्गे गैंडा र हात्ती) का साथै अन्य थुप्रै वन्यजन्तु र वनस्पतिका प्रजातिहरूको संरक्षण गर्ने लक्ष्य राखेको छ । आयोजनाको उद्देश्य प्राप्तिका लागि निम्न चार वटा अन्तरसम्बन्धित कम्पोनेन्ट अर्न्तगतका कार्यहरू सम्पादन गरिनेछ ।

- १) वन र भूव्यवस्थापनको प्रवर्द्धन गर्न क्षेत्रगत समन्वयका लागि राष्ट्रिय तहमा क्षमता अभिवृद्धि र सहज वातावरण निर्माण गर्ने,
- २) तराई भूपरिधी क्षेत्रमा अवस्थित संरक्षित क्षेत्र, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र महत्वपूर्ण जैविक मार्गहरूलाई समेटेर एकीकृत योजना तर्जुमा गर्ने,
- ३) तराई भूपरिधी भित्र रहेका यस आयोजनाको क्षेत्रभित्र पर्ने संरक्षित क्षेत्र, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र र जैविक मार्गहरूमा भएका वन जंगल र वन्यजन्तुहरूको उचित व्यवस्थापन गर्ने ।
- ४) परियोजना कार्यान्वयन गर्दा सिर्जना हुने जानकारी र शीपको व्यवस्थापन गर्दै उचित अनुगमन र मूल्यांकनका कार्यहरू गर्ने ।

यो आयोजना बाँके र बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जका मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र ब्रम्हदेव र कर्णाली जैविक मार्ग क्षेत्रहरूमा कार्यान्वयन गरिनेछ । आयोजनाका कम्पोनेन्ट ३ अन्तर्गतका बाँके र बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जका मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र ब्रम्हदेव र कर्णाली जैविक मार्ग क्षेत्रभित्रका आयोजना लागू गरिने ठाउँहरूको छनोट निश्चित मापदण्डहरू जस्तै उच्च महत्वको संरक्षित वन, उच्च कार्बन संचित वन, मानव-वन्यजन्तु द्वन्द्व क्षेत्र, वन्यजन्तुको ओहोरदोहोर गर्ने मुख्य क्षेत्र र वन तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षणको जोखिम सामना गर्नुपर्ने प्राथमिकताका क्षेत्रहरूको आधारमा निक्क्यौल गरी आयोजना कार्यान्वयन गरिनेछ । ब्रम्हदेव जैविक मार्ग क्षेत्रलाई केवल आयोजना कम्पोनेन्ट २ अन्तर्गत सुशासन सुदृढीकरणका लागि सहभागितामूलक योजनामा तर्जुमा निर्माण लागि समावेश गरिएको छ । यी उल्लेखित लक्षित क्षेत्रहरू अन्तर्गत विशेष लक्षित क्षेत्रहरू - गाउँहरू र वन क्षेत्रहरू - आयोजना कार्यान्वयनका क्रममा निर्धारण गरिनेछ । यो आयोजनाको लक्ष्य समुदायमा आधारित प्राकृतिक स्रोत-साधन व्यवस्थापनका लागि सहयोग पुऱ्याउन रहेकाले आदिवासी समुदायका घरपरिवारहरूलाई प्राथमिकताका साथ लक्षित गरिनेछ । जसका कारण उनीहरूको जीविकोपार्जनलाई सुदृढ बनाउनुका साथसाथै जैविक विविधता संरक्षण र मानव-वन्यजन्तु द्वन्द्व न्यूनीकरण हुनेछ । यसका साथै यो आयोजना यस्तो ढंगबाट कार्यान्वयन गरिनेछ कि आदिवासी समुदायहरूको पहिचान, सम्मान, मानव अधिकार, जीविकोपार्जन प्रणालीहरू र आदिवासीहरू स्वयंले परिभाषित गरेका उनीहरूका सांस्कृतिक विशिष्टताहरूप्रति पूर्ण सम्मान एवं अभिवृद्धि गर्नेछ ।

प्रस्तावित आयोजनाले कुनै पनि घरपरिवारलाई विस्थापन गर्ने छैन । यस आयोजनाले कम्पोनेन्ट ३ अर्न्तगत खुल्ला चरिचरण रोकथाम सहित समुदायको सहभागिताद्वारा छनौट गरिएका तीनवटा जैविक मार्गहरू र संरक्षित क्षेत्र अन्तर्गत मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरूको संरक्षणको अवस्था वृद्धि गर्ने लक्ष्य राखेको छ । समुदायमा आधारित प्राकृतिक स्रोत-साधन व्यवस्थापन सम्बन्धी आयोजनाहरूबाट स्रोत-साधनहरूको पहुँचमा नियन्त्रण गरिएका अवस्थाहरूमा गैरऐच्छिक पुनर्वास (Involuntary Resettlement) सँग सम्बन्धित डब्लु डब्लु एफको नीति लागु हुँदैन । सरकारले प्राकृतिक स्रोत-साधनहरूको पहुँचमा नियन्त्रण (जस्तै चरिचरण रोक्ने) गर्ने सम्भावना रहन्छ नै । स्थानीय समुदायहरूको अधिकार अन्तर्गत चरन र प्राकृतिक स्रोत-साधन प्रयोग निषेधित क्षेत्र घोषणा गर्ने अधिकार हुँदैन । त्यसकारण प्रस्तावित आयोजनाले आयोजना सञ्चालन हुने क्षेत्रहरूमा प्राकृतिक स्रोतसाधनहरू माथिको पहुँच र जीविकोपार्जनका क्रियाकलापहरूमा नियन्त्रण गर्न सक्ने सम्भावना भएकाले गैर ऐच्छिक पुनर्वाससँग सम्बन्धित डब्लु डब्लु एफको वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण नीति आकर्षित हुने देखिएको छ । त्यसैले वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयले विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोषको वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण नीतिअनुसार प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा (Process Framework- PF) र जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजना (Livelihood Restoration Plan-LRP) निर्माण गरेको छ । यसका साथसाथै प्रस्तावित आयोजना कार्यान्वयन गर्दा डब्लु डब्लु एफको आदिवासी जनताहरूको परिभाषा अनुसारका आदिवासीहरू जस्तै थारु, माझी, बोटे, दराई, राजी, मगर, गुरुङ्ग, तामाङ, राउटे, नेवार, सोनाहा, खोनाहा, र राना थारु बसोबास गरेको क्षेत्रमा गरिने र यिनीहरू पनि संलग्न हुने भएकाले डब्लु डब्लु एफको आदिवासी सम्बन्धि नीति आकर्षित हुने देखिएको छ । आयोजना कार्यान्वयनका लागि छनौट गरिएका राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जहरू, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र जैविकमार्ग क्षेत्रहरू र त्यसका वरपर आदिवासीहरूको बसोबास रहेको र यसमध्ये थारु समुदाय उल्लेख्य संख्यामा बसोबास गर्ने भएकाले आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचा (Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework- IPPF) निर्माण गरिएको छ । परियोजना तयारीको क्रममा वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयद्वारा गठन गरेको आयोजना तयारी समितिले यो प्रतिवेदन तयार गर्ने अख्तियार दिएको हो ।

आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचा (IPPF) र प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा (PF) निर्माणको क्रममा सामाजिक मूल्याङ्कन प्रक्रिया पनि सञ्चालन गरिएको थियो जुन निम्न विधि र प्रक्रियाहरूमा आधारित थियो ।

- आयोजनासम्बन्धी दस्तावेजहरू, विगतका अध्ययनहरू र आयोजना क्षेत्रहरूमा सञ्चालित सामाजिक मूल्याङ्कन को समिक्षा,
- आयोजना क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गर्ने स्थानीय समुदायहरू र आदिवासी जनताहरू सँग छलफल/अन्तरक्रिया (तालिका २) र
- प्रमुख आयोजनाका सरोकारवालाहरू, साभेदारहरू, डिभिजनल वन कार्यालय, राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र व्यवस्थापन समितिहरू, वन उपभोक्ता समितिहरू, रैथाने जनसंगठनहरू, वन उपभोक्ता महासंघ, नेपाल, आदिवासी जनजाती महासंघ, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र समन्वय परिषदका अधिकारीहरूसँग छलफल/सरसल्लाह ।

प्राकृतिक स्रोत र साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्ने प्रक्रिया ढाँचाले प्रभावित हुन सक्ने समुदायका सदस्यहरूलाई आयोजना निर्माणको प्रक्रियामा सहभागी गराउन, सम्भावित असरहरू न्यूनीकरण गर्ने आवश्यक उपायहरूको निर्धारण गर्न र उपयुक्त आयोजना क्रियाकलापहरूको छनोट र अनुगमन गर्न सहभागी गराउने गरी कस्तो प्रक्रियाको निर्माण र अवलम्बन गर्ने भन्नेबारे व्याख्या गर्दछ । यो प्रक्रियागत ढाँचाले कार्यकारी निकायलाई आयोजनाका कारण सिर्जित पहुँचमा नियन्त्रण (जस्तै खुला चरिचरण निषेध) जस्ता खास गरी जीविकोपार्जनसँग सम्बन्धित सम्भावित प्रतिकूल सामाजिक प्रभावहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्न मार्गदर्शन प्रदान गर्दछ । आयोजना कार्यान्वयनका दौरानमा चरनमा निषेध



गरिएका कारण आउने कुनै पनि प्रतिकूल प्रभावहरूलाई न्यून गर्नका लागि जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजनाहरूको निर्माण र सोहीअनुसार कार्यान्वयन गर्नुपर्ने प्रावधान यसमा समावेश गरिएको छ । जसले प्रभावित व्यक्तिहरू, समूहहरू र समुदायहरूलाई आवश्यकता अनुसार जीविकोपार्जनमा सहयोग र आयोजनाले सिर्जित लाभांश समान ढंगबाट बाँडफाँडगर्न सहयोग गर्नेछ । आयोजना कार्यान्वयन हुने संरक्षित क्षेत्रअन्तर्गतका मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र, जैविक मार्गहरू र सो क्षेत्रवरपरका आयोजना प्रभावित समुदायहरू र घरपरिवारहरूलाई आयोजना पूर्व अवस्थाले तहमा वा त्यो भन्दा राम्रो हुने गरी जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापनाका अवसरहरू प्रदान गरिनेछ ।

आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचाले प्रस्तावित आयोजनामा आदिवासी समुदायको हकमा लागु गरिने सिद्धान्तहरू, प्रक्रियाहरू र संगठनात्मक व्यवस्थाहरूलाई स्पष्ट पार्दछ । यो ढाँचाले आयोजनामा सहभागि हुने र आयोजनाबाट साँस्कृतिकरूपमा उचित र समान ढंगबाट लाभ प्राप्त गर्ने आदिवासी जनताहरूको अधिकारको रक्षा गर्ने लक्ष्य राख्दछ । अझ प्रष्टरूपमा भन्ने हो भने यो ढाँचाले आदिवासी समुदायमा आयोजनाका प्रभावहरू जाँच वा परिक्षण गर्ने र उपयुक्त योजना दस्तावेज निर्माण गर्ने, आदिवासी जनतासँग सम्बन्धित नेपाल सरकारका कानूनहरू र डब्लु डब्लु एफको नीति सँग मेल खानेगरी आदिवासी जनतालाई प्रभाव पार्ने आयोजना क्रियाकलापहरू सञ्चालन गर्नु अगावै उनीहरूका अधिकारहरूको रक्षा गर्न आदिवासी समुदाय योजना(IPP) तर्जुमा गर्नका लागि नीति र विधिहरू प्रदान गर्नेछ ।

यो आयोजना नेपाल सरकार, वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयले कार्यान्वयन गर्नेछ र डब्लु डब्लु एफको वातावरणीय तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण एकिकृत नितिहरू एवं विधिहरू अनुसार निर्माण गरिनुपर्ने सम्पूर्ण वातावरणीय तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण योजनाहरूको निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन र अनुगमनका लागि उत्तरदायी हुनेछ । प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा(PF) र आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचा (IPPF) ले कार्यकारी निकायहरूलाई तल उल्लेखित मार्गदर्शन प्रदान गर्दछ :

- विविध विकल्पहरूको मुल्याङ्कन गर्ने र प्रतिकूल असरहरू नियन्त्रण वा न्यूनीकरण गर्ने दृष्टिकोण सहित आदिवासी र स्थानीय समुदायहरू सँग छलफल गरि वा उनीहरूले छनौट गरे अनुसार उचित समाधानहरू र न्यूनीकरणका उपायहरूको पहिचान गर्न ।
- प्रभावित आदिवासी समुदायको “स्वतन्त्र पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति” (Free Prior Informed Consent-FPIC) बारेको विधि र प्रक्रियाहरू पालना गर्दै अर्थपूर्ण छलफलहरू सञ्चालन गर्न, तीनको अभिलेखीकरण गर्न र आयोजना क्षेत्रहरूका आदिवासी समुदायहरूमा सम्भावित प्रभाव पार्न सक्ने प्रस्तावित क्रियाकलापहरूसँग सम्बन्धित सरोकारका विषयहरू बुझ्ने र जाँच वा परिक्षण गरि तीनको सम्बोधन गर्न ।
- आयोजना कार्यान्वयनका क्रममा आदिवासी समुदायहरूलाई लाभान्वित समूह र विकास साभेदार बनाउदै साँस्कृतिकरूपमा उचित र समान ढंगबाट लाभहरू प्राप्त हुने गरि उनीहरूको सहभागिताका लागि अवसरहरू सिर्जना गर्ने व्यवस्थाहरू तर्जुमा गर्न ।
- आदिवासी समुदायहरूका चासो/मुद्दाहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्न उपयुक्त संस्थागत व्यवस्थाहरूको खाका बनाउन ।
- आयोजनाबाट प्रभावित हुने सम्भावित समुदायहरूका सदस्यहरूलाई आयोजना निर्माण, जिविकोपार्जनमा पर्ने असरहरूको सम्बोधन गर्न आवश्यक उपायहरूको निर्धारण र सान्दर्भिक आयोजना क्रियाकलापहरूको अनुगमनमा सहभागि हुने प्रक्रियाको निर्माण गर्न ।

- आयोजना कार्यान्वयनका कारण सिर्जित खासगरी जिविकोपार्जन सँग सम्बन्धित सम्भावित प्रतिकूल सामाजिक प्रभावहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्न कार्यकारी निकायकालागि विधिहरू र मार्गदर्शनहरू निर्माण गर्न ।

प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा(PF) र आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचा (IPPF) वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालयको वेवसाइटमा, राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन कार्यालयहरू, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र व्यवस्थापन समितिका कार्यालयहरू, वन उपभोक्ता समितिका कार्यालयहरू का साथसाथै डब्लु डब्लु एफको वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण स्रोतहरू (WWF Safeguards Resources) को वेवसाइटमा विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोषको प्रकाशनको नीति अनुसार ग्लोबल इन्भाइरमेन्ट फेसिलिटी (GEF)को पूर्व स्विकृति लिएर प्रकाशन गरिनेछ ।

## सुभावहरू

प्रस्तावित आयोजनाको अंगका रूपमा आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचा/ आदिवासी समुदाय योजना र प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा / जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजनाको प्रभावकारी निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन र अनुगमनका लागि निम्न सुभावहरू प्रस्ताव गरिएका छन् ।

**आदिवासी जनताहरूलाई विकासका साभेदारहरूका रूपमा लिनु पर्ने :** यस आयोजनाले आयोजना क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गर्ने प्रभावित आदिवासी समुदायहरू, तीनका संगठनहरू तथा गाउँपालिका, नगरपालिका र वडा तहका नेपाल आदिवासी जनजाति महासंघका समन्वय परिषदका इकाईहरूलाई साभेदारका रूपमा लिनु पर्दछ र तीनका प्रतिनिधिहरूलाई आदिवासी समुदाय योजना र जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजना सहितका अन्य योजना निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन र अनुगमनका क्रममा सहभागि गराउनु पर्छ ।

**सामाजिक सुरक्षणको लागी कर्मचारी र दायित्व** वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षणको जिम्मेवारी सहित आयोजना सम्बन्धी सम्पूर्ण कार्यहरूको समन्वयको जिम्मेवारी आयोजना व्यवस्थापन इकाई (PMU) अन्तर्गत आयोजना व्यवस्थापकमा निहित रहेको छ । यस बाहेक आयोजना व्यवस्थापन इकाई अन्तर्गत सामाजिक सुरक्षणसँग सम्बन्धित योजना निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन र जिम्मेवारीको अनुगमन सम्बन्धी दैनिक कार्यहरूको समन्वय गर्न एक वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण विशेषज्ञको आवश्यक पर्दछ । सामाजिक सुरक्षण विशेषज्ञले आवश्यक प्राविधिक सल्लाह-सुभावहरू दिनुका साथै परियोजनास्थलगत कार्यालय र परियोजनास्थलमा रहेका वन तथा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज कार्यालयहरूका बीचमा वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण सम्बन्धि योजना निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन र जिम्मेवारी अनुगमन तथा आयोजनाको वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण पक्षहरूको रिपोर्टिंग कार्यका लागि समन्वय गर्नेछन् ।

आदिवासी समुदाय योजना र प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा अनुसारका आयोजना स्थल तहका वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षणसँग सम्बन्धित कार्यहरू आयोजना व्यवस्थापन एकाइले नियुक्त गरेका कन्सल्टयान्टहरूले गर्नेछन् ।

**क्षमता अभिवृद्धि :** डब्लु डब्लु एफ र ग्लोबल इन्भाइरमेन्ट फेसिलिटीका सम्बन्धित निकायले आयोजना व्यवस्थापक, आयोजना व्यवस्थापन एकाइले नियुक्त गरेका वातावरण तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षण विज्ञहरूलाई डब्लु डब्लु एफको वातावरणीय तथा सामाजिक सुरक्षा एकिकृत नीतिहरू एवं विधि र प्रक्रियाहरूका बारेमा तालिम प्रदान गर्नेछ । तालिम अन्तर्गत आयोजना व्यवस्थापन इकाईमा कायरत सम्बन्धित कर्मचारी र कन्सल्टयान्टहरू एवं परियोजनास्थलगत कार्यालयका सम्बन्धित कर्मचारी र आयोजनामा सहभागि मन्त्रालयका सम्बन्धित कर्मचारीका लागि विभिन्न विषयहरू

जस्तै “स्वतन्त्र, पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति” (FPIC) बारेको विधि र प्रक्रियाहरू, सामुदायीक छलफल र अभिलेखिकरण, वातावरणिय तथा सामाजिक प्रभावहरूको जाँच वा परिक्षण, सामाजिक मुल्याङ्कन, आदिवासी समुदाय योजना र जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजनाको तर्जुमा आदि समावेश हुनेछन् जुन निरन्तररूपमा सञ्चालन हुनेछ।

**समुदाय सँगको छलफल र “स्वतन्त्र, पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति” (FPIC) :** स्वतन्त्र, पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति को प्रक्रियाहरू अवलम्बन तथा कार्यान्वयन गर्नु प्रस्तावित आयोजनाको अभिन्न अंग हो र आयोजना अवधिभर यस प्रक्रियाको अवलम्बन आवश्यक पर्दछ। आयोजनाले यस अन्तर्गतका लक्षित राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र जैविक मार्गहरूका आदिवासीहरूलाई साभेदारका रूपमा पहिचान गरेको हुनाले आदिवासीहरूसँग सम्बन्धित डब्लु डब्लु एफको नीति अन्तर्गत स्वतन्त्र, पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति को प्रक्रियाहरू अवलम्बन आवश्यक छ। आयोजना तयारी सँगसँगै प्राकृतिक स्रोत साधनसम्मको पहुँच सुनिश्चित गर्न प्रक्रियागत ढाँचा(PF) र आदिवासी समुदाय योजना ढाँचा (IPPF) को तयारीका क्रममा अवलम्बन र अभिलेख गरिएका भन्दा पनि उच्च तहका प्रक्रिया, विधिहरू र अभिलेखिकरण “स्वतन्त्र, पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति” प्रक्रिया अन्तर्गत पर्दछन्। आदिवासी समुदायका प्रतिनिधिलाई उनीहरूको शैक्षिक स्तर र साँस्कृतिक परिवेश सुहाउदो र उनीहरूको लागि पहुँचयोग्य र उचित हुने ढंगबाट आयोजना क्रियाकलापहरू, सिर्जित लाभ र नकारात्मक प्रभावहरूको बारेमा बुझाउनका लागि थप सहयोग प्रदान गर्नुपर्दछ। खासगरी आदिवासी र अन्य स्थानिय साभेदारहरू सँगको छलफल लागि उपयुक्त स्वरूपमा र सरल तरिकाले आयोजनाका सुचनाहरू आदान प्रदान गर्नका लागि निश्चित चरणहरू सहितको सरल योजना बनाउनु पर्दछ। आदिवासी र अन्य साभेदारका सल्लाह र सुझाव अभिलेखिकरण गर्दै सोहि अनुसार आयोजना समायोजन प्रक्रिया सुनिश्चित गर्नुपर्दछ।

**आधार तथ्याङ्क निर्माण:** आयोजनाको निर्माण ताका पहिचान भएका लक्षित समुदायहरूको सामाजिक आर्थिक तथ्याङ्क संकलन गरिएकोछ। यद्यपी प्रत्येक आयोजनास्थलमा सामाजिक-आर्थिक आधार तथ्याङ्क, खासगरी प्रभावित समुदाय र घरपरिवारहरूको आर्थिक स्थिति सँग सम्बन्धित आधार तथ्याङ्कको कमी छ। त्यसकारण आयोजना कार्यान्वयनका क्रममा प्रभावित आदिवासी र अन्य स्थानिय समुदायहरूको परिवारिक आर्थिक अवस्था अनुगमन गर्न र जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजना र कम्पोनेन्ट ३ अन्तर्गतका अन्य परियोजना सहयोगहरूका प्रभावहरू मुल्याङ्कन गर्न परियोजनास्थलहरूको पहिचान भएपश्चात आयोजना कार्यान्वयनको पहिलो ३ महिनामा आधार तथ्याङ्क संकलन गर्न आवश्यक छ। खासगरी आयोजना लक्षित राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र जैविक मार्गहरूमा वन अतिक्रमणको नियन्त्रण, खुला चरन क्षेत्रमा नियन्त्रण वा निषेध र घाँसेमैदान र सीमसार क्षेत्रको व्यवस्थापनबाट प्रभावित हुन सक्ने आदिवासीहरू र स्थानीय समुदायहरूको सामुदायीक प्रोफाइल सकेसम्म परिमाणात्मक/संख्यात्मक तथ्याङ्कको सहायताले अद्यावधिक र विशिष्ट बनाउनुपर्छ। जैविक विविधता सर्भेक्षण, सामाजिक-आर्थिक सर्भेक्षण र कम्पोनेन्ट २.१ र २.२ अन्तर्गतका लक्षित राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्रहरू र जैविक मार्गहरूका स्थानीय साभेदारहरू सँग छलफल गर्ने क्रममा आधार तथ्याङ्क संकलन गर्नुपर्दछ। यसरी संकलित आधार तथ्याङ्कहरू आदिवासी समुदाय योजना र जीविकोपार्जन पुनर्स्थापना योजनाको निर्माण र कार्यान्वयनका क्रममा अझ अद्यावधिक र विशिष्ट बनाइनुपर्दछ।

## **Executive Summary and Recommendations**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed GEF project is designed to promote integrated landscape management (ILM) to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife considering the significant biodiversity and ecosystems values that have been contributing livelihoods for large population in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) areas of Nepal. The project's ILM approach aims to bring together sustainable forest and land management (community based natural resource management) and the conservation of globally significant large ranging mammals (tiger, Indian one-horned rhino and Asian elephant) as well as a wide range of other species. The project will accomplish its objective through the implementation of four interconnected components—1) creating the national capacity and enabling environment for cross-sectoral coordination to promote forest and landscape conservation; 2) integrated planning for protected area buffer zones and critical corridors in the TAL; 3) forest and wildlife management for improved conservation of targeted protected area buffer zones and corridors in TAL and 4) knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation - which will result in nine project outcomes.

