



Global Environment Facility

Leonard Good

Chief Executive Officer
and Chairman

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March 8, 2004

Dear Council Member,

UNDP, as the Implementing Agency for the project, *Nepal: Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex*, has submitted the attached proposed project document for CEO endorsement prior to final approval of the project document in accordance with UNDP procedures.

The Secretariat has reviewed the project document. It is consistent with the proposal approved by the Council in October 2002, and the proposed project remains consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures. The attached explanation prepared by UNDP satisfactorily details how Council's comments and those of the STAP have been addressed. I am, therefore, endorsing the project document.

We have today posted the proposed project document on the GEF website at www.gefweb.org. If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of the World Bank or UNDP to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

cc: Alternate, Implementing Agencies, STAP



27 February 2004

len
Dear Mr. Good,

Subject: BD/OP-3 "Nepal: Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex" – PIMS no. 1831

I am pleased to attach herewith the above-mentioned project document. The brief was approved at the GEF Council Meeting in October 2002. Also attached are the co-financing letters from UNDP, Government of Nepal/Ministry of Finance, SNV, WWF – Nepal, IPGRI, NARC, LI-BIRD and. This project did not receive any Council comments.

As per paragraph 29 and 30 of the GEF Project Cycle, we are submitting this project document for circulation to the members of the GEF Council and, subsequently, for your final endorsement.

Thank you in advance for expediting the review and endorsement of this project.

Yours sincerely,

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Pinto', is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Pinto
Executive Coordinator

Mr. Leonard Good
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman
Global Environment Facility
Room G6005
1776 G Street
Washington D.C. 20433

Cc: Mr. Tito Santos, Portfolio Manager, BD & IW Kuala Lumpur, UNDP-GEF

Cover Note

Nepal: Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex; Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (UNDP)

GEF: \$3.550 million; Total Project Costs: \$13.109 Million

ISSUES AND RESPONSE	Reference in the Project Document and GEF Brief
Council Comments at the Pipeline entry:	
No comments were received from the Council at the pipeline entry.	
Convention Secretariat:	
No comments.	
GEF Secretariat:	
Replicability strategy UNDP's assurance that it will continue through the project	See Section 2 d page 103 See Section 2 Annex 2R page 162
Other IAs and Relevant EAs:	
No comments.	
STAP:	
Review by Expert from STAP Roster	
Comments have been fully addressed in the GEF Brief.	See Section 2, Annex 2 Sii
Council Comments at the Approval:	
<u>Comments from Germany:</u> Germany supports this project without any further comments.	

Since the submission and approval of the GEF brief, significant positive changes in the policies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal have taken place. Also during the course of drafting the project document with the partners several other issues and clarifications regarding the information in the GEF Brief have emerged. They have been reflected in the Project Document. In the section below they are highlighted to ensure the validity of the GEF Brief as a working document at the moment of programme inception. These amendments have not caused any fundamental changes to the programme design.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE APPROVAL OF THE GEF BRIEF	Reference in the Project Document and GEF Brief
1 b Country Driveness: 1. The <i>Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)</i> has been endorsed and supports a landscape approach to	Section 2, p. 76 Section 2, Annex 2 F

<p>conservation and sustainable use; it also supports agrobiodiversity conservation and use; it has further identified the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) as the priority area for action.</p> <p>3. The <i>Nepal Biodiversity Strategy</i> (NBS, endorsed by Cabinet on 9 August 2002) espouses a holistic, ecosystem approach to conservation and sustainable use, including agricultural biodiversity.</p> <p>4. The <i>Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal</i> (endorsed by Cabinet in July 2003) is in full conformity with the NBS; places high prominence on Conservation of Biodiversity at Landscape Level, Agricultural Biodiversity and Management of Natural Forests and Protected Areas; it argues that environmental conservation is an intrinsic and inviolable party to prospects of poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>5. Formulation of a <i>Strategic Plan for the Terai Arc Landscape (2003-2012)</i> is underway. The long-term Strategic Plan will provide the enabling policy environment for WTLCP and will suggest institutional mechanisms for integrated landscape planning.</p>	
<p>2b i Sector issues, root causes, threats, barriers, etc. affecting global environment</p> <p>The wetland in Kailali, Ghoda Ghodi Tal, was included in the Ramsar List in September 2003.</p>	<p>Section 2, p. 77</p>
<p>