The project will be implemented in Banke National Park Buffer Zone, Bardia National Park Buffer Zone, Brahmadev Corridor, Kamdi Corridor and Karnali Corridor. The selection of intervention sites within Banke National Park Buffer Zone, Bardia National Park Buffer Zone, Kamdi Corridor and Karnali Corridor in Component 3 will be made during implementation, based on criteria such as presence of high value conservation forest, high carbon stock forest, human-wildlife conflict hotspots, importance for wildlife movement, and priority areas for responding to threats. Brahmadev Corridor has been included only in the Component 2 intervention on participatory planning for improved governance. The specific intervention sites— villages/communities and forest areas – within these target areas will be determined during implementation phase. Households of indigenous communities will be targeted to provide support for community based natural resource management that strengthen their livelihoods as well as biodiversity conservation and mitigation of human wildlife conflict. However, the project will be implemented in such a way that fosters full respect for indigenous people's (IP's) identity, dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, and cultural uniqueness as defined by the IPs themselves.

While the proposed project is unlikely to cause displacement of people, the project aims to conduct participatory planning for three selected corridors and two PA buffer zones through community participation including implementation of integrated livestock management (which may include open-grazing restrictions) under Component 3. The WWF policy on Involuntary Resettlement does not apply in situations where restrictions to access of resources are taking place under community-based projects such as community based NRM models however it is reasonable to assume that some decisions taken to restrict access to natural resources could be initiated by the Government, and will not fall solely within the authority of the local communities such as the no grazing zone. Therefore, WWF's Policy on Involuntary Resettlement has been triggered as the proposed project is likely to restrict access to natural resources and livelihoods activities within the areas the project will work and a Process Framework (PF)/ Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) has been prepared by the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE) as per WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP). In addition, WWF's Policy on

Indigenous Peoples is triggered given that proposed project activities will involve Indigenous Peoples as per WWF's definition of indigenous people such as Tharu, Danuwar, Majhi, Bote, Darai, Kumal, Raji, Magar, Gurung, Tamang, Raute, Newar, Sonahas, Khonahas and Ranas (Tharus). Among them the Tharu community are the dominant inhabitants living in and around of the PA's buffer zones and corridors selected under the project. Thus, an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has been prepared. This report (IPPF and the PF) was commissioned on behalf of the Project Preparation Committee (PPC) formed by the Ministry of Forest and Environment during project preparation.

A social assessment process was carried out as part of preparation of IPPF and Process Framework (PF) and was based on the following:

- Review of project documents, past studies and social assessment conducted in the project areas;
- Consultations with local communities and Indigenous Peoples who live in the project area (Table 2); and
- Consultation with key project stakeholders, including officials of Division Forest Office, National Parks, Buffer Zone Management Communities, Forest User Committees, Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPOs), Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal((FECOFUN), Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Buffer Zone Coordination Councils (Table 2).

The Process Framework (PF) describes a process to be established by which members of potentially affected communities participate in design of project activities, determination of measures necessary to mitigate likely impacts and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities. The PF has provided guidance to the Executing Agency to address potential adverse social impacts, particularly, potential loss of livelihood as a result of access restriction (grazing ban) due to the project. In order to mitigate any adverse impacts from banning of grazing during project implementation, Livelihood Restoration Plans will be prepared and subsequently implemented. These Plans will provide tailored livelihood support and benefit sharing for affected persons, groups and communities. Affected communities and households around the project-supported protected areas (including buffer zones) and corridors will be provided with opportunities to restore their livelihoods to pre-project levels or better.

The Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) clarifies the principles, procedures and organizational arrangements to be applied to Indigenous Peoples (IP) for the proposed project. The IPPF aims to safeguard the rights of IPs to participate and equitably receive culturally appropriate benefits from the project. More specifically, the IPPF provides policy and procedures to screen project impacts on IPs and to prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), an appropriate planning document, to safeguard their rights prior to the execution of project activities affecting IPs in accordance with GoN laws and WWF's Policy on Indigenous People.

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE) and MOFE will be responsible for the development, execution and monitoring of all safeguards plans prepared as per the WWF Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP). The IPPF and PF provide the following guidance to the Executing Agency (EA):

- (i) to assess and evaluate various options and alternatives and identification of appropriate solutions and mitigation measures in consultation with, or as chosen by, the indigenous and local communities, with a view to avoid or minimize adverse impacts;
- (ii) to conduct and document in detail, meaningful consultations following Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and to understand and address the concerns of Indigenous People in project areas, pertaining to the proposed project activities that may have potential impacts on them;
- (iii) to formulate provisions for culturally appropriate benefits and opportunities for participation of Indigenous Peoples in the project, making them beneficiaries and development partners;
- (iv) to design appropriate institutional arrangements to address Indigenous People's issues;
- (v) to establish a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in the design/implementation of project activities and the determination of measures necessary to address livelihood impacts and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities; and
- (vi) to establish procedures and guides for the Executing Agency to address potential adverse social impacts, particularly, loss of livelihoods as a result of access restriction due to project implementation.

The IPPF and PF will be disclosed on the website of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), in the National Park areas and Buffer Zones as well as the WWF Safeguards Resources website before GEF agency approval as per WWF's Standard on Public Consultation and Disclosure.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations are proposed for effective and efficient planning, execution and supervision of IPPF/IPP and PF/LRP (Livelihood Restoration Plan) as part of the proposed project.

**Indigenous people should be considered as development partners:** The project should consider the Indigenous People's Organizations (IPOs) of affected IPs in the project area municipalities and municipality and ward level coordination councils of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) as partners and should involve their representatives while planning, implementing and monitoring of the project activities including IPPs and LRPs.

**Responsibilities and Personnel for Safeguards:** The overall responsibility of coordination of the project activities including safeguards compliance rests with the Project Manager of the Project Management Unit (PMU). In addition, the PMU will include a Safeguards specialist to coordinate the day to day execution of safeguard related planning, implementation and compliance monitoring. The safeguards specialist will provide technical input and coordinate project field office, forest and NP offices at the project site for planning, implementation and compliance monitoring and reporting on the safeguard aspects of the project.

The site level safeguards related activities as per the IPPF and the PF will be carried out by consultants hired by PMU reporting to the Safeguards specialist.

**Capacity building:** The WWF GEF Agency will provide training to the Project Director and the environment and social Safeguards specialist hired at the PMU on WWF's Environment and Social

Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures. The training will include issues such as the FPIC process and procedures, community consultation and documentation, screening, social assessment, formulation of IPP and LRP etc. For project (at Kathmandu and field) staff and concerned staff of the line ministry participating in project implementation, training should be conducted on an ongoing basis.

**Community Consultation and FPIC:** Carrying out FPIC is integral to the proposed project and needs to be conducted throughout the life of the project. FPIC is a requirement under WWF's Policy on Indigenous Peoples, as the project has indigenous stakeholders identified in each of the targeted NP buffer zones and corridors. The FPIC requirement includes process, procedures and documentation of a higher order than has currently been documented during the preparation of IPPF and PF during project preparation. Additional effort should be made to provide IP community representatives with a description of project activities, benefits, and impacts, presented in a manner and language that is accessible and appropriate to community representatives' education levels and to the cultural context. In particular, related to IP and other stakeholder consultation, advanced planning with deliberate steps to provide project information in appropriate forms (format, frequency, composition etc.), and at documenting the process including IP stakeholder input, feedback and any project adaptations to IP (or other stakeholder input) should be ensured.

**Baseline Data:** During the preparation stage of the project, socio-economic data of the communities that will be targeted under the project has been collected. However, for each site, there are gaps in the socio-economic baseline data, particularly related to the economic status of Project-affected peoples. Therefore, it is recommended under the project execution that in order to monitor household economic conditions of the affected IPs and to assess the impacts of LRPs and other project supports under Components 3, baseline data needs to be collected during the first three months of project execution once sites are known. In particular, community profiles of the Indigenous People and local communities who may be impacted by the control of forest encroachment, control or banning open grazing and management of grassland and wetland in the project targeted NP buffer zones and corridors should be updated, specified and quantified as much as possible. It is recommended that baseline data is collected while doing biodiversity surveys, socio-economic surveys, and local stakeholder consultations for targeted PA buffer zones and corridors under Component 2.1 and 2.2. The baseline data collected will further be updated and specified during preparation and execution of IPPs and LRPs.

# 1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Context and Description

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) of Nepal is a 24,710 km<sup>2</sup> area of critical importance for globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems and for supporting the local livelihoods of a large proportion of Nepal's population. Located in the foothills of the Himalayas, TAL provides forest and grassland habitat for tiger, rhino, and elephant, and essential ecosystem services including watershed protection and provision of water, carbon storage and sequestration, soil protection, and provision of fertile agricultural land. The landscape is approximately 17% of the country's total land area and is home to more than 7.5 million people including numerous ethnic and indigenous groups who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. The TAL has a system of six protected areas (Chitwan, Parsa, Bardia, Banke and Shuklaphanta NPs and Krishnasar Blackbuck Conservation Area) and associated buffer zones, which together cover 5,538 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2015, the northern boundary of the TAL was extended to include the north-facing slopes of the Chure, adding more than 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> to the landscape, and further enhancing habitat and forest connectivity. Seven biological corridors create linkages among the protected areas in Nepal and India in the TAL, and of these, four have been declared as Protected Forest (Figure 1). The TAL's system of protected areas, buffer zones and corridors support extensive forest systems, grasslands, riverine environments, and large mammal populations. Over 12,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the TAL is forested. These forest tracts provide key habitat for globally significant wildlife, corridors among protected areas, and high carbon storage potential. Some 54% of the TAL land area is covered by forests while 35% is occupied by agriculture (TAL Strategy 2015). Yet, just 25% of the forest in the TAL is located inside the six PAs, highlighting the importance of corridors and other community forest areas that account for the remaining 75% of TAL forests.





Figure 1 Map of Nepal showing the Terai Arc Landscape, protected areas, buffer zones and corridors

The proposed GEF project has been designed to promote integrated landscape management (ILM) to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife considering the importance of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems that have been contributing livelihoods for large population in TAL areas of Nepal. The landscape approach recognizes protected areas as the foundation of biodiversity conservation and also ensures sustainable land use and management of buffer zones around Protected Areas (PAs), and corridors that connect PAs, to deliver sustainable forest and land management, as well as the conservation of globally significant large ranging mammals (tiger, rhino, and elephant). The landscape approach necessitates working across multiple stakeholders in the natural resource management sector, including local communities, local forest user groups, and small-scale agriculture users and farmers. This recognizes that a sustainably managed landscape and the provision of ecosystem services is critical for local livelihood provision, and likewise, sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community land use options are keys to landscape conservation. The integrated landscape management approach recognizes emerging threats<sup>1</sup> to the TAL, particularly in the form of infrastructure development, and includes coordination with non-conservation sectors, towards reduced threats to biodiversity, increased coordination in landscape planning, and facilitates local to regional to national dialogue.

<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity loss, deforestation, degradation of forests, grasslands and riparian areas, land degradation, and related carbon emissions

## 1.2 Project Objective and Scope

The proposed project aims to promote integrated landscape management (ILM) to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife in Nepal, supporting the Government of Nepal's adoption of the landscape approach to conservation and building on previous GEF support<sup>2</sup> for the TAL. In institutional capacity development terms, the project has a national scope as it seeks to strengthen the inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms and capacity for implementing ILM in landscapes across the country. However, the main focus of the project is in supporting the application of ILM to the biodiversity-rich corridors and protected area (PA) buffer zones of the TAL through a combination of multi-level inter-sectoral coordination, improved participatory planning for their conservation and protection, and improved forest management practices and management of the human-wildlife interface. The knowledge and lessons from the project will feedback from the local to the national level through forums, networks and outreach to enable replication and upscaling of ILM experience. The project's ILM approach aims to bring together sustainable forest, land and water management and the conservation of globally significant large ranging mammals (tiger, Indian one-horned rhino and Asian elephant) as well as a wide range of other species.

## 1.3 The Project Locations

The proposed Project will be implemented in Banke National Park Buffer Zone, Bardia National Park Buffer Zone, Brahmadev Corridor, Kamdi Corridor and Karnali Corridor. The selection of intervention sites within Banke National Park Buffer Zone, Bardia National Park Buffer Zone, Kamdi Corridor and Karnali Corridor in Component 3 will be made during implementation, based on criteria such as presence of high value conservation forest, high carbon stock forest, human-wildlife conflict hotspots, importance for wildlife movement, and priority areas for responding to threats. The Brahmadev Corridor will be included in only the Component 2 intervention on participatory planning for improved governance (not Component 3).

## 1.4 Project Components

The project will accomplish its objective through the implementation of four interconnected components, which will result in nine project outcomes. The four project components ultimately aim to conserve key globally threatened wildlife population (tiger, Asian elephant and greater one horned rhinoceros) while maintaining other biodiversity and maintaining connected habitats for key wildlife species to allow movement and genetic exchange to occur. Additionally, it will support resilient community livelihoods for forest dependent communities consistent with sustainable forest and land management by removing the barriers to achieve the project's targeted conservation impacts. Specifically, the project contains following components:

**Component 1** aims to provide support at national, province and local levels to develop capacity for the inter sectoral coordination structures for ILM in line with TAL Strategy 2015-2025, while also addressing new needs and opportunities created by government restructuring. Thus, additional coordination mechanisms will be needed at province and local government levels.

**Component 2** focuses on the landscape level, aiming for a consistent level of protection for the seven TAL corridors, by assessing the feasibility and options for community management models for three corridors (Kamdi, Karnali and Brahmadev) that remain unprotected at present, and

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<sup>2</sup> Includes GEF investments to strengthen biodiversity and wetland conservation in the TAL and sustainable land management in the Churia

proposing them for designation as appropriate community based natural resource management modality. It also supports a participatory assessment process for the identification of priority village and forest areas in the targeted PA buffer zones ( Bardia and Banke National Park buffer zones) and corridors ( Kamdi and Karnali), preparation and implementation of forest management operational plan ( FMOPs) for targeted strategic locations corridors and PA buffer zones.

**Component 3** also operates at a sub-landscape level, focusing on building local capacity (with Division Forest Offices, CFUGs, BZUGs, and private land holders) and investment for improved forest management that strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, as well as local capacity for addressing human-wildlife conflict in a strategic manner in order to reduce its negative impacts and strengthen local support for conservation. Smart Green Infrastructure guidelines will be piloted through demonstration in one of the project target areas aiming to reduce wildlife mortality from road and irrigation canals cutting through the forest.

**Component 4** will seek to strengthen coordination and dialogue between local and national levels through annual stakeholder forums, build capacity for effective project management at all levels and provide mechanisms for the capture and sharing of lessons learned from the project to enable replication and up calling.

The project under Component 3 will include interventions such as livestock management to reduce open grazing in natural areas (including fencing of vulnerable forest, rotational grazing, artificial insemination, fodder improvement, stall feeding, vet support, stall improvement, with focused support and mitigations to community members reliant on open grazing in Banke National Park & Buffer Zone, Bardia National Park & Buffer Zone, Kamdi Corridor and Karnali Corridor (i.e. 2 PA BZs and 2 corridors). The specific intervention sites– villages and forest areas – within these target areas will be determined during implementation. Brahmadev Corridor, however, will be included in the Component 2 intervention on participatory planning for improved governance.

## **1.5 Rationale & Objective of Preparing IPPF**

The WWF's Policy on Indigenous Peoples is triggered given that proposed project activities will involve Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples such as Tharu, Danuwar, Majhi, Bote, Darai, Kumal, Raji, Magar, Gurung, Tamang, Raute, Newar, Sonahas, Khonahas and Ranas (Tharus) are found in the proposed project areas. Among them, the Tharu community are the dominant inhabitants living in and around of the PA's buffer zones and corridors selected under the project. An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) is prepared to clarify the principles, procedures and organizational arrangements to be applied to indigenous peoples (IP) for the proposed project. The IPPF aims to safeguard the rights of IPs to participate and equitably receive culturally appropriate benefits from the project. More specifically, the IPPF provides policy and procedures to screen project impacts on IPs and to prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), an appropriate planning document, to safeguard their rights prior to the implementation of project activities affecting IPs to ensure compliance with WWF's Indigenous Peoples Policy.

The main objective of this IPPF is to help ensure that the project activities are designed and implemented in a way that fosters full respect for IP identity, dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, and cultural uniqueness as defined by the IPs themselves. This IPPF aims to safeguard the rights of IPs to participate and equitably receive culturally appropriate benefits from the project. The IPPF provide guidelines and procedures to be followed to ensure that affected IPs and

local communities (i) receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; (ii) do not suffer adverse impacts (avoid negative effects on the IP communities) as a result of the project; (iii) when negative impacts cannot be avoided, provide measures to minimize/mitigate or compensate for the damage caused by the project activities and (iii) can participate actively in the project. The IPPF is also intended to provide guidelines for the preparation, conduct and documentation of processes related to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

### **1.6 Rational & Objective of Preparing Process Framework (PF)**

While the proposed project is unlikely to cause displacement of people, the project aims to conduct participatory planning for three selected corridors and PA buffer zones adopting suitable models of community based natural resource management (CBNRM) including implementation of integrated livestock management and technical support to reduce forest encroachment under Component 3. This triggers the WWF's Policy on Involuntary Resettlement as the proposed project is likely to restrict access to natural resources and livelihoods activities within the areas the project will work. Thus, this Process Framework (PF) has been prepared during project preparation.

The main objective of this Process Framework is to establish a process by which members of potentially affected communities participate in the design of project components, determination of measures necessary to achieve resettlement policy objectives (including access restriction), and implementation and monitoring of relevant project activities. The PF establishes procedures and guides the executive and implementing agencies to address potential adverse social impacts, particularly, loss of livelihood as a result of access restriction due to project implementation.

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE) which will be responsible for developing the safeguard related documents as per the WWF Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP). The IPPF and PF serve as a guidance to the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE), Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (DFSC) and Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) in the implementation of the proposed project to:

- a. Enable them to prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) for activities proposed consistent with WWF's Environment and Social Safeguard Integrated Policies and Procedures;
- b. Enable IPs to benefit equally from the project;
- c. Engage affected IPs and local communities following principles and approaches of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC);
- d. Enable them to adopt participatory processes by which criteria for eligibility of affected persons will be determined, project components will be prepared and implemented with participation of the potentially affected persons; and
- e. Enable them to identify suitable measures to assist affected persons in their efforts to improve their livelihoods or restore them to livelihoods conditions before the project, while maintaining the sustainability of the parks and forest corridors.

### **1.7 Methodology Adopted to Prepare IPPF and PF**

The presence of IPs in the project sites require a social assessment to generate the necessary baseline information on demographics, social, cultural, and political characteristics of affected IP communities as well as the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily

used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend. A social assessment process was carried out as part of preparation of IPPF and Process Framework (PF) and was based on the following:

- Review of project documents, past studies and social assessment conducted in the project areas;
- Consultations with local communities and Indigenous Peoples who live in the project area (the details of consultations (dates, location and number of participants etc.) have been provided in Table 2); and
- Consultation with key project stakeholders, including officials of District Forest Office, National Parks, Buffer Zone Management Communities, Forest User Committees, Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPOs), Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal((FECOFUN), Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Buffer Zone Coordination Councils (see Table 2, Page 32).

## 2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Ministry Forests and Environment is required to comply with policies, guidelines, and legislations of the Government of Nepal in addition to WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures as WWF is the GEF Implementing Agency.

### 2.1 Government of Nepal Policy Requirement

There are numerous legal provisions relevant to the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and interests in Nepal. The Constitution of Nepal 2072 (2015), National Foundation for Upliftment of Aadibasi/Janjati Act, 2058 (2002), Local Government Operation Act 2074 (2017), Forest Act (1993) and Forest Regulation (1995) and periodic Five-Year Plans have been placed significant emphasis on delivering basic services to the indigenous people and protection and promotion of their traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. Despite these, Nepal has no standalone policy on Indigenous Peoples and there are no particular regulations or requirements when there is access restriction situations that could be applied to the nature of proposed project and its activities.

The following paras provide an overview of the most relevant existing laws and regulations citing Indigenous Peoples in Nepal.

*The Constitution of Nepal 2072 (2015):* Article 18, Right to Equality, states that all citizens shall be equal before law. No person shall be denied the equal protection of law. However, the article also mentioned that nothing shall be deemed to bar the making of special provisions by law for the protection, empowerment or advancement of the women lagging behind socially and culturally, Dalits, Aadibasi, Madhesi, Tharus, Muslims, oppressed class, backward communities, minorities, marginalized groups, peasants, laborers, youths, children, senior citizens, sexual minorities, persons with disability, pregnant, incapacitated and the helpless persons, and of the citizens who belong to backward regions and financially deprived citizens including the Khasarya.

The constitution ensures rights of women and Dalits in Articles 38 and 40 respectively as fundamental rights which guarantee the participation of women and Dalits in all agencies of state on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion.

Similarly sub article (J) Policies Regarding Social Justice and Inclusion, under the Article 51, Policies of the State mentions the following provisions of social justice and inclusion applicable for Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable groups:

- (i) Making appropriate arrangements of livelihoods by prioritizing employment for single women who are in helpless conditions on the basis of skill, capability and merit;
- (ii) Rehabilitation of kamaiya (bonded laborers), kamlari, haruwa, charuwa, haliya, the landless and the squatters by identifying them, and planning of housing, or providing small plot of land or house, employment, or arable land for their livelihoods;
- (iii) Making special arrangements to ensure the rights of Adivasi Janajatis (indigenous ethnic groups) to lead a dignified life with their respective identities, and making them participate in decision making processes that concern them, and preserving

- and maintaining the traditional knowledge, skill, experience, culture and social practices of Adivasi Janajatis and local communities;
- (iv) Making special provisions for opportunities and benefits to minority communities to enjoy social and cultural rights, with maintaining their identity.

Article 261 of the Constitution has provision for formation of Indigenous and Nationalities Commission (INC) to look into the matters of Adivasi/Janajati people of Nepal. Pursuant to this Constitutional provision, the Government of Nepal has tabled a Bill called “Indigenous and Nationalities Commission Bill, 2073” to the Legislature-Parliament. The main functions of the Commission as proposed in the Bill are as follows:

- a) To make recommendations to the government of Nepal on the areas of reforming policy, law and institutions,
- b) To submit national policy as well as programmes to the Government of Nepal for the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples and their empowerment,
- c) To make recommendations to the Government of Nepal with the measures to adopt for the effective implementation of policy and programmes on Indigenous Peoples,
- d) To carry out monitoring and evaluation of the policy, law and programmes relating to Indigenous People,
- e) To make recommendations to the Government of Nepal on changing existing law in order to ensure proportional and inclusive representation of Indigenous People in state structures,
- f) To prepare and execute programmes for the protection and development of language, script, culture, history, tradition, literature, and arts,
- g) To conduct awareness programmes for the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples.

Constitution of Nepal 2015, Article 51, Sub article J (8) has some implicit elements requiring **FPIC** (Free Prior Informed Consent) of Indigenous Nationalities while making any decisions concerning these people. The essence of this constitutional provision is to ensure the indigenous nationalities participate in decisions concerning their community by making special provisions for opportunities and benefits in order to ensure the right of these peoples to live with dignity, along with their identity, and protect and promote traditional knowledge, skill, culture, social tradition and experience of the indigenous nationalities and local communities.

Specific policy initiatives for the welfare and advancement of IPs (adivasi/ janajati) were initiated in 1997, when a National Committee for Development of Nationalities (NCDN) was set up. In 2002, the Nepal Parliament passed a bill for the establishment of an autonomous foundation named “National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN),” which came into existence in 2003 replacing the NCDN. The NFDIN established the first comprehensive policy and institutional framework regarding Indigenous Peoples. It has been working for the preservation of the languages, cultures, and empowerment of the marginalized ethnic nationalities. More specifically, the NFDIN has following objectives:

- (i) To make overall development of the Adivasi/ Janajati by formulating and implementing the social, educational, economic and cultural programs.
- (ii) To preserve and promote the language, script, culture, literature, arts, history of the Adivasi/ Janajati.

- (iii) To preserve and promote the traditional knowledge, skill, technology and special knowledge of the Adivasi/ Janajati and to help in its vocational use.
- (iv) To encourage the Adivasi/ Janajati to be participated in the mainstream of overall national development of the country by maintaining a good relation, goodwill, and harmony between different Adivasi/ Janajati, castes, tribes and communities.
- (v) To help in building an equitable society by making social, economic, religious and cultural development and upliftment of Adivasi/ Janajati.

*The Forests Act (1993), Forest Regulation 1995 and CF Guidelines:* The Forests Act (1993) and forest regulation 1995 are the main legislative instruments to regulate forestry sectors and envisages various types of community-based forest management modalities such as Community Forestry (CF), Leasehold Forestry (LF), Collaborative Forest Management (CFM), user group-based watershed management and buffer zone forest management. The Act and regulations define Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) as self-sustained and perpetual entities and have given absolute rights to CFUGs in managing their community forests. The regulatory provisions authorize CFUGs to formulate their own rules, enforce and sanction as appropriate. The constitution of a CFUG is a key regulatory document that defines decision making and benefit sharing mechanisms within the FUG as well as rights and responsibilities of different user members and forums. Within the legal framework defined by the rules, the CFUGs hold regular meetings, prepare and amend rules, allocate annual budget for overall forest development including different local development initiatives. Some social safeguard related provisions are as follows:

*Forest Act 1993*

- Land ownership remains with the state, while the land use rights belong to the CFUGs.
- User groups are recognized as independent, self-governing, autonomous and corporate body with perpetual succession.
- All management decisions (land management and forest management) are taken by the CFUGs.
- Each household is recognized as a unit for the membership and every member has equal rights over the resources.
- There are mutually recognized use-rights.
- Equitable distribution of benefits.
- CFUGs can accumulate their fund from grant received by GoN and other local institutions, sale of CF products and amount received by other sources such as fine, etc. CFUGs can use their funds in any kind of community development works.

*Forest Rules 1995*

- User groups are allowed to plant short-term cash crops like NTFPs such as medicinal herbs.
- User groups can fix prices of forestry products for their own use.
- CFUGs can transport forest products under their jurisdiction anywhere in the county.
- In case of forest offences, CFUGs can punish their members according to their constitution and operational plan.



As per the provision of second revision of CF guidelines 2000, GoN has made the wellbeing ranking mandatory process while preparing CFUG constitution. As a result, the CFUGs need to identify the poorest households through wellbeing ranking based on the locally developed criteria and required to implement poverty reduction and marginalized group focused activities. These include – distribution of community lands to the landless or near-landless members, so that they can earn the living with cultivation of rewarding medicinal herbs or raising other crops. Several groups provide preference to poor members or women for placing them locally created jobs, such as for processing of handmade paper, working as nursery laborer, etc.

*National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973:* The Act restricts entry in national park areas without prior permission. Hunting of animals and birds; building or occupying any houses, shelter or structures; occupying, clearing, planting or growing any part of land; cutting, felling, removing or overshadowing any tree; and removing any quarry or any other activities are banned.

This Act provides provision (4th amendment in 1993) for the government to declare national parks, reserves or conservation areas as well as declare peripheral areas of a national park or reserve as buffer zones. The Act and other Rules framed under this Act provide provision for benefit sharing. About 30 to 50 percent of the total benefits generated from national parks and wildlife conservation should be provided for community development activities in the declared buffer zone areas. It also prioritizes people's participation for the management of protected areas to reduce park-people conflicts.

*Buffer Zone Regulations, 1996:* These provide park authority and local users to design programs for the buffer zone that are compatible with the national park management. It allows investing 30-50% of the park-generated revenues for community development activities in buffer zones. It promotes activities that meet the basic needs of local people for firewood, fodder, timber, and grazing. The following activities are prohibited:

- Occupying any land without legal ownership or cutting trees, clearing forest or cultivating forestland;
- Any activity damaging forest resources or setting fire in the forest;
- Excavating stone, earth, sand or mine or removing minerals, earth or other such materials;
- Using any harmful poison or explosive substances into the river, stream or source of water flowing in the buffer zone; and
- Hunting illegally and any act of damaging to the wildlife.

*National Forest Policy (2075) [2018]:* Nepal adopted a new National Forestry Policy in 2018 with the vision to contribute social, economic and cultural prosperity of the country through a “managed forest sector and balanced environmental conditions”. The Policy 8.8 (Social Protection, Inclusion and Good Governance) ensures rights of Indigenous Peoples in forest resource management and to access equitable benefit sharing. The policy has adopted a strategic action 8.8 (3) that require **FPIC** (Free Prior Informed Consent) [in Nepali language-स्वतन्त्र पूर्व सुसूचित सहमति] from affected communities while implementing any projects in forest areas.

*Buffer Zone Management Regulation, 1996 and Buffer Zone Management Guidelines, 1999:* These outline procedures for managing buffer zones including the formation of user groups, user committees, buffer zone management committee, disbursement of revenue, and settlement of

compensation. Buffer zones have been developed in order to focus on the special needs of local communities that are likely affected by conservation measures. The main responsible body for overall conservation and development in the buffer zone include user group, user committees, and buffer zone management committee and council. According to the guideline, the buffer zone must allocate 30% in conservation, 30% in community development, 20% in Income generation and skill development, 10% in awareness and 10% in administration works of the annual amount shared by the park for buffer zone development.

*Wildlife Damage Relief Guideline, 2009*: This is prepared to provide relief of human and livestock casualty, crop, house and shed damage to the victims due to the wildlife. Providing relief procedures are mentioned in this guideline. In definition, a victim is eligible to get relief from the damage caused by an Elephant, Rhinoceros, Tiger, Snow Leopard, Leopard, Arna and Bear. However, there is confusion about Wild Boar, Python and Crocodile as they are also mentioned in preamble. There is also provision of Relief Distribution Recommendation Committee in each district.

*Review Guidelines for EIA and IEE of Forestry Sector (2002) and IEE Manual for Forestry Sector (2005)*: The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) prepared and used Review Guidelines for IEE and EIA of Forestry Sector, 2002 and IEE Manual for Forestry Sector, 2005. They provide procedures to prepare quality EA (includes physical, chemical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects) reports, by identifying and predicting impacts and evaluating their significance, preparing practical environmental management plan, and process for conducting environmental monitoring and auditing as an integral part of EIA. These instruments have made a solid foundation to ensure environmental and social safeguards in forests and forest-related development programs and projects.

*Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP) 2015*: Government of Nepal has promulgated *Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (LARRP)* for infrastructure project development in 2015. The policy has prescribed the following key provisions for project affected IPs and vulnerable groups:

- (i) In cases where people from the opportunity-deprived groups like Dalit, Indigenous, Janajatis, and single women get affected by any infrastructure development project, additional inclusive programs should be formulated to uplift their socio-economic status (Section 7.2.7);
- (ii) Requires livelihood restoration plan to retain the living standard of the seriously affected people and families belonging to poor, Dalit, Janajati, or marginalized indigenous groups, single woman, differently abled, and senior citizens will be given additional assistances according to the provisions incorporated in resettlement plan (Section 8.2.7b);
- (iii) Employment opportunity to the seriously project affected households and Vulnerable groups (Dalit, Janajati or marginalized Indigenous, single women, helpless, disabled, senior citizen etc.) based on their skills and capabilities (Section 8.2.9d);
- (iv) Requires easy, simple, and transparent consultations with project affected peoples with duly considering the presence of people from sensitive groups like poor,

landless, senior citizens, women, children, indigenous, differently abled, and people with no legal rights of the lands in which they live (Section 8.3.2)

*Climate Change Policy (2010)*: The main goal of this policy is to reduce adverse impact of climate change, develop adaptation and mitigation mechanisms and reduce carbon greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Objectives of the policy are implementation of climate change adaptation programs and mitigation measures for adverse impacts and enhancement measures for beneficial impacts and promotion of renewable and alternative energy and green technology. It also advocates for strengthening capacity of local people for climate change adaptation to promote livelihoods of vulnerable people by maximizing opportunities from international climate change related conventions.

*National Adaptation Program of Action, 2010*: The National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) has been instrumental in mainstreaming climate change in development planning. Nepal has prepared the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) which was endorsed by the government in September 2010. The NAPA has developed a framework for adaptation program and has identified key adaptation needs, existing adaptation practices and options for developed projects. It has the following nine priorities:

- (a) Promoting community-based adaptation through integrated management of agriculture, water, forest, and biodiversity;
- (b) Building and enhancing adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities through improved systems and access to service for agricultural development;
- (c) Community-based disaster management for facilitating climate adaptation;
- (d) GLOF monitoring and disaster risk reduction;
- (e) Forest and ecosystem management for supporting climate led adaptation innovations;
- (f) Adapting to climate change in public health;
- (g) Ecosystem management for climate adaptation;
- (h) Empowering vulnerable communities through sustainable management of water resources and clean energy supply; and
- (i) Promoting climate-smart urban settlements.

These constitutional, legal and policy provisions and guidelines are supplemented with the provisions under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention (169), 1989 in 2007 since Nepal is a signatory to these international legal instruments. The ILO Convention no. 169 of 1989 is the most comprehensive legally binding treaty on the rights of indigenous peoples. The convention includes provisions on cultural integrity, land and resource rights and non-discrimination, and instructs states to consult indigenous peoples in all decisions affecting them. Articles 1-4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) ensures the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues while implementing any development activities in the traditional territory of the indigenous people.

## 2.2 WWF Safeguard Policy Requirement

The proposed project is a Category "B" as per **WWF Policy on Environment and Social Risk Management** given that it is essentially a conservation initiative, expected to generate significant positive and durable social, economic and environmental benefits. Any adverse environmental and social impacts due to project are minor and site specific and can be mitigated.

The project triggered the following safeguards policies as per the WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) and need to fulfill following requirements:

The **WWF Policy on Natural Habitat** is triggered as the proposed project directly targets protecting and restoring species and their habitats; strengthening local communities' ability to conserve the natural resources they depend on.

The proposed project is unlikely to cause displacement of people however, the project does intend to carry out activities that may include implementation of integrated grazing management which might restrict open grazing. The **WWF Policy on Involuntary Resettlement** does not apply in situations where restrictions to access of resources are taking place under community-based projects such as community based NRM models however it is reasonable to assume that some decisions taken to restrict access to natural resources could be initiated by the Government, and will not fall solely within the authority of the local communities such as no grazing zone. Thus, this policy will be triggered and a Process Framework (PF) is prepared as part of project preparation.

The **WWF Policy on Indigenous People** will be triggered as the proposed project activities will involve Indigenous Peoples as the main inhabitants living around of the PAs and in the Buffer Zone and Corridors in TAL. An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) will be required to clarify the principles, procedures and organizational arrangements to be applied to indigenous peoples (IP) for the proposed project. Similarly, a process of consultation and obtaining FPIC is required to all project-affected communities, with the distinction that indigenous peoples enjoy a higher standard of protection based on their vulnerability and place-based culture.

The proposed project activities are not expected to trigger the **WWF Policy on Pest Management**, as any agricultural extension activities targeting settlements in the proposed area will not include promoting the use of pesticides.

### **3. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

#### **3.1 Definition of Indigenous Peoples**

Government of Nepal (GoN) has recognized fifty-nine indigenous communities (Annex 1 provides the details of these communities) under the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN) Act-2002. The Act defined the Indigenous Peoples (*Adibasi Janajati*) as groups of peoples possessing characteristics like distinct collective identity; own language, religion, traditions, and culture; own traditional and relatively egalitarian social structure (as contrasted with the more rigid and hierarchical caste system); traditional homeland and geographical area, and a written and/or oral history that traces their line of descent back to the occupants of territories before they were integrated into Nepalese society within the current frontiers.

While there is no single globally-recognized definition of indigenous peoples, WWF adopts the statement of coverage contained in International Labor Organization Convention 169 (ILO), which includes both indigenous and tribal peoples. Characteristics of indigenous and tribal peoples include social, cultural and economic ways of life different from other segments of the national population, traditional forms of social organization, political institutions, customs and laws and long-term historical continuity of residence in a certain area. In some regions, the term indigenous also refers to residence prior to conquest or colonization by others. WWF also, in accordance with ILO 169, recognizes self-identification as indigenous or tribal as a key criterion in identifying indigenous peoples.

#### **3.2 An Overview of Indigenous Peoples in the Project Area**

The proposed project areas are culturally and ethnically diverse and rich in cultural heritage. Indigenous Peoples groups (Tharus, Danuwar, Majhi, Bote, Darai, Kumal and Raji) have been living in the proposed project area for generations, and their cultural and traditional values associated with natural resources and forests contribute to the conservation and protection of the forests and biodiversity of the areas. Numerous other ethnic communities also live in the area, which continues to draw migrants from the Mid Hills and Himalaya regions. Keeping in mind the GoN list of recognized IPs (Annex 1), the proposed project area is currently inhabited by the following groups of indigenous people:

- Hill origin groups like Magar, Gurung, Tamang, Raute, Newar, who migrated to and settled in the area, particularly after 1950 as result of eradication of malaria and government sponsored resettlement schemes.
- Groups of peoples who have been living in the project areas for centuries. These include the Tharus, Danuwar, Majhi, Bote, Darai, Kumal and Raji.

The Sonahas, Khonahas and Ranas (Tharus) are the groups who are not recognized as IPs by Government of Nepal but will be included as IPs while considering the WWF definition of IPs because these people possess distinct collective identity; own language, religion, traditions, and culture. Their ways of social and cultural life are different from other segments of the national population. Besides they also claim (self-identification) themselves as indigenous peoples of the area-- a key criterion in identifying indigenous peoples as per ILO 169 definition.

The total population of IPs in the six districts (Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Dang and Surkhet) where the proposed NP buffer zones and corridors for project intervention are located is 1,208,878 as of 2011 census of government of Nepal. Tharus are numerically dominant in all districts except Surkhet with significantly higher proportion in the Kailali, Dang and Bardiya districts. The main source of income and means of livelihoods for IPs in the project area remains subsistence agriculture, animal husbandry, daily wage labor and remittance. Livelihoods and forests are inextricably linked for IPs. Forests are used for timber, subsistence livelihoods like gathering fuel wood, fodder and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Peoples are heavily depending on forests particularly for cooking energy. According to CBS (2011) 82% of households in the four districts (Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya and Kailali) where the proposed NP buffer zones and corridors for project intervention are mainly located used firewood for their daily cooking and heating purposes.

The proposed project area falls under administrative jurisdiction of different municipalities and rural municipalities of Banke, Bardiya, Dang, Surkhet, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts (Table 1). The national census of 2011 enumerated 198,238 households having total population of 1,017,140 with 486,477 and 530,618 males and females in the proposed project area (municipalities and rural municipalities) (Table 1). However, the project will not cover all the households that belong to the project area considering their administrative jurisdiction of different municipalities and rural municipalities.

The project target areas for Component 3 intervention include Banke National Park & Buffer Zone, Bardia National Park & Buffer Zone, Kamdi Corridor and Karnali Corridor (i.e. 2 PA BZs and 2 corridors) while the intervention at Brahmadev is only for participatory planning purposes in Component 2. The specific intervention sites under Component 3 – villages and forest areas – within these target areas will be determined during implementation. Specific project sites would be selected on biodiversity values, prevalence of threats like HWC, and potential for demonstrating positive engagement in SFM and biodiversity conservation that benefits IPs and other vulnerable communities.

**Table 1 Population Distribution of the Proposed Project Area (CBS, 2011)**

Project Site	Municipalities/Rural Municipalities	Total HHs	Total population	Total Male	Total Female
<b>Kamdi corridor, Banke</b>	Kohalpur Municipality	15,483	70,647	34,112	36,535
	Narainpur Rural Municipality	5,908	34,942	17,978	16,964
	Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality	10,742	59,946	28,617	31,329
	Duduwa Rural Municipality	6,590	37,460	19,277	18,183
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>38,723</b>	<b>202,995</b>	<b>99,984</b>	<b>103,011</b>
<b>Buffer Zone, Banke National Park</b>	Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality (Banke)*	10,742	59,946	28,617	31,329
	Baijnath Rural Municipality ( Banke)	11,066	54,418	25,372	29,046
	Kohalpur Municipality (Banke)*	15,483	70,647	34,112	36,535
	Bansgadhi Municipality (Bardia)	11,210	55,875	26,302	29,573
	Kalimati Rural Municipality ( Saylan)	4,343	23,005	11,300	11,705
	Babai Rural Municipality (Dang)	5,945	27,469	12,529	14,940
	Dangi Shran Rural Municipality (Dang)	4,730	24,245	10,879	13,366
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>63,519</b>	<b>315,605</b>	<b>149,111</b>	<b>166,494</b>
<b>Buffer Zone, Bardia NP</b>	Geruwa Rural Municipality	6,135	34,871	16,434	18,437
	Thakurbaba Municipality	8,652	44,361	20,764	23,552
	Bansgadhi Municipality*	11,210	55,875	26,302	29,573
	Barbaridiya Municipality	13,268	68,012	32,673	35,339

	Bheriganga Municipality (Surkhet)	8,825	41,407	19,145	22,262
	Barahtal Rural Municipality (Surkhet)	5,448	26,802	12,986	13,816
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>53,538</b>	<b>271,328</b>	<b>128,304</b>	<b>142,979</b>
<b>Karnali Corridor</b>	Lamki Chuha Municipality (Kailali)	14,757	75,425	35,408	40,017
	Tikapur Municipality ( Kailali)	15,356	76,084	36,245	39,839
	Janaki Rural Municipality (Kailali)	9,051	48,540	22,956	25,584
	Rajapur Municipality ( Bardiya)	10,916	59,553	28,921	30,632
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>50,080</b>	<b>259,602</b>	<b>123,530</b>	<b>136,072</b>
<b>Bramhadev Corridor</b>	Bhimdatta Municipality ( Kanchnpur)	20,684	104,599	51,087	53,512
	Bedkot Municipality (Kanchanpur)	9,219	49,479	23,492	25,987
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>29,903</b>	<b>154,078</b>	<b>74,579</b>	<b>79,499</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>198,328</b>	<b>1,017,140</b>	<b>486,477</b>	<b>530,618</b>

\*Repeated figures are not included in the grand total

### 3.3 Brief Description of IPs in the proposed Corridors and NP Buffer Zones

#### *Brahmadev Corridor*

The Bramhadev Corridor connects Shuklaphanta National Park with Doon Forest in India, which borders the eastern bank of Mahakali River. It is situated in Bhimdatta and Bedkot Municipalities of Kanchanpur District. The corridor spreads from the Terai to the Siwaliks region. The total area of the corridor is 14,812 ha of which 138 km<sup>2</sup> is forest corridor and 10 km<sup>2</sup> impact zone. The corridor has several religious places including Baijnath Dham, Siddhanath Temple, Bishnudham and Bishnu Mandir

According to the profile of Brahmadev Corridor (ILM4 TAL Prodoc, 2018), the impact area has 9,256 households, with a population of 48,815, of which 23,449 are male and 25,366 are female. Discussion with district level stakeholders and indigenous peoples residing in and around the corridor (July- August 2018) estimated that the indigenous peoples comprise nearly half of the total population of the areas. Among them the Ranas and Daguras (Choudhari Tharus) are in majority and other small groups include Magar, Raji, Gurung and 3 households of Rautes are also reported. The Rautes are currently settled in the forest area of Baijnath CF located in Ward No 9 of Bhimdatta Municipality. About 500 families of freed Kamaya (Tharu) have been resettled in two camps in Bedkot area. Subsistence agriculture, livestock husbandry and collection of forest products are main sources of income for the majority of IP households. A total of 4,603 households are managing 23 community forests with 2,884 ha of forest within the corridor. People collect timber, poles, fuel wood, grass, thatch, edible fruits, medicinal plants and canes from the forest. It was estimated during the consultation meetings that about 150- 200 households belonging mainly to Dalits and indigenous groups are solely dependent on corridor forests for their livelihoods.

#### *Karnali Corridor*

The Karnali river corridor connects Siwaliks (Churia) region with India's Katarniaghat Wildlife sanctuary. Karnali corridor covers a total of 227 km<sup>2</sup> of Lamkichuha Municipality, Janaki Rural Municipality and Tikapur Municipality of Kailali District, and Rajapur Municipality of Bardia Distict, of which 149 km<sup>2</sup> is forest corridor and 78 km<sup>2</sup> is impact zone. Elephant, Rhino and Tiger use this corridor frequently. In addition, Gangetic dolphin and Gharial are found in the Karnali River. Forest covers around 60 percent of the corridor; however adjacent cultivated land and

settlements present challenges to maintain the corridor. The corridor is bottlenecked in several areas and needs restoration through plantation.

The corridor is inhabited by mixed communities. The Tharus, Magars and Majhis are the dominant IP groups residing in Karnali corridor. The other small indigenous groups inhabiting in the corridor area include Sonaha, Raji and Kumal. These indigenous groups are in majority among the residents who have been inhabiting in and around the corridor. Around 500 families of squatters and freed Kamaya have been camped in Balchour area of the corridor. Consultation with local CFUG members and Indigenous Peoples estimated that 200-300 family residing in the corridor area areas are primarily dependent on corridor forest resources for their livelihood.

There are 34 community forest user groups with 12,127 households that are managing 1,420.97 ha forest in the corridor. These forest user groups have 316 members in the committee out of which 149 are female (Profile of Karnali corridor (ILM4 TAL Prodoc, 2018). Subsistence agriculture, livestock and fishing are major occupations of these households. However, along the highway and main roads, they are involved in other businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and so on. Households depend on the forest mainly for fuel wood and fodder. They also collect NTFPs including Broom Grass (household purpose), *Bambusa vulgaris* (household purpose), *Terminalia bellerica* (medicinal plant), *Zizyphus mauritiana* (fruit), *Terminalia chebula* (medicinal plant), and *Piper longum* (medicinal herb).

### ***Buffer Zone of Bardia National Park (BNP)***

According to the latest Management Plan of BNP (2016-2020), the total area of the buffer zone (BZ) consists of 507 square kilometers (sq.km.). In addition to Bardia district, the buffer zone is extended to Banke and Surkhet districts. The BZ includes not all but 110 Wards of 20 Village Development Committees (VDCs) with the population of 1, 14,201 and 17,146 households. Now the 20 VDCs have been merged into 4 municipalities and 2 rural municipalities (Table 4) as a result of restructuring of state after Nepal's transition into federal governance.

The Tharus, Magars, Tamangs are the dominant ethnic groups residing in buffer zones of Bardia National Park (BNP). Tharu peoples cover 60% of the population and are the largest indigenous groups in the Park Buffer Zones followed by Magar, Gurung, Tamang and so on. The other small indigenous groups inhabiting in the BZ include Sonaha, Raji, Kumal, Majhi, Darai and Bote. More than 50 percent buffer zone families, particularly belonging to indigenous groups and Dalits are below poverty line and have limited employment opportunities due to low literacy rate (BNP Management (2016-2020), 2016). FGDs with local people indicate that they are mostly dependent on subsistence farming such as rice, maize, barley and vegetables and also collect forest products for their consumption and livelihood support. Only 40 % of the area in the buffer zone is covered by forest which is managed under community forest, religious forest, private forest, etc. The municipalities located in the west of Geruwa River do not have sufficient forest resources and hence are permitted to use drift woods. But, the buffer zone in the eastern and northern sector of the park is rich in natural resources. Shivpur and some parts of Neulapur VDCs which are connected with the park boundaries have no forest and hence are totally dependent on park resources. Revenue shared by park and support from conservation organizations form the basis for conservation and development activities in the buffer zone



A total of 262 user groups (68 women groups, 68 male groups and 126 mixed groups) and 19 user committees are formed in the BZ. The institutional set up is arranged with the purpose of sharing park revenue for community development, conservation activities, and income generation and awareness activities. In Chhinchu UG of Bardia NP, 7 BZ CFUGs allow rotational grazing in the BZ community forest.

### ***Buffer Zone of Banke National Park (BaNP)***

Established in 12th July 2010, Banke National Park (BaNP) extends over 550 km<sup>2</sup> in Banke district and its buffer zone, 343 km<sup>2</sup>, encompasses parts of Banke, Dang and Salyan districts. It is connected with Bardia National Park (BNP) towards the west which further links with Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in India via through national and community forests of Khata corridor. Similarly, it also adjoins with Kamdi corridor, through national and community forests, and connects Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) of India. The BaNP and its BZ includes 2 municipalities and five rural municipalities of Banke, Dang and Salyan districts (Table 4).

The BZ of the Park includes parts of Kohalpur municipality and two rural municipalities of Banke district. Similarly, the northern part of BZ occupies parts of two rural municipalities of Dang and one rural municipality of Salyan districts. The buffer zone of Banke National Park (BaNP) is inhabited by numbers of IP groups. Among them Tharus, Magars, Gurungs, Majhi and Kumal, are indigenous peoples recognized by the Government of Nepal. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the major occupations and the indigenous people's agricultural cropping practices are dominated by rice, wheat, maize and seasonal vegetables. Domestic animals commonly include cows, buffalo, poultry, pigs and goats. The indigenous and non-indigenous villagers living near the buffer zone are dependent on community forests for firewood, fodder and other non-timber forest products.

A total of 71 BZ User Groups comprising 2,543 user households, 9 BZ User Committees and 1 BZMC have been formed according to the Buffer Zone Management Regulations 1996 and Buffer Zone Management Guideline 1999. BZ comprises forest, agriculture land, settlement, village open spaces and any other land use.

### ***Kamdi Corridor***

Kamdi corridor links Banke NP of Nepal and Shohelwa Wildlife Sanctuary of India. It covers 450 km<sup>2</sup> of Kohalpur Municipality, and Rapti Sonari, Duduwa and Narainpur Rural Municipalities in Banke District. The forest in Kamdi has been identified as potential biological corridor joining Banke National Park and Chure forests in Nepal and Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary in India. The Kamdi corridor suffers from several threats such as unsustainable harvest of forest, encroachment and overgrazing and wildlife crime.

The corridor has 19,730 households with 101,399 people. Of these, 51,437 are female and 49,962 are male (Profile of Kamdi Corridor (ILM4 TAL Prodoc, 2018), Tharu is the dominant ethnic groups followed by Khonaha and Kumals who are inhabiting in the corridor at the southern part of the highway, while close to the highway, hill Indigenous groups like Magar, Gurung, Tamang are inhabiting the area mostly. The Khonaha and Kumals used to derive their livelihoods from the riverscape in and around the Banke National Park but have been restricted to access fishing and other river-based resources after declaration of NP. These peoples along with other groups practice

subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry. Some are also engaged in agriculture wage labour to complement their livelihood. Households keep livestock including cattle, buffaloes, goats; and fish farming is also a popular income source. A total of 76 CFUGs with 10,775 households are managing 9,741.77 ha of Community Forests. Out of 76 CFUGs, 11 have imposed ban open grazing and 50 CFUGs allow rotational grazing.

In summary, different groups of indigenous peoples having different socioeconomic status inhabit in the proposed BZs and corridors and do not all come under a single socio-economic level or category. The lands owned or occupied by indigenous peoples in the project areas are either registered or recognized under individual ownership but not considered as communal lands of ancestral/tribal value. It is expected that the project does not affect the customary livelihood system or the cultural, ceremonial or spiritual uses that define the identity of indigenous peoples.

## **4. CONSULTATION, PARTICIPATION AND DISCLOSURE**

Community consultation has been an integral part of these assessments as well as the proposed project design and will be carried out as a continuous process through the project cycle. Community and stakeholder consultations during the design and project planning stages provide the medium for sharing information about the project objectives and scope, alternative design options, and stakeholder perceptions regarding proposed project. Ensuring an open and transparent information exchange about the project at this stage, lays a good foundation for an inclusive and participatory implementation process.

### **4.1 Consultation during Project Preparation**

The project preparation team members conducted two rounds of consultation with stakeholders including Indigenous People. The first Round of consultation was done during 4-12 April 2018 covering the TAL area from Parsa National Park in the east to Shuklaphanta National Park in the West in three clusters (Parsa-Chitwan, Banke-Bardia, and Kailali-Kanchanpur). The main objective of the consultation was to introduce the project, introduce the PPG process and timing, and focus on issues of local relevance such as Infrastructure development plans, Government restructuring implications, human wildlife conflict issues, poaching / IWT, trans boundary issues, and opportunities for the project development. During this round of consultation District Forest Officers, National Park officials, and representatives of Rural/municipalities, Community forest coordination committee, community forest user groups, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), the Federation of community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), NGOs, Agriculture office, Livestock office, Road division, Women Group, Dalit group, State government, Private sector (Nepal Forest Products Entrepreneur Association, NTFP entrepreneurs), local people, Chamber of commerce were consulted. Consultations were done through focus group discussions, individual interviews, service user group meetings and public meetings. A total of 84 participants had participated in the consultations, out of which 44.0% participants were Indigenous Peoples.

The project preparation team conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> round consultations in the Banke- Bardia complex between 28-31 July 2018 in a parallel way by mobilizing two groups. The main purpose of this stakeholder consultation was to i) collect information for specific project activities, ii) identify locations for project interventions, iii) collect baseline data for results framework indicators, and iv) crosscheck and validate the data acquired from the GIS. The consultations were done by two teams of experts; one focused on the Bardia National Park and Buffer Zone and Karnali Corridor and the other in Banke National Park and Buffer Zone and Kamdi Corridor. Consultations were conducted with officials of Banke National Park, Chairperson of Buffer Zone Management Committees, Mahadevpuri Forest Coordination Committee, Harre community in Chinchu, Grabar Valley home stay management committee, CFUGs of Kamdi Corridor, representative of private forest association in Banke National Park complex and with the community forest user groups in Lamkichuwa, Tikapur and Geruwa Patabhar in Bardia complex.

Altogether 111 people comprising of 80.2% male and 19.8% female participants were consulted in second round using Focus Group Discussions, individual interviews, service user group meetings and public meetings. More than one fourth of participants were from Indigenous peoples.

## 4.2 Consultations during the Preparation of IPPF/PF

The IPs and local communities and other local stakeholders including representatives of CFUGs, BZCFUGs, BZ councils, general users, officials of National Parks and district forest offices at the different locations of project area were consulted while preparing this IPPF and process framework. The objectives of consultations were mainly to:

- inform affected indigenous communities about project objectives and activities;
- discuss and assess possible adverse impacts and collect their views to avoid or mitigate them;
- discuss and assess potential project benefits and how these can be enhanced; and
- develop a strategy for Indigenous People's participation during project design and implementation and to ascertain communities' broad support for the project.

Prior to the consultation field visit, meetings with PPC members including PPC chair, representatives from Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), DoF, DNPWC and representatives from WWF were organized to discuss the project and its possible social issues including likely impacts on IPs and local communities. The draft field visit plan was shared with PPC members and finalized considering their inputs and suggestions. The field visit for consultation was carried out from 26 July to 2 August 2018. The consultations covered IPs and CFUGs/CFUCs of Bramhadev Corridor, Bardia National Park and Buffer Zone and Arnali Corridor, Banke National Park and Buffer Zone and Kamdi Corridor. Consultations were also conducted with officials of Banke and Bardiya National Parks, Chairperson of Buffer Zone Management Committees and Grabar Valley homestay management committee. Table 2 gives the summary of the stakeholders/community consultations held. The detail list of the participants with photographs is attached in Annex 4.

**Table 2 Details of Community and Stakeholder Consultations Held in Project Areas**

Location	Date	Gender of the Participants		Caste/ethnicity of the Participants			Total
		Male	Female	Dalit	IPs	BC & others	
1.DFO, Kanchanpur ( Bramadev Corridor)	27/7/2018	6	3	-	1	8	9
2.NEFIN, District Coordination Council, Kanchnpur	27/7/2018	3	4	-	7	-	7
3.Office of Amber CFUG, Bedkot, Kanchanpur	27/7/2018	8	2	1	1	8	10
4.FECOFUN Office, Dhangadhi, Kailali	28/7/2018	8	1	-	3	6	9
5.Forest Sector Office, Balchowk, Kailali	28/7/2018	20	6	5	7	14	26
6.Lamki Chuha VDC, Kailali ( Karnali Corridor)	29/7/2018	14	6	4	6	10	20
7.Tikapur, Kailali ( Karnali Corridor)	29/7/2018	14	3	2	3	12	17
8.Geruwa Patabhar, Bardiya ( Bradia NP)	30/7/2018	10	2	-	10	2	12
9.Office of Bardiya NP	30/7/2018	2	-	-	-	2	2
10. Homestay, Graver Valley, Banke	31/7/2018	2	6	-	6	2	8
11. Office of Chinchu UC, BZ of Bardia NP	31/7/2018	-	3	-	1	2	3
12. Office of Banke National Park	1/8/2018	-	2	-	1	1	2
13. Office of Banke NP, Western Sector	1/8/2018	6	1	1	3	3	7
14. Duduwa-5,( IPs of Kamdi Corridors)	2/8/2018	6	-	-	6	-	6
15. Office of CFCC, Kamdi, Banke	2/8/2018	3	-	1	2	-	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>102</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>141</b>

Source: Field Study, July-August 2018

The IPs and local communities were prior informed about the consultation meeting, venue and the agendas through district forest offices and Park offices. All consultations meetings were accessible to all stakeholders and were in an informal setting. All stakeholders were encouraged to speak and provide feedback about the proposed project activities. The consultation meeting started with the consent of the participants present. At the beginning of each meeting, overall objectives and expectations from the meeting were shared and participants introduced themselves. After the introduction session, brief information about the key objectives, scope of the project, its benefit and possible impacts was shared with the participants. The meetings with IPs and local communities in the project areas were conducted in simple Nepali language sometimes translated into local language with the help of some of the participants who are proficient in Nepali and local language. Consultations were mainly focused on identifying likely adverse impacts of the project and options to avoid or mitigate them and to assess potential project benefits and how these can be enhanced in favor of indigenous peoples. The consultations also sought feedback from especially the indigenous people on their participation in monitoring and evaluation during project execution. All participants, both male and female, were encouraged express their views concerns and suggestion regarding the proposed project. All the concerns, comments and feedback provided by the participants of each consultation meetings have been noted and reflected in this document as far as practicable.

Overall the IP communities and CF and BZCF users were supportive of project, however, they expressed some concerns regarding the activities of the project. These are as follows:

1. There are various customary practices of Tharu communities and other forest-dependent IPs related to the collection of forest products for cultural as well as religious practices. They are less recognized in the formal management plans of all types of forest regimes. These should be protected and promoted as customary rights during the implementation of the project.
2. The CFUG members of all types of forest warned that there must not be any restriction of tenure and use rights of CF members, IPs and forest-dependent communities while designating 'protected area', establishing biological/wildlife corridor and developing or revising forest management plans.
3. The participants in all project sites showed serious concerns on potential risk of forced eviction, involuntary relocation and resettlement of encroachers, squatters and settlements along the biological/wildlife corridors while controlling encroachment, law enforcement and responding to HWC.
4. Project activities like control of encroachment and open grazing will have negative impacts on livelihoods and incomes of forest-dependent communities, nearby households and IPs due to decrease in agricultural land and livestock grazing. The project needs to be designed to adequately address these impacts.
5. The participants strongly discussed their concerns that the customary practices in forests (livestock rearing, recreation, and culture) by IPs might be prevented or considered encroachment, if the forest areas they have been utilizing for many generations are designated as 'protected area' without their prior consent and alternative arrangements.
6. Legal rights of CFUGs over forest resources must not be curtailed but improved and respected during design, implementation and monitoring of the project activities

7. Damage to human lives, crops and animals by wildlife are rampant in the proposed project area and such incidences will increase during project period. The participants demanded for alternative income generating activities, livestock shed improvement and community-based insurance scheme for livestock and crops.
8. Participants expressed that appropriate safeguards measures to reduce HWC are required. Some of the measures they suggested were-- installation of warnings, physical barriers around villages, and compensation mechanisms. The already existing compensation mechanism is very complex and needs revision to simplify and make it practicable.

### **4.3 Consultations during Project Execution**

A range of consultative methods will be adopted to carry out consultation including, but not limited to: focus group discussions (FGDs), public meetings, community discussions, and in-depth and key informant interviews; in addition to the censuses and socioeconomic surveys.

The key stakeholders to be consulted during screening, impact assessment; design and implementation of IPP, LRP and Process Framework (PF) include:

- All affected persons belonging to IP groups and other local communities;
- Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) of affected IP groups
- District, municipality and ward level coordination council of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
- Project beneficiaries
  - Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs)
  - Collaborative Forest User Groups (CoFMGs)
  - Buffer Zone-Community Forest User Committee (BZ-CFUC)
  - Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
  - Officials of National Parks and Forest Offices
- Local government (municipalities) and representatives of relevant government line agency
- Representative of local NGOs and community-based organizations working on natural conservation issues in the project areas

During project execution, Project affected persons and other relevant stakeholders will be informed and consulted once sites are identified, its impact, their entitlements and options, and allowed to participate actively in the development of the subproject.

In addition, views of Project affected persons, particularly of affected IPs and other local vulnerable communities are taken into account and considered in the project implementation. The Executing Agency with support of project team will ensure that affected persons consulted are informed about the outcome of the decision-making process and will confirm how their views were incorporated.

To ensure meaningful consultation and participation with IPs, during project execution there will be (i) appropriate mechanisms and structures utilized; and (ii) specific activities that will enable IPs to engage in project activities conducted. IP consultation across project stages will be documented. The views of Indigenous People are to be considered during execution of project

activities, while respecting their current practices, beliefs and cultural preferences. The outcome of the consultations will be documented into the periodical reports and included in project's trimester progress reports.

#### 4.4 Information Disclosure and Dissemination

The final IPPF and PF and site specific IPPs will be disclosed on the website of the executing and implementing agencies and the website of WWF and made available to affected IPs and other communities; information dissemination and consultation will continue throughout project execution. Summaries of IPPs and mitigation measures proposed in IPPs will be translated into the Nepali language and paper copies will be made available to the affected persons in office of National Parks, forest offices, offices of BZUCs, and IPOs. As per Clauses 3, 7 and 8 of Right to Information Act, 2064 (2007), copies of these documents will be provided to any requester, who pay the cost of the photocopy.

The information disseminated to affected persons will include guiding policies of the IPPF and PF and key features of the site specific IPPs and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRP) for access restricted and livelihood affected persons. Basic information such as sub-project location, impact estimates, and mitigation measures proposed, and implementation schedule will be disseminated to affected persons. This will enable affected IPs and other stakeholders to provide inputs on design and implementation modality of the project. A summary of consultation and disclosure activities to be followed for each sub-project and details and responsibility for consultation and disclosure activities are given in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 Consultation and Disclosure Roles and Responsibilities during Project Implementation**

Project Phase	Activities	Details	Responsible Agency
Project Initiation	Sub-project specific Information dissemination; Screening and social assessment and disclosure of project affected IPs and other local communities	Public notice issued in public places	MOFE
IPP and LRP preparation	Consultations with IPs and other stakeholders	Further consultations with affected IPs and other stakeholders. Summary of IPP and LRP made available to all affected IPs, local peoples and stakeholders.	MOFE
	Disclosure of draft IPP and LRP	IPP and LRP disclosed to all APs in local language	MOFE
	Finalization of IPP and LRP incorporating the feedback provided by	Review and approval of IPP and LRP by executing agency.	MOFE/WWF GEF Agency

	affected IPs and other stakeholders	Review and approval of IPP by WWF. Web disclosure of the IPP	
IPP and LRP implementation	Consultation with IPs and stakeholders during IPP implementation	Consultation with IPs and stakeholders and agreeing on IPP and LRP Implementation modality	MOFE

#### 4.5 Strategy for Indigenous People's Participation

Consultations and information disclosure are an integral part of IPP preparation in order to ensure that the priorities, preferences, and needs of the indigenous groups are taken into consideration adequately. With that objective in view, a strategy for consultation with indigenous communities has been proposed so that consultations are conducted in a participatory manner.

The affected IPs will be actively engaged in all stages of the project cycle, including project preparation, and feedback of consultations with the IPs will be reflected in the project design, followed by disclosure. Their participation in project planning has informed project design and will continue to actively participate in the project execution. Once the IPP is prepared, it will be translated into Nepali and Tharu language (if possible) and made available to them before implementation.

Local CBOs/ indigenous people's organizations (IPOs) will be involved in IPP implementation and resolving all issues related to the IPP through consultation and facilitation. The implementing agency will ensure adequate flow of funds for consultation and facilitation of planned activities within IPP. Project brochure containing basic information such as sub-project location, impact estimates, and mitigation measures proposed, and implementation schedule will be prepared, translated into a language understandable to the IPs, and distributed among them.

#### 4.6 Steps to Obtain Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

In all WWF GEF funded projects, FPIC process is applied to all project-affected communities, with the distinction that indigenous peoples enjoy a higher standard of protection based on their vulnerability and place-based culture. In practice, however, the principles underlying FPIC are increasingly extended to local communities and project affected communities, as well. Thus, FPIC is integral to the execution of the proposed project, as the project areas includes diverse indigenous stakeholder communities. The FPIC process is a mutually accepted process between project proponent and affected communities to carry out good faith negotiations on conditions/considerations based on which consent to the project is obtained. The FPIC process is ideally designed in consultation with affected IP Communities and their representative organizations. The principle of FPIC refers to the right of indigenous peoples to give or withhold their consent for any action that would affect their lands, territories or rights, as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). While FPIC is the right of indigenous peoples alone under international law, the principles underlying it are generally considered to be a good guideline for engaging any community or group of local stakeholders.



FPIC is not simply a decision-making process or a veto mechanism for the community, but a tool to ensure that outside people and organizations engage indigenous communities in a culturally appropriate way, so that their development priorities, needs and desires can be met. A true FPIC process includes not only consultation but also the space for a community to give or withhold their consent to a project. The project interventions and activities affecting the indigenous peoples, whether adversely or positively, therefore, need to follow a process of free, prior, and informed consent, with the affected indigenous peoples in order to fully identify their views and to obtain their broad community support to the project; and development of project-specific measures to avoid adverse impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits. The steps to be followed for FPIC with the affected Indigenous Peoples in order to obtain their broad community support comprise the following:

1. Identify communities, sub-groups within communities, and other stakeholders with potential interests in the land or other natural resources that are proposed to be developed, appropriated, utilized, or impacted by the proposed project activity;
2. Identify any rights or claims of these communities to land or resources (e.g., water rights, water access points, or rights to hunt or extract forest products) that overlap or are adjacent to the site(s) or area(s) of the proposed project activity;
3. Identify whether the proposed project activity may diminish the rights, claims, or interests identified in Step 2 above;
4. Provide the details of proposed project activities to be implemented along with their likely impacts on IPs either positively or negatively, as well as the corresponding proposed mitigation measures in a language or means of communication understandable by the affected indigenous peoples;
5. All project information provided to indigenous peoples should be in a form appropriate to local needs. Local languages should usually be used and efforts should be made to include all community members, including women and members of different generations and social groups (e.g. clans and socioeconomic background);
6. If the indigenous communities are organized in community associations or umbrella organizations, these should usually be consulted. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) is an umbrella organization of IPs in Nepal. Thus, involve NEFIN District Coordination Council, NEFIN Municipality Level Coordination Council, NEFIN Rural Municipality Level Coordination Council and NEFIN Ward Level Coordination Council where appropriate. Indigenous Peoples' representative bodies and organizations (e.g., Indigenous people's organization (IPO), councils of elders or village councils, or chieftains-- *Badghar Bhalmansa* in case of Tharus) and, where appropriate, other community members;
7. Provide sufficient time for Indigenous' decision-making processes (it means allocate sufficient time for internal decision-making processes to reach conclusions that are considered legitimate by the majority of the concerned participants)
8. Agree on the signatory parties and/or customary binding practice that will be used to close the agreement, indicating the chosen representatives, their role in the community, how they were chosen, their responsibility and role as representatives;
9. Reach consent, document indigenous peoples' needs that are to be included into the project, and agree on a feedback and a project grievance redress mechanism (see Chapter 5). Agreements reached must be mutual and recognized by all parties, taking into consideration customary modes of decision-making and consensus-seeking. These

- may include votes, a show of hands, the signing of a document witnessed by a third party, performing a ritual ceremony that makes the agreement binding, and so forth;
10. When seeking affected indigenous communities' support to project activities, two aspects should be considered: Who and what is the "community," and how is "broad support" obtained. Communities are complex social institutions and may be made up of several fractions; it may be difficult finding persons who are seen as representatives of the community. Interest in the project may vary among different groups (and individuals) in the community, and they may be affected differently. It is important to keep this in mind during the consultation process, and in some cases, it may be more appropriate to consider the needs and priorities of sub-communities rather than those of a whole village;
  11. When seeking "broad community support" for the project, it should be ensured that all relevant social groups of the community have been adequately consulted. When this is the case and the "broad" majority is overall positive about the project, it would be appropriate to conclude that broad community support has been achieved. Consensus building approaches are often the norm, but "broad community support" does not mean that everyone has to agree to a given project;
  12. When the community agrees on the project, document the agreement process and outcomes including benefits, compensation, or mitigation to the community, commensurate with the loss of use of land or resources in forms and languages accessible and made publicly available to all members of the community, providing for stakeholder review and authentication;
  13. The agreements or special design features providing the basis for broad community support should be described in the Indigenous Peoples Plan; any disagreements should also be documented; and
  14. Agree on jointly defined modes of monitoring and verifying agreements as well as their related procedures: how these tasks will be carried out during project implementation, and the commission of independent periodic reviews (if considered) at intervals satisfactory to all interest groups.

In practice, FPIC is implemented through a participatory process involving all affected groups that is carried out prior to the finalization or implementation of any development plans. An FPIC process ensures that communities are not coerced or intimidated; that decisions are reached through communities' own chosen institutions or representatives; that communities' consent is sought and freely given prior to the authorization or start of any activities; that communities have full information about the scope of any proposed development and its likely impacts on their lands, livelihoods and environment; and that ultimately their choices to give or withhold consent are respected.

Community consent can be ascertained following a process of free, prior, and informed consent described above, and it will be established through good faith negotiation between the project and affected Indigenous Peoples. The project will document: (i) the mutually accepted process to carry out good faith negotiations that has been agreed by the Project and Indigenous Peoples; and (ii) the outcome of the good faith negotiations between the Project and Indigenous Peoples including all agreements reached as well as dissenting views. The 'consent' in this context refers to the collective support of affected Indigenous Peoples for the project activities that affect them, reached through a culturally appropriate process-- communicating in a culturally appropriate way (using

local languages, local facilitators) that respects and accepts cultural differences as well as uniqueness of IPs. In this sense, FPIC does not require unanimity and may be achieved even when individuals or groups within or among affected Indigenous Peoples explicitly disagree.

## 5. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

The project will form its own mechanism to hear grievances and concern raised from affected persons and project beneficiaries in addition to GRM provisions specified in land acquisition act 1977 and Forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995. The forest act and regulation have given authority to District Forest Officer (DFO) to receive feedback and grievances related to forest sector.

The objective of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) established under the project is to resolve complaints as quickly as possible and at the local level through a process of conciliation; and, if that is not possible, to provide clear and transparent procedures for appeal. A well-defined grievance redress and resolution mechanism will be established to resolve grievances and complaints in a timely and satisfactory manner.

All affected persons will be made fully aware of their rights, and the detailed grievance redress procedures will be publicized through an effective public information campaign using print and electronic media and FM radio. The implementing agency will ensure that the IP are made aware of the GRM and their entitlements, and assured that their grievances will be redressed adequately and in a timely manner. However, where IPs or the community are not literate in languages other than their own, special assistance will be sought from community leaders, CBOs, and NGOs having knowledge of their language, culture, or social norms, or having working experience among the IP community, who will help the IPs express their concerns, consult about mitigating measures, and explain to them the project and its potential impact on the IP community.

A grievance redress mechanism for the project is necessary for addressing legitimate concerns of affected individuals and groups who may consider themselves deprived of appropriate treatment under the project. Pursuant to WWF's Environment and Social SIPP, the PMU will set up and manage a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that would address project affected person's, Indigenous People's and other groups' grievances, complaints, and suggestions.

Two layers of GRM comprising of Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) formed at Project (PMU) and CFUG/BZ-CFUG level has been proposed to resolve concerns and grievances of the affected individuals, HHs and communities. The existing CFUGs and BZ-CFUGs are well recognized as inclusive organizations having long tradition of local dispute and grievance management. The project can use such "community capital" for resolving project related grievances. The project needs to provide some incentives (e.g. stationary support and provision of travel allowance if someone need to travel to forest and NP offices and project office) to mobilize the CFUGs and BZ-CFUGs for grievance resolution. The CFUG/ BZ-CFUG level GRC comprises five members committee under the CFUG/ BZ-CFUG chairperson ensuring representation of members from women and IPs for hearing the complaints of different stakeholders and for agreeable resolution. The secretary of CFUG/ BZ-CFUG will act as member secretary of the GRC. The social safeguard consultant working at project field office will provide orientation to the GRC about process and procedures of GRM. The GRC at Project/PMU level comprises Project Manager (PM), Safeguards specialist working at PMU. The Safeguards specialist will act as member secretary of the GRC.

It is proposed that the affected communities/stakeholder, individual first register their grievances with the GRC at CFUG/ BZ-CFUG. After receipt of grievance, the GRC should take up the matter during the next immediate meeting and initiate measures for redress. No grievance can be kept pending for more than a week which means the GRC at CFUG/ BZ-CFUG has to meet every week, if it receives grievances. Implementation of the redress rests with the CFUG with the support of PMU through project field office. In case the aggrieved parties are not satisfied with the proposed redress measures at CFUG/ BZ-CFUG, they may submit their grievance to GRC at PMU led by Project Coordinator. The GRC is responsible to hear, resolve and monitor the grievances. The decisions of GRC at PMU will be implemented and monitored by Project Manager through Project field office and with the support of Division Forest and Park offices, CFUG/ BZ-CFUG and other stakeholders.

In addition, the above mentioned project level GRM system, WWF's Policy on Accountability and Grievance Mechanism has established a grievance redress mechanism for all WWF GEF projects. It is designed to enable the receipt of complaints of affected women and men and public concerns regarding the environmental and social performance of the project funded by WWF. WWF has designated its Senior Director for Public Sector Support as its "Project Complaints Officer" (PCO). Any Affected Party may file a complaint. While anonymous complaints will not be considered, complainants can request confidentiality. Confidential complaints should be directed to the WWF Project Complaints Officer, Senior Director for Public Sector Support and Government Affairs in Washington, DC. Complaints may be submitted by email to [SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org](mailto:SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org) or delivered by post to Safeguards Complaints, 1250 24th Street NW, Washington, DC 20037.

The GRM established should comply with the following requirements.

- **The GRM should have multiple uptake locations and channels.** Project affected persons and groups should be able to submit complaints or suggestions in person, via mail, email, phone, or complaint boxes located in strategic locations of the designated project offices. These channels should be locally-appropriate, widely accessible and publicized in written and verbal forms on all project communication materials, and in public locations (e.g., local stores, offices of CFUG/BZ-CFUGs/CoFMGs, offices of local governments, schools etc.)
- **All grievances should be registered.** All complaints submitted to GRC at CFUG/ BZ-CFUG/ and office of project coordinator at PMU should be registered and the complaint should be assigned a unique tracking number upon its submission. Each GRC should maintain a database with full information on all submitted complaints and responses taken. This data is important to assess trends and patterns of grievances across the project regions and for monitoring & evaluation purposes.
- **Strict complaint resolution procedures should be developed and observed, and personnel should be assigned to handle the grievances.** The project team should develop clear and strict grievance redress procedures, and assign responsibilities. Dedicated staff having adequate knowledge on IP issues and social analysis capacity should be assigned in project teams to investigate complaints and take appropriate actions. Such procedures should include a requirement to register all complaints, strict allocation of responsibilities,

clear timelines for processing and handling complaints (e.g., responses to complaints must be provided within 6 working days (week) and or 10 working days for particularly complex complaints), and regular communication with affected persons and groups regarding the status of their complaints. To the extent possible, complaints should be handled at the lowest decision-making level, as close as possible to the complainant. Complaints that are beyond the Project scope should be conveyed to the complainants as well as the relevant project offices.

- **Complainants should be notified of their right to appeal the decision taken by the project team.** If complainants are not satisfied with the project's response to their grievances, they should be able to appeal the decision to the executive ministry. All appeals should be registered in the ministry and decisions should be taken within 15 days. Project affected persons and groups will also have a right to bring their grievance to the court at any stages, if they are not satisfied with the Project's GRM.

## 6. KEY ISSUES AND ANTICIPATED PROJECT IMPACTS

### 6.1 Likely Impacts on Indigenous Peoples

The proposed BZs and corridors as the key project areas suffer a wide range of threats causing biodiversity loss, deforestation, degradation of forests, grasslands and riparian areas, land degradation, and related carbon emissions. The root causes of these threats are increasing population pressure and economic growth in the TAL, and their impacts are exacerbated by climate change trends. The key threats having the greatest impact across TAL PA buffer zones and corridors are unregulated grazing, forest fires, large infrastructure development, and encroachment, unsustainable use of fuel wood and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and human wildlife conflict. As discussed in previous sections, the project area is predominantly occupied by the indigenous peoples like Dagaura Tharus (Choudhari), Rana, Sonaha, Majhi, Magars, Gurung, Tamang along with non-indigenous peoples. However, the indigenous peoples are in majority in population and have been living in the area for many generations. Particularly, the Tharus (Dangoura), Rana, Sonaha, Majhi are regarded as the native or autochthones of the area whereas the Magars, Gurung, Tamang are hill origin indigenous groups migrated to the area after eradication of malaria during 1960s. Thus, the proposed project area includes both biodiversity hotspots as well as areas occupied by the indigenous peoples. The convergence of critical areas for conservation with thousands of people who are highly dependent on healthy ecosystems for their survival is also most evident in the hotspots.

While the exact activities under the proposed project would be identified and prioritized during project execution, an assessment of the likely impacts has been made to determine possible social consequences of the proposed project by considering the indicative project activities proposed (see Annex 6). The project strategy and program actions were finalized through participatory planning aiming at empowering local communities and building collaboration with stakeholders of all levels. It is expected that the activities proposed under this project are likely to have minimal negative social impacts. Land acquisition and resettlement are unlikely and avoided under the project. On the other hand, the proposed project can provide valuable long-term opportunities for sustainable development for Indigenous Peoples and other local communities supporting through integrated landscape management to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife. The project also anticipates that strengthened capacity and inclusions of local communities in decision-making and benefit sharing and their improved capacity will increase the ownership of local communities including IPs and thus improve good governance practice to implement forest management plans. The effective implementation of management plans helps improve forest productivity and supply chain to fulfil the demand for forest products, thus reducing unsustainable harvesting. However, a number of particular risks for indigenous peoples including CFUGs members have been anticipated due to some of the activities proposed under component 2 in particular--technical support to review existing forest encroachment status and response options to reduce encroachment; prepare corridor/bottleneck land plan; provide financial support to develop State forest sector strategies (including CF, PF, LF)); support CFUGs and BZ CFUGs to develop/revise forest operational plan; support to control open grazing and financial and technical support for management of grassland and wetland in project targeted area) of the project. It would also have potential negative impacts on local communities especially among those dependent on forest products for their food security and income, and thus affecting their livelihoods. Besides equitable

project's benefit sharing with indigenous peoples would be an issue for the project. Some of them are summarized as follows:

- 1. Curtailing of rights of indigenous peoples and CFUGs:** Particular rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized in international agreements-- the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention (169), 1989 are some examples. Nepal has recognized these rights as a signatory to these international legal instruments in 2007. The rights of CFUGs have been well recognized in Nepal's Forest Acts and Regulations. Each community forest in the corridors is managed by a Community Forest User Group (CFUG). Members of CFUGs are the local community holding legal rights to use and manage the forest resources in sustainable manner. Similarly, community forests in buffer zones are organized within a Buffer Zone Management Council (BZMC) for each protected area. Each BZMC is made up of Buffer Zone User Committees (BZUCs). Buffer Zone Management Councils and User Committees are legally recognized as community-based organizations (CBOs) and are formally recognized by DNPWC for conservation and sustainable livelihoods interventions, and receive funds from the protected areas for their activities. Rights of indigenous peoples and local CFUGs/BZUCs may be curtailed while developing management plans and other forms of land and natural resource use planning. This is particularly triggered while implementing activities under component 2 that aim to develop or revise Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) operational plans, corridor management plans and development of State forest sector strategies (including CF, PF, LF) and their implementation for priority BZ and corridor forest areas. Project's landscape approach recognizes 'protected areas' as the foundation of biodiversity conservation. During the consultation meetings in the project areas, the indigenous peoples and local CFUGs also strongly raised their concerns of possible curtailing of rights while developing forest and biodiversity conservation & management modalities based on so called community-based natural resource management - for each targeted corridor and BZ.
- 2. Loss of sources of income and livelihoods:** The ultimate goals of the proposed project include conserve globally significant forests and wildlife through integrated landscape management (ILM). It also aims to help in improving forest monitoring/patrolling, open grazing, illegal harvesting and encroachment. The project intends to protect the forested lands in corridors and PA buffer zones by developing appropriate models for community-based natural resource management strengthened patrolling and law enforcement, and control over forest encroachment. Local forest use is only permitted if the habitat quality and structure is not significantly changed and disturbance to the protected animals is not long lasting and kept to a minimum. Such activities under the project will have potential impact on the rights, land uses and access to natural resources of indigenous peoples and local forest dependents communities including local residents resulting in a loss of their source of income and livelihood. Rights of access of supply of timber and forest resources for community needs will be constrained.
- 3. Involuntary displacement due to control over encroachment:** Encroachment of forest lands is rampant in the proposed project area. A total of 94,872 ha Tarai forest land have been encroached during the period 1992-2014. All PAs and corridors are affected by encroachment, which results in habitats being degraded and corridors fragmented. There are several bottlenecks in the major corridors including Karnali, Kamdi, Basanta, Bramhadev and Laljhadi-Mohana that have occurred due to encroachment. This is compromising the



functionality of these corridors as viable connections between PAs and other large forested landscapes that allow free movement of wildlife. Local population growth due to migration is exacerbating encroachment, which frequently occurs due to the flooding of marginal settled lands coupled with political support for the settlers (which represent vote banks). In most cases, flood victims shift towards safer places, mainly forested land, initially temporarily and after political support they make permanent settlements. Such a trend was observed in Kamdi, Basanta and Mohana-Laljhadi corridors, and in the buffer zone of Shuklaphanta NP. As an example, in Khata corridor south of Bardia NP, the main issue is encroachment of Mahjera Island in the Karnali River, where 150 households have settled (both locals and immigrants). This is an important site for tiger (riparian grasslands) and elephant, and there is significant HWC as a result of this encroachment. The land is reportedly very fertile; hence the strong pressure to settle despite the significant risk of flooding. It was reported that landless households, indigenous peoples and other groups of peoples have encroached the forest lands within the project landscape. These landless households and Indigenous Peoples are at high risk of displacement from their settlement areas while implementing various response options of controlling encroachment.

- 4. Escalate Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and impact of wildlife on livelihoods:** The project activities aiming to promote integrated landscape management to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife will be instrumental to increase population of wildlife that may escalate human wildlife conflicts. HWC has been considered as a threat to conservation efforts due to its impacts on local communities. It is increasing in the TAL corridors and PA buffer zones due to the combined effects of increased wildlife populations as a result of more effective protection (e.g. Bardia NP had 3 elephants twenty years ago, now more than 100) and increasing human populations, including settlers encroaching on wildlife habitats and movement routes. Crops around the forest edges provide accessible nutritious food for a variety of wildlife, while the presence of livestock grazing in and around the forests inevitably attracts predators such as leopard and tiger. Thus, an increase of population of wild animals may lead to substantial increase in human-animal conflict resulting crop damage, loss (kill, injury) of domestic animals and killing/ or injury of human being within the fringe area. Indigenous peoples including marginalized households residing within the project landscape are closest to the human-wildlife interface and most vulnerable to incidences of crop damage, killing of animals and human being. The project will need to explicitly and proactively seek to engage such people in its livelihood support and HWC response activities.
- 5. Enforcement of bans on open grazing:** Project will strengthen the enforcement of bans on open grazing since grazing is considered as one of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nepal. While the ban already exists in the some of the community managed forests belonging to the proposed project area and is not being introduced by the Project, the local communities including indigenous peoples' practice of open grazing will be targeted for change as part of Project activities. Overgrazing inside the forest is mainly due to the almost absence of the practice of agro-forestry in farmers' fields which can supply fodder; lack of information about stall feeding, low productivity of local breeds and abandoned cattle. When grazing ban is enforced, access to earlier free grazing in CFs, National Forests and grass lands along the river banks belong to Government ownership will be curtailed. This can bring about changes in resource extraction pattern from the forests and also lifestyle. Though the project will be seeking to provide support for low impact / integrated livestock management that reduces grazing

pressure; also other forms of livelihood support in Component 3, implementation of ban on open grazing in forests under PAs may restrict access to grazing of the livestock herders that could impact their livestock productivity and may reduce the income of the households. The households rearing large number of cattle, forest grazing dependent HHs, and those without access to CF and BZ forests (some parts of Bardiya NP) are the most vulnerable due to bans on open grazing.

#### **6. Restriction on fishing and other river-based resources**

Communities having customary/formal rights to harvest fish from the designated river/stream/water body would be further affected since fishing in protected areas has already been restricted. For example, the Sonaha, an indigenous minority group, who is historically and culturally embedded in and derives their livelihoods from the riverscape in and around the Bardiya National Park, has been restricted to access fishing and other river-based resources. They have experienced hardship as their customary occupations (artisanal fishing, the alluvial mining of gold dust in Karnali River) were restricted after enactment of the Park regulations<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, Khonaha and Kumal of Banke National Park who have been fishing for many generations have been restricted for fishing. The current model of buffer zone and national park management fails to accommodate customary occupations of the Sonaha with in Park management regimes. The proposed project would need to identify, recognize and attempt to promote these occupations.

#### **7. Disruption of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, skills, and cultural practices and social cohesion:**

Given Indigenous Peoples' distinct cultures and identities and their frequent marginalization from the mainstream population surrounding their communities, project interventions (e.g. promotion of tourism activities, promotion of forest based enterprises for income generation and livelihood enhancement) may run the risk of imposing changes to or disruption of their culture and social organization, whether inadvertently or not. While indigenous communities may welcome and seek change, they can be vulnerable when such change is imposed from external forces and when such change is rushed. Moreover, since many indigenous communities' culture and social organization are intertwined with their land and natural resource use practices, changes to these practices may result in unintended and unexpected changes in culture and social organization which may lead to social disruption and conflicts within and between communities and other stakeholders. This is relevant for all types of activities, but particularly for activities that aim to change livelihood and natural resource use practices. Similarly, ecotourism activities may bring adverse impacts to indigenous communities, particularly communities with little previous contact with people from the outside (this may be the case even for activities that aim at valuing local culture). For example, the homestay operated by local communities at Graver Valley, Banke under support of Banke National Park looked like more "resort & restaurant" types rather than "homestay" in real sense. If the project continues to support such types of tourism development then the homestay based on local indigenous culture will be under great threat.

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<sup>3</sup> The regulation restricts entry to the Park at night, the removal of sand and stones, the construction of any form of shelters, and fishing without permits. These are offences punishable by law that includes: seizure of materials related to the offence; monetary fines and imprisonment of those apprehended. Park warden has semi-judicial authority over cases of violation of park laws

- 8. Dependency on external support:** Interventions supporting alternative livelihoods and new institutional structures may lead to indigenous communities' dependency on continued support. Indigenous Peoples, for instance, may experience difficulties engaging with the market economy through alternative livelihood activities that they may be unable to sustain, at least on equitable basis, without establishment of strong market links. They may also become dependent on new livelihoods that are not sustainable environmentally as well as socially, perhaps because they were developed without due consideration of their social and cultural context. For example, it was noticed that numbers of aromatic plants (Mentha, Chamomile) distillation plants installed through external support (donor funding) in Karnali Corridor and BZ area of Bardiya National Park have closed after only a few years of operation. Sustainability of the community based anti-poaching unit (CBAPU) established through Park initiation will typically depend on the level of participation in and control over the process of its members.
- 9. Inequitable participation & further marginalization of IPs and local communities:** The costs (e.g. in time and resources) of participating in project activities such as protected area management activities, monitoring and enforcement, even in cases of co-management, may outweigh the benefits to local communities. Participation strategy adopted by the project may not include appropriate capacity building (when needed) or take into consideration local decision-making structures and processes with the risk of leading to alienation of local communities or even conflicts with and/or between local communities. Given the unequal power relations and hierarchical structures in the society, issues of inequity and social exclusion of indigenous peoples, women, poor, landless, so called lower caste - Dalits appear to be critical in CFs and BZCFs management regime. Meaningful representation of these marginalized groups in governance institutions are often poor therefore resulting in inequities in distribution of benefits. Besides, the proposed activities may enhance inequalities and fuel social conflicts between project beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- 10. Restrictions of use of timber and NTFPs:** The TAL is one of the most densely populated areas of Nepal, with a predominately rural population practicing a subsistence agrarian lifestyle that is labor intensive and heavily dependent on natural resources, including collection of fuel wood, fodder for animals, materials for construction, and a wide variety of products for various local uses (thatch, food, medicine, etc.). The project aims to protect the forested lands in corridors and PA buffer zones by improving conservation and controlling overharvesting of forest products. Such activities may have livelihood implications (loss of livelihood (hunters, fishermen, farmers, traditional medicine men, small scale miners etc.)) causing restriction of access to communal resources.

## **6.2 Potential Project Restrictions on Access and Livelihoods**

The proposed GEF project's purpose is to strengthen conservation of the selected corridors and buffer zones by developing suitable models of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and strengthening patrolling and law enforcement, and response options to reduce encroachment under Component 3. Besides this, it also aims to help improving forest monitoring/patrolling, controlling/ban open grazing, and illegal harvesting. Under such circumstances, local forest use is only permitted if the habitat quality and structure is not

significantly changed and disturbance to the protected animals is not long lasting and kept to a minimum. Such activities under the project will have potential to impact the rights, land uses and access to natural resources of local communities including indigenous peoples resulting loss of source of income and livelihood. Thus, the project is likely to restrict access to natural resources and livelihoods activities of the local communities within the proposed project areas and triggers the WWF's Policy on Involuntary Resettlement. However, there is no physical relocation envisaged by the project and a Process Framework has been prepared as per WWF's Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP).

Table 4 makes clear that the key activities which may have livelihood implications will largely be in respect to the banning of open grazing and control of forest encroachment, and financial and technical support for management of grassland and wetland in project targeted area and so on. The following activities will have some implications on access restriction to natural and community resources: improved management and restoration of forest and associated habitats in the priority sites identified under 2.1.1 in the targeted NP buffer zones and corridors and establishment of biological corridors by developing appropriate models for community-based natural resource management through developing or revising Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) operational plans, and development of State forest sector strategies (including CF, PF, LF) and their implementation for priority BZ and corridor forest areas under project Component 3. Consequently, local communities may lose sources of income and livelihood and also be restricted in accessing communal resources. The specific project activities with potential adverse social impact and interventions are described below:

**Table 4 Proposed project activities of potential risk of restriction on access and livelihood**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Some relevant proposed activities</b>	<b>Potential risk involved access restrictions and other social impacts</b>
<b>COMPONENT 1: National capacity and enabling environment for cross-sectoral coordination to promote forest and landscape conservation</b>		
Outcome 1.1 Improved inter-sectoral coordination from Federal, State to Local level for sustainable forest management and integrated landscape management	Establishment of cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms to support integrated landscape management for conservation outcomes at different levels	-
Outcome 1.2 Capacity increased for multi-stakeholder and cross-sector landscape and forest planning and management	Conduct training to ILM coordinators for capturing international best practice and applying this to the local context (Training manual developed in line with national, WWF GEF strategy and project's GESI Action Plan)	-
	Orientation on Roles and responsibilities for new park staff (senior/game scouts)	Health and safety
	Orientation on Roles and responsibilities for new divisional staff (senior/game scouts)	Health and safety
<b>COMPONENT 2: Integrated Planning for Protected Area Buffer Zones and Critical Corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape</b>		
Outcome 2.1 Improved corridor planning for TAL corridors (Brahmadev, Karnali and Kamdi)	Biodiversity surveys, socio-economic surveys, and local stakeholder consultation for Barmadev, Karnali, and Kamdi corridors to determine feasibility of appropriate models for community-based natural resource management	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management

		Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Update forest and biodiversity inventory and socio-economic status in corridors (using GESI lens)	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management
Outcome 2.2 Improved participatory planning for sustainable management in Banke-Bardia Complex	Prepare integrated GESI responsive corridor/bottleneck plan with stakeholder consultations process to determine appropriate models for community-based management	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management  Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Conduct participatory assessments in targeted PA buffer zones and corridors to identify priority community and forest areas	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Develop State forest sector strategies (including CF, PF, LF)	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management  Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Support CFUGs and BZ CFUGs to develop/revise forest operational plan (GESI aspect is revised/incorporated)	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management  Ecotourism activities  Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
<b>COMPONENT 3. Forest and wildlife management for improved conservation of targeted protected area buffer zones and corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape</b>		
Outcome 3.1 sustainable forest management practices that strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity conservation	Operational support to government, local communities and private landholders on the management and restoration of forest and associated habitats in priority buffer zone and corridors	Designation and development of selected forest areas into protected area status under community-based natural resource management  Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Restoration and management of grassland and wetland	Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor

	Protection and management of riverbank	Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Support small scale green enterprises (State 5,7, and Karnali)	Commercial management and add value to forest products (Rattan and Bamboo, furniture)
	Support implementation of local level land-use plan	Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
Outcome 3.2 Improved management of the human-wildlife conflict	Develop species-specific guidelines for HWC management	Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Development & implement preventive measures for HWC work plans	Establishment of biological/wildlife corridor
	Support revolving fund to initiate income generating activities (GESI focused)	Small projects on alternative livelihoods
	Support to develop business plan (Market assessment process, identification of beneficiaries etc. should consider GESI perspective.)	Development of domestic market for processing essential oil from Mentha, Chamomile, Turmeric
	Provide technical assistance to control illegal logging, poaching, and other threats in priority areas	Health and safety
	Training on identification and behavior of wild animals to Divisional forest office staff	Health and safety
	Support wildlife rescue and handling equipment and training	Health and safety
	Provide support for field gears for field staff	Health and safety

**Reduction of right to access to resources:** Rights of indigenous peoples and local CFUGs/BZUCs may be curtailed while developing management plans and other forms of land and natural resource use planning. This is particularly triggered while implementing activities under component 2 that aim to develop or revise Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) operational plans, and development of State forest sector strategies (including CF, PF, LF) and their implementation for priority BZ and corridor forest areas. Project's landscape approach recognizes 'protected areas' as the foundation of biodiversity conservation. During the consultation meetings in the project areas, the indigenous peoples and local CFUGs also strongly raised their concerns of possible curtailing of rights while developing forest and biodiversity conservation & management modalities for each targeted corridor and BZ.

**Loss of sources of income and livelihoods:** The ultimate goals of the proposed project include conserve globally significant forests and wildlife through integrated landscape management (ILM). It also aims to help in improving forest monitoring/patrolling, open grazing, illegal harvesting and encroachment. The project intends to protect the forested lands in corridors and PA buffer zones by developing appropriate models for community-based natural resource management, strengthened patrolling and law enforcement, and control over forest encroachment. Local forest use is only permitted if the habitat quality and structure is not significantly changed and disturbance to the protected animals is not long lasting and kept to a minimum. Such activities under the project will have potential to impact the rights, land uses and access to natural resources of indigenous peoples and local forest dependents communities including local residents resulting loss of source of income and livelihood. Rights of access of supply of timber and forest resources for community needs will be constrained.

**Involuntary displacement due to control over encroachment:** Encroachment of forest lands is rampant in the proposed project area. A total of 94,872 ha of Tarai forest land have been encroached upon during the period 1992-2014. All PAs and corridors are affected by encroachment, which results in habitats being degraded and corridors fragmented. There are several bottlenecks in the major corridors including Karnali, Kamdi, Basanta, Bramhadev and Laljhadi-Mohana that have occurred due to encroachment. This is compromising the functionality of these corridors as viable connections between PAs and other large forested landscapes that allow free movement of wildlife. Local population growth due to migration is exacerbating encroachment, which frequently occurs due to the flooding of marginal settled lands coupled with political support for the settlers (which represent vote banks). In most cases, flood victims shift towards safer places, mainly forested land, initially temporarily and after political support they make permanent settlements. Such a trend was observed in Kamdi, Basanta and Mohana-Laljhadi corridors, and in the buffer zone of Shuklaphanta NP. As an example, in Khata corridor south of Bardia NP, the main issue is encroachment of Mahjera Island in the Karnali River, where 150 households have settled (both locals and immigrants). This is an important site for tiger (riparian grasslands) and elephant, and there is significant HWC as a result of this encroachment. The land is reportedly very fertile; hence the strong pressure to settle despite the significant risk of flooding. It was reported that landless households, indigenous peoples and other groups of peoples have encroached the forest lands within the project landscape. These landless households and Indigenous Peoples are at high risk of displacement from their settlement areas while implementing various response options of controlling encroachment.

**Escalate Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and impact of wildlife on livelihoods:** The project activities aiming promotion of integrated landscape management to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife will definitely be instrumental to increase population of wildlife that may escalate human wildlife conflicts. HWC has been considered as a threat to conservation efforts due to its impacts on local communities. It is increasing in the TAL corridors and PA buffer zones due to the combined effects of increased wildlife populations as a result of more effective protection (e.g. Bardia NP had 3 elephants twenty years ago, now more than 100) and increasing human populations, including settlers encroaching on wildlife habitats and movement routes. Crops around the forest edges provide accessible nutritious food for a variety of wildlife, while the presence of livestock grazing in and around the forests inevitably attracts predators such as leopard and tiger. Thus, an increase of population of wild animals may lead to substantial increase in human-animal conflict resulting crop damage, loss (kill, injury) of domestic animals and killing/ or injury of human being within the fringe area. Indigenous peoples including marginalized households residing within the project landscape are closest to the human-wildlife interface and most vulnerable to incidences of crop damage, killing of animals and humans. The project will need to explicitly and proactively seek to engage such people in its livelihood support and HWC response activities.

**Enforcement of bans on open grazing:** Project will strengthen the enforcement of bans on open grazing since grazing is one of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nepal. While the ban already exists in the some of the community managed forests belonging to the proposed project area and is not being introduced by the project, the local communities including indigenous peoples' practice of open grazing will be targeted for change as part of project activities. Overgrazing inside the forest is mainly due to the almost absence of the practice of agro-forestry in farmers' fields which can supply fodder, lack of information about stall feeding, low

productivity of local breeds and abandoned cattle. When a grazing ban is enforced, access to earlier free grazing will be curtailed in CFs, National Forests and grass lands along the river banks belong to the Government. This can bring about changes in resource extraction pattern from the forests and also lifestyle. If the project prohibits open grazing in forests under PAs and corridors without giving any viable alternatives then the livestock herders will lose access to grazing which could impact their livestock productivity and may reduce the income of the households. The households rearing large numbers of cattle, forest grazing dependent HHs, and those without access to CF and BZ forests (some parts of Bardiya NP) are the most vulnerable due to bans on open grazing.

**Restriction on fishing and other river-based resources:** Communities having customary/formal rights to harvest fish from the designated river/stream/water body would be further affected since fishing in protected areas has already been restricted. For example, the Sonaha, an indigenous minority group, who is historically and culturally embedded in and derives their livelihoods from the riverscape in and around the Bardiya National Park, has been restricted to access fishing and other river-based resources. They have experienced hardship as their customary occupations (artisanal fishing, the alluvial mining of gold dust in Karnali River) were restricted after the enactment of the Park regulations<sup>4</sup>. Similarly, the Khonaha and Kumal of Banke National Park who have been fishing for many generations have been restricted for fishing. The current model of buffer zone and national park management fails to accommodate customary occupations of the Sonaha within Park management regimes. The proposed project would need to identify, recognize and attempt to promote these occupations.

**Restrictions of use of timber and NTFPs:** The targeted corridors and NP buffer zones are one of the most densely populated areas of Nepal, with a predominately rural population practicing a subsistence agrarian lifestyle that is labor intensive and heavily dependent on natural resources, including collection of fuel wood, fodder for animals, materials for construction, and a wide variety of products for various local uses (thatch, food, medicine, etc.). The project aims to strengthen protection status of the forested lands in corridors and PA buffer zones by the establishment of biological corridors by developing appropriate models for community-based natural resource management through developing or revising Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) operational plans, corridor management plans and development of State forest sector strategies (including CF, PF, LF) and strengthening patrolling and law enforcement, and control over harvesting of forest products. Such activities may have livelihood implications (loss of livelihood (hunters, fishermen, farmers, traditional medicine men, small scale miners etc.)) causing restriction of access to communal resources.

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<sup>4</sup> The regulation restricts entry to the Park at night, the removal of sand and stones, the construction of any form of shelters, and fishing without permits. These are offences punishable by law that includes: seizure of materials related to the offence; monetary fines and imprisonment of those apprehended. Park warden has semi-judicial authority over cases of violation of park laws



## **7. IMPACT MITIGATION PLANNING**

### **7.1 Steps for Formulating an IPP**

WWF's Policy on Indigenous People require that Project affected Indigenous Peoples, whether adversely or positively, need to be prepared with care and with the participation of affected communities. The requirements include screening to confirm and identify affected IP groups in the project areas, social analysis to improve the understanding of the local context and affected communities; a process of free, prior, and informed consent with the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities in order to fully identify their views and to obtain their broad community support to the project; and development of project-specific measures to avoid adverse impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits. Minimum requirements for project working in areas with Indigenous Peoples are:

- Identification of Indigenous Peoples through screening;
- Assessment of project impacts;
- Consultations with affected IP communities following FPIC and obtain their broad community support;
- Development of sites specific indigenous peoples plan (IPP) to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits; and
- In (sub) projects with no impacts, the requirements could be limited to consultations during implementation to keep local communities informed about project activities and documentation of all consultation held.

#### **A. Screening for Indigenous Peoples**

WWF's Policy on Indigenous People requires screening for indigenous peoples to assess risks and opportunities and to improve the understanding of the local context and affected communities. Since the specific intervention sites—villages and forest areas—within the targeted BZs and corridors will be determined during implementation based on the indicators like biodiversity values, prevalence of threats like HWC, and potential for demonstrating positive engagement in SFM and biodiversity conservation that benefits IPs and other vulnerable communities, screening of indigenous peoples is required simultaneously or subsequently. The screening will be carried out by the safeguard consultant with oversight from the Safeguards specialist hired at Project field office. During the screening, the safeguard consultant will visit villages and CFUGs selected for subproject implementation to prepare an inventory of all indigenous peoples (IP) communities' presence there. Public meetings with IP communities including representatives of Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) will be organized at a pre-announced place and date to provide information on the project and subproject components. Then, a screening exercise will be undertaken using a screening checklist (Annex 2.) with the help of IP community leaders or a local facilitator. The key question of screening would be—will the proposed project activities affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and formulation of an IPP? The answers to this question help to identify likely impacts of project activities on indigenous peoples and communities. Where such activities are considered to have potential impacts on indigenous peoples, further details assessment will need to be undertaken in order to design the IPP. The process for informed consultation and participation will have to be undertaken. The free, prior and informed consent and the process for obtaining such consent can be seen in chapter 6. If the screening findings confirm likely impacts on IP, the project will engage

qualified and experienced experts to carry out a social assessment of the affected IP families and community. The impacts on IPs should be considered significant, if the project or project component positively or negatively: (i) affect their customary rights of use and access to land and natural resources; (ii) change their socio-economic status and livelihoods; (iii) affect their cultural and communal integrity; (iv) affect their health, education, sources of income and social security status; and/or (v) alter or undermine the recognition of indigenous knowledge.

## **B. Social Assessment**

The presence of IPs in the project sites require a social assessment to generate the necessary baseline information on demographics, social, cultural, and political characteristics of affected IP communities as well as the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend. A social assessment process was carried out as part of the preparation of safeguards documentation, drawing on documents provided by project preparation teams, and consultations with site teams, management and affected peoples. Potential adverse and positive effects of the project were identified and the need for additional analysis and consultation have been outlined and incorporated into project planning and budgets, for site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs), which will define in greater detail the implementation of activities to mitigate project impacts on indigenous peoples at each site.

The main purpose of the social assessment that was carried out during project preparation was to evaluate the project's potential positive and adverse impacts on the affected Indigenous Peoples. It was also used to inform project preparation to ensure that project activities are culturally appropriate, will enhance benefits to target groups, and is likely to succeed in the given socioeconomic and cultural context. In this way, the assessment informed the preparation of the design of the project as well as any measures and instruments needed to address issues and concerns related to Indigenous Peoples affected by the project.

During project execution of some specific project interventions (for examples, support to reduce forest encroachment; to control or ban open grazing; and financial and technical support for management of grassland and wetland in project targeted area), site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) are required to ensure equitable project benefits sharing with indigenous communities present at the project sites. For this purpose, screening and a social assessment (SA) will be conducted in consultation with the IP communities to identify project-affected IPs, potential impacts, and severity of impact among the different IP groups affected by the (sub)project and election of suitable mitigation and enhancement measures. The social assessment should gather relevant information on demographic data; social, cultural and economic situation; and social, cultural and economic impacts of the project or project component. For small scale projects with no direct impacts on indigenous communities, the report is short and includes a brief overview of the indigenous communities affected by the project, project activities as they relate to the local communities, how project implementation will address the particular circumstances of Indigenous Peoples, and how they will participate and be consulted during implementation.

## **C. Preparation of Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)**

Based on the findings of the social assessment, an IPP will be prepared to address the aspirations, needs, and preferred options of the affected Indigenous People, and present them with development options which keep their distinctive socio-cultural status intact. The IPP aims to strengthen the

capacity of the affected indigenous community to encourage them to participate in and derive benefits from the project interventions. The principal elements of an IPP are:

1. Development plans for IPs should be prepared considering best options and approaches that are in accordance with affected individuals and communities;
2. Scope and impact of adverse effects of the project are assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures designed;
3. Social and cultural context of affected IPs and their traditional skill and knowledge in natural resource management should be considered;
4. Regular consultation will be held with the IPs, including the women, to seek their informed participation in designing mitigation measures and project intervention at all stages of project preparation and implementation. To achieve this information sharing, disclosure meetings, workshops, and distribution of pamphlets in local language will be carried out;
5. Community organizations, NGOs, and consultants experienced in executing IP development plans or projects will be engaged to prepare IPP;
6. The IPP should provide a set of monitoring indicators for periodic monitoring of the progress of planned activities incorporated in the IPP; and
7. Implementing agency will formulate IPP implementation schedule, which will be periodically monitored by responsible project officials as well as an independent/external monitoring agency; and implementing agency will also allocate sufficient budget for IPP implementation and a financing plan to ensure smooth progress.

The main thrust of the IPP is to address the potential adverse impacts of the proposed project, taking into consideration the marginality and vulnerability status of the indigenous community. The IPP will be formulated in such a way that the IP groups will have development options built into the project design which are in accordance with their needs, and at the same time preserve their distinctive sociocultural identity. The IPP will also focus on developmental strategy that encourages and strengthens their existing skill so that the IPs are able to derive benefits from the project intervention. The IPP is required for all projects with impacts on indigenous peoples (IP). Its level of detail and comprehensiveness is commensurate with the significance of potential impacts on IPs. An outline of IPP has been provided in Annex 3.

#### **D. Monitoring of IPP implementation**

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will facilitate resolving problems that arise during execution by providing solutions without delay. The IPP should provide a set of monitoring indicators for periodic monitoring of the progress of planned activities incorporated in the IPP. For subprojects with significant adverse impact on IPs, the Project will engage qualified and experienced external experts/third party (it can be an NGO having adequate experience of similar works) to verify compliance of IPP implementation. The external monitor/third party will advise Executing Agency on compliance issues related to the IPPs. If any significant IP issues are identified, the Executing Agency will prepare a corrective action plan to mitigate those and/or update approved IPP. The Executing Agency will implement the corrective action plan and take necessary steps to follow up the effectiveness of those corrective measures. The Executing Agency will prepare periodic monitoring reports on the progress of IPP implementation, highlighting compliance issues and corrective actions taken, if any. The costs of monitoring requirements will be included in project budgets (See Chapter 9 for details).

### **E. Grievance Redress Mechanism**

Redressing grievances of the affected IPs is vital, particularly if project impacts result in displacement of any IP community or individuals, disrupt livelihood, affects their customary rights over land, forest, water, and other natural resources, or put obstacles to cultural heritage sites. Grievances may be caused by any of these adverse impacts and need to be resolved as quickly as possible, with consent and consultation with the IP community or their representatives. The details of GRM are discussed in Chapter 5.

### **F. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**

As a part of preparation of IPPF and PF, a process of free, prior and informed consent with the affected Indigenous Peoples has already been initiated. The indigenous peoples of the project area were informed about the project and likely project activities, and their views and suggestions for project design as well as IP development plan were collected so that broad community support can be obtained. The FPIC process was initiated as part of the social assessment while preparing the IPPF and PF, although consultations are likely to continue during project design and implementation phases. The extent of consultations depends on the project activities, their impacts on local communities and the circumstances of affected Indigenous Peoples. At a minimum (for projects with no impacts or direct interventions with the indigenous communities), local communities are informed about the project, asked for their views on the project, and assured that they will not be affected during project implementation. For projects affecting indigenous communities, whether positively or adversely, a more elaborate consultation process is required to obtain broad community support. The detailed requirements with steps to be followed to obtain FPIC have been discussed in Chapter 4 section 4.6.

## **7.2 Livelihood Restoration Measures and Access to Alternative Resources**

Livelihoods-related support during project implementation will be provided to people affected by project-induced restrictions of access to natural and community resources within proposed priority BZ and corridors. The PMU Project Manager with technical inputs from the Safeguards specialist and Safeguard consultant at field office will undertake screening for likely access restrictions to local communities. The screening and subsequent social assessment will be linked with the assessment to update biodiversity inventory and socio-economic status in the targeted corridors and buffer zones proposed under component 2 of the project design. Based on the findings of the screening and social assessment, Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRP) will be prepared after holding further meaningful consultations with affected peoples and stakeholders which will provide tailored livelihood support and benefit sharing for affected persons, groups and communities. Affected communities and households around the project-supported protected areas, corridors and BZ area will be provided with opportunities to restore their livelihoods to at least pre-project levels.

While proposing possible restoration measures for livelihood impacts, the Safeguards specialist and Safeguard consultants at field level will encompass (1) identification and ranking of site-specific impacts (2) Criteria and eligibility for livelihood assistance; (3) the rights of persons who have been legally using forest resources or the associated land to be respected (4) brief description and identification of available mitigation measures alternatives, taking into account the provisions of applicable local legislation, and the available measures for mitigation actively promoted via

project activities and considering any additional sound alternatives, if proposed by the affected persons.

In the case of alternative resources, measures will include identification of these resources with the active involvement of the affected persons/ communities and assistance to access these resources.

Mitigation and livelihood restoration and enhancement measures for potential project restriction on access to resources and livelihood have been proposed in Table 5. These are, however, only the mitigation guidelines given to address the significant impacts predicted so far based on consultations with stakeholders and expert options. The proposed project has components with associated activities which will support livelihood restoration programs. The Outcome 3.1 (Sustainable forest management practices that strengthen livelihoods and biodiversity conservation) for example, aims to strengthen management of and benefit sharing in community forests. It proposes to support small scale green enterprises. The outcome aims at supporting forest communities and their organizations to manage forests using sound sustainability principles. The component 3.1 provides support to develop business plan (Market assessment process, identification of beneficiaries etc..) to search domestic market for processing essential oil from crops like Mentha, Chamomile, Turmeric grown in wildlife affected areas. The wildlife does not damage these crops. These activities will be integrated and also considered while developing Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRP). Demand-driven approaches may be effective. Communities can choose the types of alternative livelihoods so as to encourage the development of sustainable forestry.

**Table 5 Potential Issues of Access Restriction and Corresponding Mitigation Measures**

<b>Potential Social &amp; access restriction issues</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Loss of livelihood (wood collector, fishermen, farmers, traditional medicine men, small scale miners etc.)	<p>Adequate consultations to be held with stakeholder<sup>5</sup> and right holder<sup>6</sup> communities to agree on alternative livelihoods</p> <p>Alternative livelihood schemes to be discussed, agreed and provided for affected persons/ groups. The livelihood options to be built on and be based upon the traditional skill, knowledge, practices and the culture/world view of the affected peoples/groups and persons</p> <p>Provide project related employment and other opportunities proposed under Component 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• revolving funds to facilitate the forest operational plans implementation (developed under 2.2.2);</li> </ul>	MOFE

<sup>5</sup> Stakeholders for the project are those whose interests are potentially affected by the project activities or who can affect and influence the project.

<sup>6</sup> Right-holders are those individuals, groups and organizations (including both government and nongovernment) whose existing rights, whether formally recognized or granted based on customary law might be potentially affected by the project.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sub-grants for livestock management to reduce open grazing in natural areas (including fencing of vulnerable forest, rotational grazing, artificial insemination, fodder improvement, stall feeding, vet support, stall improvement, with focused support and mitigations to community members reliant on open grazing);</li> <li>• sub-grants and seedling provision for grassland, wetland and river bank management and restoration, to improve habitat connectivity for species such as tiger and prey;</li> <li>• sub-grants for small-scale green enterprises (e.g. NTFP processing, sustainable timber processing) and business plan development, to incentivize community engagement in forest management and protection.</li> </ul> <p>Establishment and smooth functioning of grievance redress mechanism</p>	
<p>Restricted access to communal resources including temples, shrines, burial sites due to ban on open grazing, fishing and collection of forest products and establishment of biological/wildlife corridors and improved management and restoration of forest and associated habitats in the priority sites identified under 2.1.1 by developing appropriate models for community-based natural resource management</p>	<p>Alternative arrangements to be discussed, agreed and provided for affected persons/ groups</p> <p>Support livestock husbandry linking with sub- grants for livestock management to reduce open grazing in natural areas (including fencing of vulnerable forest, rotational grazing, artificial insemination, fodder improvement, stall feeding, vet support, stall improvement, with focused support and mitigations to community members reliant on open grazing under component 3.1.</p> <p>Provide training and capacity building for alternate livelihood opportunities and income generation</p> <p>Provide support for agriculture using high-yield crop varieties, without eliminating native seed varieties</p> <p>Adequate consultations to be held with stakeholder and right holder communities and groups/ persons to agree on amicable agreements</p> <p>Participatory process to be followed to manage issues of restricted access</p>	<p>MOFE</p>
<p>Reduction of right to access to resources while revising and developing SFM Plans due to non-recognition of and/or indifference to the traditional</p>	<p>Participatory process to be followed to identify and recognize existing rights and to ensure that project activities are not adversely affecting such rights</p>	<p>MOFE</p>

<p>knowledge, skills and customary practices, including the prerogative and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and local forest dependent communities</p>	<p>Forest management plans to be prepared reflect community aspirations. Traditional knowledge, skills and customary practices, including the collective ownership and use of forests, of Indigenous Peoples will be respected, recognized and fulfilled</p> <p>Existing legal rights of CFUGs over forest resources are to be ensured and respected while revising and developing SFM Plans, corridor management plans and development of State forest sector strategies</p> <p>Rights and responsibilities of forest-dependent communities to access and control forest resources to be strengthened and ensured.</p> <p>IP rights over natural resources and forests to be established, and IPs and local communities to be allowed to collect forest products freely to continue to exercise their traditional occupations and religious and cultural practices.</p> <p>Effective participation and proportionate representation of Indigenous Peoples including and local forest dependent communities to be ensured in actions taken for the sustainable management of forests</p> <p>Sufficient consultations to be held with stakeholder and right holder communities and groups/ persons to agree on amicable agreements</p>	
<p>Involuntary displacement due to control over encroached forest area, and establishment of biological/wildlife corridors and improved management and restoration of forest and associated habitats in the priority sites identified under 2.1 by developing appropriate models for community-based natural resource management</p>	<p>Project to avoid any forms of displacement. If unavoidable, efforts are made in coordination with other agencies such as the commission on resettlement of landless people, commission on resettlement of Muktakamaiya (freed bonded labor) to manage settlements for landless and Indigenous Peoples prior to displacement.</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples would not be relocated from their ancestral territories and customarily owned and used land without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)</p> <p>Landless people will not be forcibly displaced unless there is a long-term settlement arrangement provided</p> <p>Households residing in the area before commencement of the project will be treated fairly and equally regardless of</p>	<p>MOFE</p>

	<p>their settlement status. However, further expansion of illegal settlement will be addressed with both participatory and law enforcement approaches, in manners that are respectful of people’s basic needs and legal and customary rights.</p>	
<p>Escalation of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and impact of wildlife on livelihoods due to wildlife management through establishment of biological corridor and habitat improvement</p>	<p>Installation of warnings, physical barriers around villages, and compensation mechanisms in place. The already existing compensation mechanism is very complex and need serious revision to simplify and make it practicable</p> <p>Community Based Insurance scheme (livestock + Crop) to be implemented</p> <p>Alternative livelihood schemes to be discussed, agreed and provided for affected persons/ groups. The livelihood options to be built on and be based upon the traditional skill, knowledge, practices and the culture/world view of the affected peoples/ groups and persons</p>	MOFE
<p>Health and safety and security of Park staff and members of Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) after their training and deployment</p>	<p>National Parks administration to devise policies and procedures to protect field staff and CBAPU members</p> <p>Provision of adequate field and safety gears such as radios for communication, park guard equipment, patrol equipment, etc.</p> <p>Some relevant activities have been proposed under activities codes 3.2.3 and 3.3.1</p>	MOFE

### 7.3 Participatory Implementation

This section provides guidelines of the participatory processes to be followed for determining eligibility criteria and proposed measures to assist affected persons and communities. It describes the process of participation and inclusion of potentially affected communities in deciding the scope of the restrictions and the mitigation measures proposed for alternative livelihood activities and alternative arrangement to access resources. This preliminary analysis provides guidance on eligible activities and recipients for the livelihood restoration assistance other proposed mitigation measures. These criteria may be refined further through site-specific community consultations through which the affected persons will identify adverse impacts, establish mitigation measures, eligibility criteria and choose eligible mitigation measures, and procedures for specific activities and their phasing for particular areas.

#### 7.3.1 Participatory Processes

**Identify stakeholders:** The first step of the process is identifying people/ groups who should participate in the process. The project preparation team has carried out stakeholder mapping exercises, defined and identified stakeholders at all levels from national to the community level and also prepared a stakeholder engagement plan to be involved actively in the project activities. PMU Project Manager with technical input from the Safeguards Specialist will validate and update



this stakeholder map and also develop a stakeholder engagement plan for implementation of this PF and LRP.

**Develop communication and information dissemination strategy:** For the process to be as inclusive as possible, it is important to use as many avenues as possible to inform all stakeholders through advertisements, national radio and television etc. For the community, public notice issued in languages easily understandable by local peoples needs to be placed in public places easily accessible to the community. Local FM radio announcements and personal contacts are also an effective means of communication. To inform only specific groups in the community, the project will start with key persons such as opinion leaders in those groups who may already be known. It is easier to solicit their help to spread the message to other members. They can also help in deciding where to place other information so that target groups will be likely to encounter it.

Indigenous Peoples should be specially targeted. Their role in forest management, livelihood interventions, incentive and benefit sharing makes them vital to the process. The message must be simple and clear, and in the languages that the community speaks. That means both using plain, understandable Nepali, and using other languages spoken by people in the community.

It is expected that the project field office with support of park and forest offices at project area will convene most of the meetings. These meetings should be held in collaboration with local community-based organizations (CFUGs, BZ-CFUCs, and IPOs) and community members. The collaboration is important to lend credibility to the intervention as it may be identified as a community effort rather than an imposition by the government or any particular organization.

**Engage stakeholders & right holders:** The communities residing in and around the project area are the ultimate recipient of project impacts and benefits, and therefore a key stakeholder. Therefore, the interventions need community support or participation in order to succeed. Thus, a participatory process and community consultations approach engaging government authorities, right holders and stakeholders at different levels will provide substantial information on the patterns of resource use of local affected communities/groups and persons, which will provide accurate information about which groups/individuals need to be targeted and will therefore be affected most by restrictions on resources. Once the process has started, it has to be maintained. Stakeholders in the community must be kept informed, and support has to be provided when needed, conflicts have to be resolved, methods have to be devised to keep the process reasonably efficient, goals and deadlines have to be set. It is expected that this logical proceeding of activities and the consultation and involvement of local communities in the project, will minimize any potential conflicts and grievances.

### **7.3.2 Criteria for Eligibility of Project Affected Persons**

**Definition of affected persons:** Project affected persons are those persons who, as a direct consequence of an activity or subproject would, without their informed consent or power of choice either: (a) physically relocate or lose their shelter, (b) lose their assets or access to assets or access to community and natural resources, or (c) lose a source of income or means of livelihood, whether or not they physically relocate to another place.

The above definition provides a preliminary set of criteria to assist in defining eligible activities and affected persons or communities who may receive livelihood restoration assistance. Through a participatory process as earlier described, these criteria may be refined further using site specific considerations and meetings with the affected communities/persons to identify adverse impacts, establish mitigation measures, eligibility criteria and choose eligible mitigation measures.

## 8. INSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 8.1 Institutional Arrangements of Project

The proposed project will be executed by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal. Under MOFE, DOFSC and DNPWC are the major two departments, responsible for implementing the project's interventions at the federal level. The local community groups (e.g. Community Forest User Groups, Buffer Zone User Committees, Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups and indigenous people's organizations (IPOs)), municipalities and state government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Division Forest Offices) will be key partners for the implementation at local and state level. MOFE will be responsible for communicating with the national GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) regarding the status of project implementation. WWF as the GEF implementing agency will communicate and coordinate with GEF secretariat as appropriate. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and Project Executive Committee (PEC) and Project Management Unit (PMU) will constitute the overall governing bodies for the project. The overall project management arrangements are shown in Figure 2. The key functions of the PAC are: to provide strategic guidance and enable facilitation for effective implementation across all levels of the government structure. Likewise, key functions of the PEC are: linking PMU with PAC, endorsement of annual work plan/progress/financial report, and facilitate coordination at all levels (federal, state and local).

MOFE will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) responsible for implementing the project activities. The PMU is a functional structure of the project with the major responsibility of developing an annual work plan, implementing and monitoring the activities and reporting. It also functions as secretariat to the governing body (PAC and PEC) and will be hosted by MOFE, Kathmandu. The structure and reporting line of the PMU is given in Figure 3.

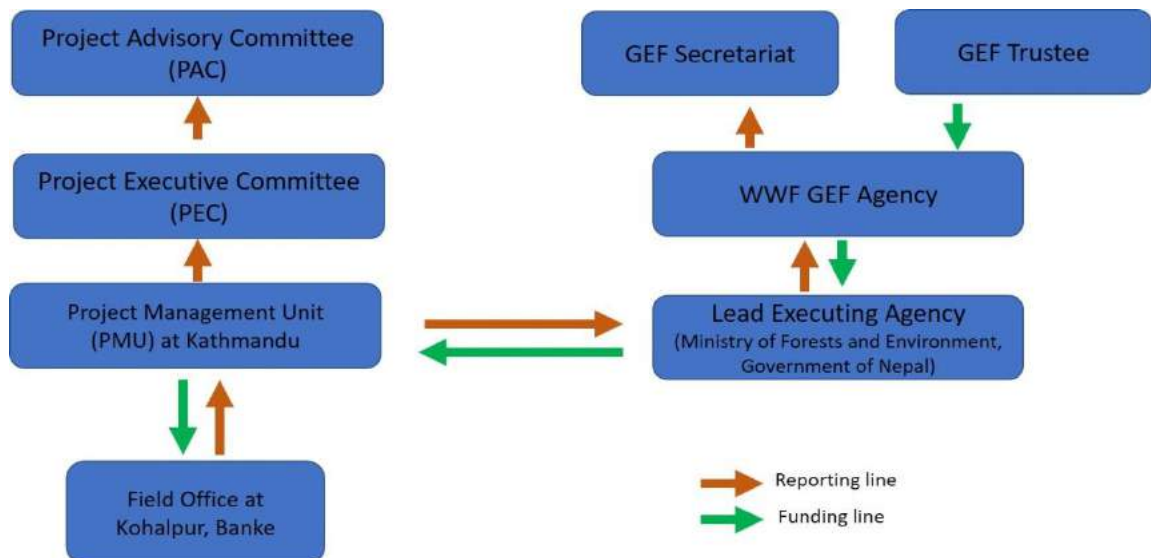


Figure 2: Overall implementation arrangement

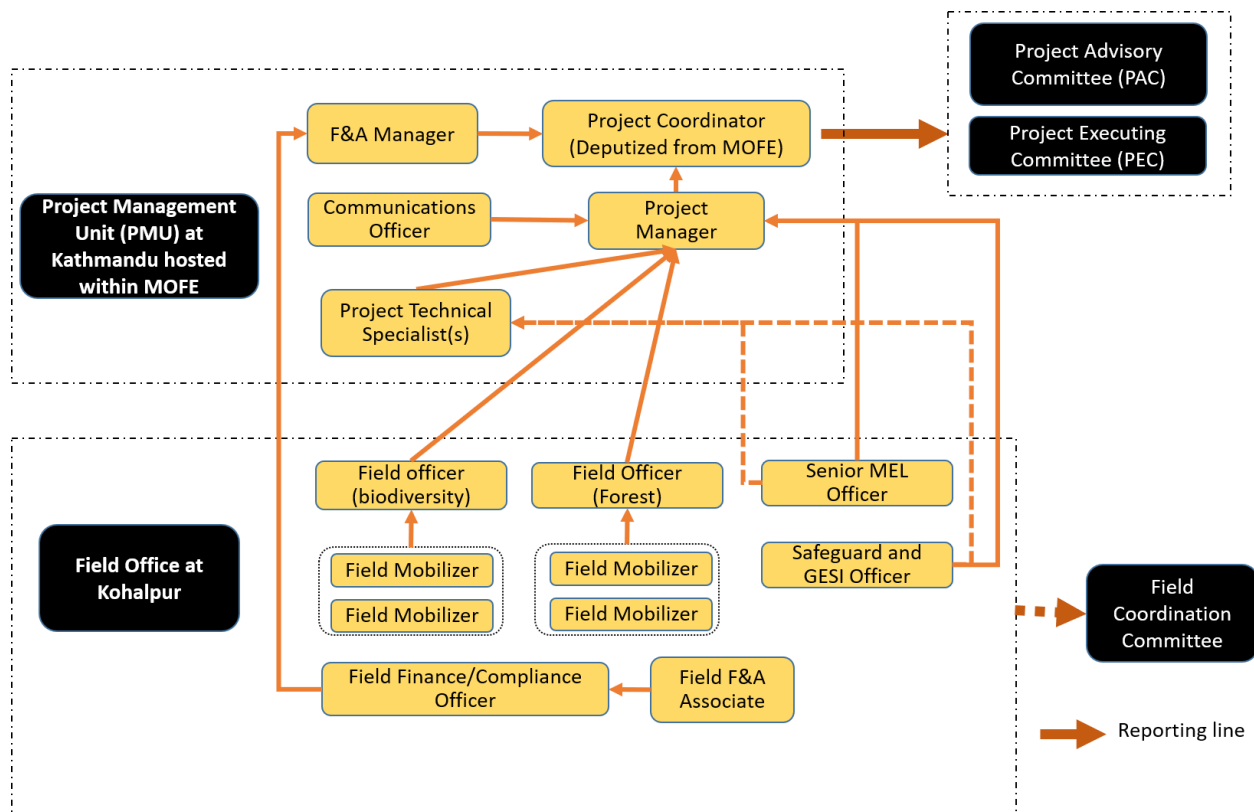


Figure 3 Project Management Unit (PMU) Structure

The project will establish one Field office to be located at Kohalpur in Banke District, within the available government premises. To execute the project, a Project Operation Manual (POM) will be developed during the first year of project execution to provide overall guidance on project operation. The POM will provide the policy and procedures for financial and programmatic operation. The role and responsibilities of the field office will be specified in the project operation manual. Further, to ensure better coordination and avoid any duplication, the field office in Kohalpur will maintain a regular interaction and sharing with other MOFE supported projects in that area through the formation of Field Coordination Committee. The existing TAL office at Kohalpur, the newly established forestry directorate at Butwal, and the chief warden of Banke National Park and the Division Forest Office at Banke will be the center of such coordination.

## 8.2 IPPF/IPP and PF/LRP implementation arrangement

The PMU Project Manager will be responsible for coordinating the overall implementation of IPPF and PF, while the Safeguards Specialist will be hired at the PMU to support the Project Manager on day to day implementation of safeguards related matters. The Safeguards Specialist will hire safeguard consultants as necessary to prepare and implement the measures recommended in the IPPF and Process Framework such as the site level IPPs and livelihood restoration plan (LRP) yet to be developed after conducting screening and subsequent social assessment (if required).

The safeguards consultants under the oversight of the Safeguards specialist will be responsible to execute project activities with local and indigenous peoples from affected communities and holds

regular consultations to inform the community of ongoing project activities, seek views, and respond to questions or grievances.

GRC formed at CFUG and BZ CFUG level at each project site and GRC formed at PMU level will manage a grievance redress channel that will allow community members and stakeholders to lodge complaints or ask questions about any of the project activities. The Safeguards Specialist will regularly report on the implementation of the IPPF/PF to the Project Manager, in accordance with the indicators suggested in Section 9.1 of Chapter 9.

### **IPP & Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) Preparation & Implementation**

The project is required to prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) under WWF’s Policy on Indigenous People for each subprojects site where IPs have been identified (through screening and social assessment) to be affected by the project. The IPPs will specify the plan of activities, including consultation, support (such as training, grants, logistical assistance and so forth) that has been agreed, as well as monitoring and evaluation information. The IPP shall be prepared prior to the implementation of activities at each site. During IPP implementation, PMU and Safeguards Specialist shall (i) make use of appropriate IP mechanisms and structures (IPOs) at the municipality /ward level (refer to section 6.3) and; (ii) undertake specific activities, that will enable indigenous groups to meaningfully engage in sub-project activities. Similarly, a livelihood restoration plan (LRP) is required where the project will restrict land uses and access to natural and community resources of residents of the project area resulting loss of source of income and livelihood. The LRP shall be prepared following the guidelines of the participatory processes specified in the Process Framework (PF) for determining eligibility criteria and proposed measures to assist affected persons and communities.

The IPP and LRP may require updating should unanticipated impacts occur: (i) when newly identified indigenous peoples in the project area are found affected, (ii) when new types or scales of impacts/access restrictions from project activities are detected. PMU shall assess the significance of impacts and identify measures to mitigate these and ensure that benefits accrue to affected communities.

The table 6 below summarizes the role and responsibilities of implementing the measures recommended in this IPPF/IPPs and PF/LRPs.

**Table 6 IPPF/IPP & PF/LRP Institutional Framework**

<b>Entity</b>	<b>IPPF/IPP responsibilities</b>
WWF GEF Agency	Overall supervision and oversight of the IPPF/IPPs & PF/LRP
PMU Project Manager with technical input from Safeguards Specialist at National level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and approve Indigenous peoples plan (IPPs) and LRP, ensuring that the IPPs and LRPs are consistent with IPPF and PF respectively;</li> <li>• Coordinate the preparation of IPPs/LRPs and forward them to WWF-GEF Agency for review and no objection;</li> <li>• Orient and support, as needed, the Safeguard Consultants at Field Office on their tasks relative to screening, social assessment, FPIC and preparing, updating, and implementing IPPs and LRPs;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure budget for preparing and implementing IPPs and LRPs, ensuring that funds are available in a timely manner;</li> <li>• Monitor the implementation of IPPs and LRPs; ensuring that this is carried out in compliance with the project IPPF and PF respectively following WWF Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures and GoN rules and regulations;</li> <li>• Ensure Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is ascertained in project areas where IPs are affected;</li> <li>• Ensure all grievances related to IPPF and PF are dealt with promptly. Upon receipt of a grievance, the Safeguards specialist will hold meetings with local communities or individuals, to discuss the issues and develop amicable solutions which will be implemented by PMU;</li> <li>• Ensure all local communities are aware the project activities and the implications of conservation management of critical corridors and BZ forests including provisions of grievance redress mechanism (GRM) of the project.</li> </ul>
<p>Site level safeguards Consultants (consultancy basis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake screening for presence of IP communities and likely access restrictions to local communities and prepare report for submission to PMU;</li> <li>• Based on the findings of screening, conduct social assessment (if required) and draft IPP and LRP and submit to PMU for review and endorsement;</li> <li>• Hold meaningful consultation with stakeholders and affected IPs and local communities and maintain documentation of all consultations specifying key issues raised, responses provided and measures taken to address all applicable issues raised;</li> <li>• With support of Safeguards Specialist at National level ascertain FPIC from affected IPs and document the process and procedures adopted;</li> <li>• Prepare database of affected IP households and other affected people due to access restrictions and socioeconomic information gathered during the preparation and updating of the IPP and LRP;</li> <li>• Ensure WWF Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures are complied with;</li> <li>• Facilitate a sustained public information campaign, ensuring that the public, especially the affected households, are updated on any developments regarding the project and IPP and LRP activities including GRM processes and procedures;</li> <li>• Receive and act on the complaints and grievances of affected households in accordance with the IPPF/IPP and PF/LRP;</li> <li>• Maintain a record of all public meetings, grievances, and actions taken to address complaints and grievances;</li> <li>• Monitor and prepare progress reports on IPP and LRP implementation.</li> </ul>

## 9. MONITORING AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Project Management Unit (PMU) established under MOFE will prepare and implement IPPs and livelihood restoration plans (LRP) and other mitigation measures recommended in the process framework (PF), if there are any impacts on indigenous communities including access restriction and impact on livelihoods. The main purpose of monitoring is to ensure that all expected measures of IPPs and LRP will be implemented in accordance with policies and procedures spelled out in this IPPF and PF.

### 9.1 Purpose and Indicators

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will execute the project specific IPPs and LRPs as per this IPPF and PF. Compliance Monitoring will be conducted to include establishment and maintenance of an IP database, socioeconomic profile of access restriction affected peoples and monitoring arrangements to (a) track engagement of indigenous groups and affected peoples in the various project activities, and; (b) determine whether IPPs and LRP and other mitigation measures were implemented as planned, and in accordance with the IPPF and PF. The PMU will coordinate monitoring of implementation of the IPPs and LRP and other provisions spelled out in the IPPF & PF. The monitoring findings and recommendations relating to IPs and access restricted households including forest dependent communities will be included in the periodic reports from the PMU to WWF GEF Agency. The project will conduct internal as well as external/independent monitoring to ensure that IPPs and LRPs have been implemented as planned, and in accordance with the IPPF and PF.

#### Internal monitoring

The PMU Project Manager with technical input from the Safeguards Specialist has responsibility for internal monitoring in the implementation progress of IPPs and LRPs. The PMU will prepare monitoring reports on a quarterly basis. Some of the key indicators for periodic monitoring of IPPs and LRP and IPPF and PF include:

- Ensure that all negative impacts of the project on IPs are mitigated, minimized or compensated in compliance with IPPF and IPP.
- Ensure that measures of benefit maximization and adverse impact mitigation are implemented in culturally appropriate way for IPs.
- Identify whether the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for IP communities are conducted in a culturally appropriate manner with proper documentation.
- Determine if grievance procedures are followed according to the IPPF and suggest solutions if there are pending issues.
- Ensure that progress of implementation of mitigation/beneficial measures happen in a timely manner and confirm that affected IPs have been provided with all support packages (livelihood and income restoration, skill development etc.) as planned in IPPs.
- For LRPs and other measures of PF, the monitoring indicators should cover areas such as (1) basic information on affected persons' households, (2) restoration of living standards and livelihoods, (3) levels of affected persons' satisfaction determined by number of grievances registered, and (4) effectiveness of restoration planning. These indicators may be verified from various sources such as field inspections, site reports, special project audits, annual monitoring and so on.

The purpose of monitoring will be achieved through continuous internal monitoring of process indicators and outputs of the PMU against the set objectives of an IPP. Monitoring reports will summarize progress of implementation of IPP and LRP activities and any compliance issues and corrective actions required. The monitoring reports should clarify whether IPP and LRP goals have been achieved, whether livelihoods and living standards of affected IPs and local communities have been restored/enhanced. Appropriate recommendations for improvement also need to be included in monitoring reports. Any problems or issues should be identified and adaptively managed. All reports will be submitted WWF GEF Agency for review and their monitoring purposes.

### **External independent monitoring**

An independent consultant recruited by the Executing Agency will be responsible for the independent monitoring and evaluation. The external monitoring will be conducted by an expert consultant specialized in social science. Key indicators of external monitoring and evaluation are presented as follow:

- Effectiveness of public consultation and awareness of project benefits, and livelihood enhancement measures entitled to the affected IPs and local peoples;
- Level of satisfaction of affected IPs and local peoples with the provisions of IPPF and PF and IPP and LRP;
- Effectiveness and efficiency of grievance redress mechanism (documentation, process, resolution);
- Effectiveness and sustainability of entitlements and income rehabilitation measures for affected IPs and local peoples;
- Process followed to obtain broad community support through FPIC —record of processes, participants, locations and agreement obtained;
- Capacity of affected IPs and local peoples to restore/re-establish livelihoods and living standards with the support provided by the project;
- Suitability of actions undertaken for mitigation and compensation of access restriction and livelihood impacts due to project;
- Appropriateness of activities planned and implemented for assuring IPs and affected people's participation in IPP and LRP planning and implementation;
- Institutional capacity for supporting the IPP and LRP elaboration and implementation, internal monitoring and reporting systems;
- Channeling of funds for compensation of loss of income and livelihoods and allowances for affected IPs and local communities.

## **10. BUDGET AND FINANCING**

All costs related with IPP and PF/LRP planning will be executed as part of the proposed project. The MOFE will ensure that there are sufficient resources to cover all costs related to the screening of IPs and affected peoples due to access restriction in project areas. In addition,



the subsequent social assessment and preparation and implementation of IPP and LRP including its supervision and monitoring will be included in the project budget.

It is proposed that costs be earmarked for an environmental and social safeguards specialist (consultant or staff) to work with the PMU and the field office for the full 5 years of the project period (included in project staff table 6 above) (\$86,000 for 5 years). Budget for travel costs and workshops and meetings for safeguards monitoring (including travel, workshops and meetings) will be included in the overall monitoring and evaluation budget under Component 4. USD 45,000 under Component 3 will support the implementation of the Process Framework and the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (including third party fees and services).

## 11. Recommendations

The safeguard plans--IPPF/IPP and PF/LRP for the proposed GEF financed project are an important means of ensuring the processes initiated through the Project activities are aligned with the WWF and GEF safeguard requirements, both as part of the design and preparation, and throughout the implementation of the project. The following recommendations are proposed for effective and efficient planning, implementation and supervision of IPPF/IPP and PF/LRP.

**Indigenous people should be considered as development partners:** The project should consider the Indigenous People's Organizations (IPOs) of affected IPs living in the project area as partners and should be engaged meaningfully while planning, implementing and monitoring project activities including IPPs and LRPs.

**Responsibilities and Personnel for Safeguards:** Overall responsibility for coordination of the project activities including safeguards compliance rests with the Project Manager of the Project Management Unit (PMU). In addition, the PMU will hire a safeguards specialist to coordinate the day to day execution of safeguards related planning, execution and compliance monitoring. It is recommended that the PMU should hire a safeguards specialist to provide technical input and to coordinate project field office, forest and NP offices at project sites for planning, implementation and compliance monitoring and reporting of the safeguard aspects of the project.

The site level safeguards related activities as per the IPPF and the PF will be carried out by consultants.

**Capacity building:** The WWF GEF Agency will provide training to the Safeguards Specialist hired at the PMU on WWF's Environment and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP). The training will include issues such as FPIC process and procedures, community consultation and documentation, screening, social assessment, formulation of IPP and LRP etc. For PMU staff and consultants and field office staff and concerned staff of the line ministry participating in project implementation, training should be conducted on an ongoing basis.

**Community Consultation and FPIC:** Carrying out FPIC is integral to the proposed project and needs to be conducted throughout the life of the project. FPIC is a requirement under WWF's Policy on Indigenous Peoples, as the project has indigenous stakeholders identified at each of the targeted NP buffer zones and corridors. The FPIC requirement includes process, procedures and documentation of a higher order than has currently been documented during the preparation of IPPF and PF along with project preparation. Additional effort should be made to provide IP community representatives with a description of project activities, benefits, and impacts, presented in a manner that is accessible and appropriate to community representatives' education levels and to the cultural context. In particular, related to IP and other stakeholder consultation, advanced planning with deliberate steps to provide project information in appropriate forms (format, frequency, composition etc.), and documenting the process including IP stakeholder input, feedback and any project adaptations to IP (or other stakeholder input), should be ensured.

**Baseline Data:** During the preparation stage of the project, socio-economic data of the communities that will be targeted under the project has been collected. However, for each site, there are gaps in the socio-economic baseline data, particularly related to the economic status of potentially-affected peoples. Therefore, it is recommended under the project execution that in order to monitor household economic conditions of the affected IPs, and to assess the impacts of LRPs and other project supports under Component 3, baseline data needs to be collected during the first three months of project execution when sites are known. In particular, community profiles of the Indigenous People and local communities who may be impacted by control of forest encroachment, control or banning open grazing and management of grassland and wetland in the project targeted NP buffer zones and corridors, should be updated and specified and quantified as much as possible. It is recommended that baseline data is collected while doing biodiversity surveys, socio-economic surveys, and local stakeholder consultation for targeted PA buffer zones and corridors under Component 2.1 and 2.2. The baseline data collected will further be updated and specified before and during execution of IPP and LRP.

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## Annexes

### Annex 1 Indigenous Peoples in Nepal and their Level of Marginalization

Ecological Zone	Categories of Indigenous Groups/Nationalities/Adivasi Janajatis					Total
	Endangered	Highly Marginalized	Marginalized	Disadvantaged	Advantaged	
<b>Mountain</b>		Shiyar, Shingsawa (Lhomi), and Thudam	Bhote, Dolpo, Larke, Lhopa, Mugali, Tokpegola, and Walung	Bara Gaule, Byansi (Sauka), Chhairotan, Maparphali Thakali, Sherpa, Tangbe, and Tingaunle Thakali	Thakali	<b>18</b>
<b>Hill</b>	Bankariya, Hayu, Kusbadiya, Kusunda, Lepcha, and Surel	Baramu, Thami (Thangmi), and Chepang	Bhujel, Dura, Pahari, Phree, Sunuwar, and Tamang	Chhantyal, Gurung (Tamu), Jirel, Limbu (Yakthumba), Magar, Rai, Yakkha, & Hyolmo	Newar	<b>24</b>
<b>Inner Terai</b>	Raji, and Raute	Bote, Danuwar, and Majhi	Darai, and Kumal			<b>7</b>
<b>Terai</b>	Kisan, and Meche (Bodo)	Dhanuk (Rajbansi), Jhangad, and Santhal (Satar)	Dhimal, Gangai, Rajbansi (Koch), Tajpuriya, and Tharu			<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>

Source: The National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFIN) 2005

## Annex 2 Indigenous Peoples Impact Screening Checklist

<b>Name of ( sub)project</b>		<b>Province Name:</b>	
<b>District:</b>	<b>Municipality:</b>	<b>Ward No:</b>	
<b>Village/Tol:</b>			
<b>Brief description of the proposed Activities under the (sub)project:</b>			
<b>Impact on indigenous peoples (IPs))</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Please provide brief description on either response</b>
1. Are any of IP groups identified by GoN (see annex 1 for the list of IPs) present in and around proposed (sub) project locations?			If yes, provide name of communities, ethnicity, inhabiting in and around the project area
2. Will the project activities directly or indirectly affect indigenous peoples?			If yes, provide the estimated number of people to be affected by the project
3. Will the proposed (sub)project interventions and activities including of designation of protected area and community conservation area, ban on open grazing, encroachment on community forest, national forest, corridor forest restrict to access to private assets (farm land, houses) and public resources (forest, sources of drinking and irrigation water)?			If yes, provide the details of restrictions caused by the project activities
4. Will the proposed project activities cause a change to their socioeconomic and cultural interrelationship and mutual dependency among themselves and with other communities?			If yes, provide the details
5. Will the proposed project interventions and activities possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?			If yes, describe how?

6. Will the proposed project interventions and activities positively affect their livelihoods?		If yes, list out the key positive impacts
7. Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?		If yes, provide detail briefly.
8. Will the proposed project interventions and activities alter or undermine the recognition of indigenous people knowledge, skill, technology, and learning practices		If yes, describe briefly
9. Will the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?		If yes, describe briefly
10. Will there be loss of incomes and livelihoods as a result of the proposed project interventions and activities?		If yes, provide details briefly.
11. Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?		If yes, describe briefly.
<p>Summarize the screening findings (based on responses of the questions particularly (3-5 &amp; 7-11)).</p> <p>If the answer for questions 3-5 and 7-11 is a 'Yes', then the proposed project activities will have significant impacts on indigenous people and required detailed social impact assessment and designing of IPP.</p>		

### **Annex 3: An Outline for an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)**

The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) shall be prepared in a flexible and pragmatic manner, and its level of detail varies depending on the specific project and the nature of effects to be addressed. The IPP shall include the following elements at minimum:

1. A project description that will provide a general description of the project; discusses project components and activities that may bring impacts on IPs and identify project area.
2. A summary of the legal and institutional framework applicable to Indigenous Peoples in the area and a brief description of the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities, the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend.
3. A summary of the social assessment
4. A summary of results of the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities that was carried out during project preparation and that led to broad community support for the project.
5. A framework for ensuring free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities during project implementation.
6. An action plan of measures to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate, including, if necessary, measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.
7. When potential adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples are identified, an appropriate action plan of measures to avoid, minimizes, mitigate, or compensate for these adverse impacts.
8. Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities arising from project implementation. When designing the grievance procedures, the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among the Indigenous Peoples need to be taken into account.
9. Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the IPP. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should include arrangements for the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities.
10. The cost estimates and financing plan for the IPP implementation.



## Annex 4 Details of the Participants of Consultation Meetings 26 July- 2 August, 2018

### Preparation of IPP Framework/Process Framework Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors Attendance of the Participants of Consultations with Project Affected Communities & Stakeholders

Venue of the Consultation: जिल्ला वन कार्यालय, काठमाडौं Date: आश्वी ११, २०७५  
Types of Community/Stakeholder: DFO, FECOFUN, NEFIN, NGOs, CFUGs July 27, 2018

SN	Full Name with Surname	Gender	Position/Occupation/ Business	Office/or Affiliated Organization	Contract Phone or /Email	Signature
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3.	MOHAN CHAND	11		CCN	9868328924	
4.	Laxmi saud	female		fecofun	9848725299	
5.	Premwati Rana	11		Nefane	9848783193	
6.	Gopal Datta Joshi	male	Assistant F.O.	DFO Kathmandu	9785202050	
7.	Jibakha Yadav	male	11	DFO Kathmandu	9859751172	
8.	Kishan Nepal	male		B.S.B. outorg	9806493263	
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10.						
11.						
12.						

### Preparation of IPP Framework/Process Framework Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors Attendance of the Participants of Consultations with Project Affected Communities & Stakeholders

Venue of the Consultation: अन्न सा.व. वेम्कोट गा.पा.ली.डु. ६, ८ गा.सा.व. काठमाडौं Date: आश्वी ११, २०७५  
Types of Community/Stakeholder: आदिवासी र साव-उपभोक्ता July 27, 2018

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3.	कमला मडु	म.		11 11 11	9849760142	
4.	प्रेम दि बोट्टा	पु		11 11 11	9805292052	
5.	शम्भु विष्ट	पु.		11 11 11	9806453361	
6.	प्रेम सुकुडु	पु		11 11 11	9858022099	
7.	मान दि माल	पु.		11 11 11	9868461090	
8.	नय व. ठगुन्ना	पु.		11 11 11	9855774291	
9.	महेन्द्र राज जोशी	पु.		11 11 11	9806404342	
10.	असन्ती चुन्दा	म.			9848780419	
11.						
12.						

**Preparation of IPP Framework/Process Framework  
Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors  
Attendance of the Participants of Consultations with Project Affected Communities & Stakeholders**

Venue of the Consultation: वन अभ्येक्ता महासंघ, कैलाली  
Types of Community/Stakeholder: सा.व. उपभोक्ता, आदीवासी जनजाति

Date: 2075/4/12  
28 July 2018

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9.						
10.						

**Preparation of IPP Framework/Process Framework  
Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors  
Attendance of the Participants of Consultations with Project Affected Communities & Stakeholders**

Venue of the Consultation: सेक्टर वनकार्यालय वल्लोक कैलाली  
Types of Community/Stakeholder: FECOFUN, NEFIN, DFO, NGO(BAFERC)

Date: 12 भाद्र 2075  
28 July 2018

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15.	रम श. रावल	"	अध्यक्ष	सती खड्का	9848484848	[Signature]
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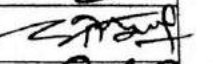


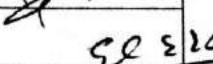
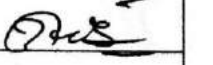
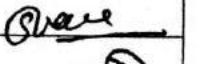
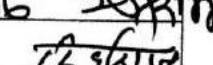


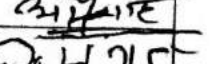
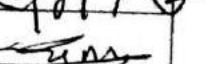
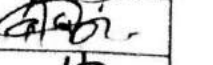
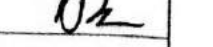



SN	Full Name with Surname	Gender	Position/Occupation/ Business	Office/or Affiliated Organization	Contract Phone or /Email	Signature
18.	प्रमना रावल	महिला	माइक्रोम संयोजक	जाफर ताला	9814663499	
19.	जलबहापुर विप्रवर्क	पुरुष	लैबोराल	श्री खोटेना प्रुग्ना क	9848440646	
20.	श्याम खत्री	11	अध्यक्ष	11	9848516240	
21.	राजेश भठ्ठा	11	स्थानीय क-के इकाई	गणेशनाथ मारवाडी सा.सं.	9848559718	
22.	विक्रम राज गड	पुरुष	इ.टी.ओ कर्मचारी	व.स. क.स.	9848484699	
23.	लाडन चौधरी	पुरुष	इ.टी.ओ कर्मचारी	व.स. क.स.	9848500352	
24.	चमड़े खोटेना	पुरुष	इ.टी.ओ कर्मचारी	व.स. क.स.	9848484892	
25.	प्रमोद साठे	पुरुष	मिन्टाल रिक्वाय	मार्केटिंग	9848484892	
26.	कुमारी साठे	मं	कर्मचारी	जाफर ताला	9848484892	
27.						

आज मिति मंसिर-१५-२०७२ का दिन युथ एलायन्स फर इन्भारोमेन्ट ले GEF-6 Integrated landscape management to secure Nepal's protected Areas & critical Corridors in TAL, ProDoc Development process अर्न्तगत संस्थाको नाम: (बाफे नेपाल) मा प्रति: उपरोक्त संस्थाको नाम संग छलफल गर्‍यो। उक्त छलफलमा निम्न सहभागिता रह‍यो।

क्र.स	नाम	संस्था/समुदाय	फोन न	हस्ताक्षर
१.	राजा राजु चौधरी	देशिये साठ बन्नु	९७४४४४८४५	
२.	रंगु कदाहुर रावल	कौपिताथि.व.३.५	९८८४४६०८५	
३.	डोमिता बगल मगर	पुलिमा स.व.	९८०४६०४६६६	
४.	सुनिल श.श.पा.मगर	पुलिमा स.व.	९८४६४४४६६	
५.	खेम श.श.मगर	चेतना सा.व.	९८४४४६०६०	
६.	पविल श.श.मगर	चेतना सा.व.	९८००६९४४४	
७.	भद्रा झाडी	BAFER Nepal	९८६६४४९६००	
८.	ममता रावल	BAFER-Nepal	९८५४६६३४४५	
९.	गंगा जेम्मी	हाथियाली गल्ली	९८४४४३६४५	
१०.	भगवती झाडी	BAFER Nepal	९८४४४६९४६६	
११.	रंजित श.श.मगर	लालीगुराँस लोकतन्त्र	९८००५५५५५	
१२.	पद्म श.श.मगर	राजकुमार श.श.मगर	९८४४४४४४४	
१३.	शम स्वल्प चौधरी	परदिना श.श.मगर	९८४४४४४४४	
१४.	डा.जि.श.श.मगर	BAFER Nepal	९८४४४४४४४	
१५.	सविता लाम	सस्ती म.सा.व.	९८४४४४४४४	
१६.	खेम झाडी	मानव श.श.मगर	९८४४४४४४४	
१७.	बाला श.श.मगर	शान्ति श.श.मगर	९८४४४४४४४	
१८.	श.श.मगर	शान्ति श.श.मगर	९८४४४४४४४	
१९.	इन्द्रा कदाहुर मगर	मानव श.श.मगर	९८४४४४४४४	
२०.	हरि प्रसाद मगर	WBF	९८४४४४४४४	



आज मिति शुक्रबार १९ का दिन युथ एलायन्स फर इन्भारोमेन्ट ले GEF-6 Integrated landscape management to secure Nepal's protected Areas & critical Corridors in TAL, ProDoc Development process अन्तर्गत रिक्वायर्स मा स्थापना २०७३/७४ सँग छलफल गर्‍यो । उक्त छलफलमा निम्न सहभागिता रह्यो ।

क्र.स	नाम	संस्था/समुदाय	फोन न	हस्ताक्षर
१.	बलबहादुर वि. कु.	खैटेनापुरावनी	९८५८५५०६५	
२	श्रीम लाल सुनार	मैदैनपुरवा सा. वन	९८७७८५१९८९	
२	मंगल पुन मगर	मैदैनपुरवा सा. वन	९८०५६३०३९	
४.	भूमवती झांगला	BUFFER Nepal	९८५८५५०६५	
२	भागी राज चौधरी	मैदैनपुरवा सा. वन	९८५९६३८०९६	
६	एचि हृदय जिती	सा. मा. व. उ. वि. च. व. व. व.	९९६९७६०३१२	
६	आरती शाह	श्रीमती लक्ष्मी सा. व.	९८६८७८२२९६	
८.	स्मीता बाबल	श्री शही कौशली सा. व.	९८६९७१२५६१	
९	मनि राम कुडुना	श्री शही कौशली सा. व.	९८५८५५०६५	
१०	दिप राज डपाध्याय	ड. व. का. जगतपुरा	९८४८४४९०९६	
११.	यज्ञ उज डपाध्याय	पत्रकार	९८६९९९३०९२	
१२.	पद्म प्रसाद सोपौडा	पत्रकार	९८४८४४९०९६	
१३.	आरती शाह	श्री शही कौशली सा. व.	९८६९७१२५६१	
१४	चर्च राज गौरी	श्री शही कौशली सा. व.	९८६९७१२५६१	
१५	धनराज साउद	श्री शही कौशली सा. व.	९८६९७१२५६१	
१६	दीर्घ बहादुर तिमबा	जनबलिदा	९८५८५५०६५	
१६.	एचि प्रसाद महुडा	WWF	९८५८५५०६५	

आज मिति २०७२-०८-१४ का दिन युथ एलायन्स फर इन्भारोमेन्ट ले GEF-6 Integrated landscape management to secure Nepal's protected Areas & critical Corridors in TAL, ProDoc Development process अर्न्तगत सोनाढा, पाल्पा मा सोनाढा, पाल्पा संग छलफल गयो। उक्त छलफलमा निम्न सहभागिता रहयो।

क्र.स	नाम	संस्था/समुदाय	फोन न	हस्ताक्षर
१	कुमल्ल सोनाढा	सोनाढा	९८९५५३६३०६	कुमल्ल
२	सुखीराम थापा	सोनाढा	९८९६६६०००	सुखीराम
३	रेणुका सोनाढा	सोनाढा	९८६२९९९९	रेणुका
४	प्रकाश थापा	पाल्पा	९८१०२०७९६	प्रकाश
५	देवु थापा	वन्देया, वजोवा	९८४२९५९२६९	देवु
६	कालु राम थापा	वन्देया, वजोवा	९८९४२६६६६६	कालु राम
७	नाम लखने चौधरी	वन्देया, वजोवा	९८०३६६३९३९	नाम
८	बोधि राम थापा	" "		बोधि राम
९	करम बहादुर थापा	पाल्पा उ. समिति	९८४८०८०८८८	करम
१०	सुधं. सिंह	व. री. नि, रेणुका	९८६६००४९६	सुधं
११	याम बहादुर थापा	पाल्पा उ. समिति	९८४८०२६८९२	याम
१२	हरि गजपति	OWP Center	९८५४६२२५	हरि

**Preparation of IPP Framework/Process Framework  
Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors  
Attendance of the Participants of Consultations with Project Affected Communities & Stakeholders**

Venue of the Consultation: Bank National Park, Western Sector  
Types of Community/Stakeholder: FECOFUN, National Park, NTNC

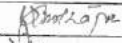

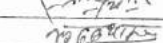
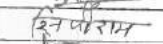
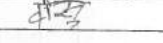

Date: 16/4/2018  
01 August 2018

SN	Full Name with Surname	Gender	Position/Occupation/ Business	Office/or Affiliated Organization	Contract Phone or /Email	Signature
1.	Manoj Gautam	M	Program Assistant	NTNC	9848032607	Manoj
2.	Kunharayan Chaudhary	"	Ranger	BANP.	9848303448	Kunharayan
3.	Symod K. Yeda	"	Asst. of.	BANP.	9845682260	Symod
4.	Anil Kumar Ram	"	Ranger	BANP	9845036596	Anil
5.	Rabin Chaudhary	"	Asst. Conservation	BANP	9853025145	Rabin
6.	Sabitra Puri	F	Chairperson KRZA	FECOFUN	9858043911	Sabitra
7.	Lokendra Bar-Nahri	M	Deurali Municipality	BRAC	9867922940	Lokendra
8.						
9.						

**Preparation of IPP Framework/Process Framework  
Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's PAs and Critical Corridors  
Attendance of the Participants of Consultations with Project Affected Communities & Stakeholders**

Venue of the Consultation: डुडुवा - ५ जयपुरा  
Types of Community/Stakeholder: आदिवासी समुह

Date: १६/०८/२०१८  
02 August 2018

SN	Full Name with Surname	Gender	Position/Occupation/ Business	Office/or Affiliated Organization	Contract Phone or /Email	Signature
1.	Banshan Shapa	M.		Nepal Bank	9848027618	
2.	Shanku Bdr Shapa	"		Nepal Bank	9819570187	
3.	Lal Bdr Shapa Magar	M		Nepal Bank	9848023296	
4.	Shukhu Shaha	M		Ward Member	9815568508	
5.	C. M. Shaha			C. C. Ward	9819576042	
6.	B. B. Shaha			C. F. Ward	9819521209	
7.						
8.						

## Annex 5 Photographic Glimpses of Consultation Meetings



*Photograph 1 Discussion with Representatives of IPs, CFUG and Forest Officials, Kanchanpur*



*Photograph 2: Discussion with IP leaders in NEFIN Office, Kanchanpur*





Photograph 3 FGD with CFUG Members of Amarpur CF, Brahmdev Corridor, Kanchanpur



Photograph 4: Discussion with Representatives of NEFIN and FECOFUN, Dhangadhi, Kailali



*Photograph 5: Discussion with Representatives of CFUGs, IPOs & NGOs working in Karnali Corridor*



*Photograph 6: FGD with CFUG Members of Karnali Bardiya NP Complex*



*Photograph 7: Discussion with Representatives of CFUGs, BZCFUCs, CoFMGs & IPOs in Tikapur*



*Photograph 8: Discussion with IPs (Sonaha, Tharus) and BZ CFUC Members in BZ of Bardiya NP*





*Photograph 9: FGD with Graver Valley Homestay Management Committee, Banke*



*Photograph 10: Interview with Chairperson and Members of Chinchu UC, BZ of Bardiya NP*



*Photograph 11: Meetings with IP Leaders of Banke district & Kamdi Corridors*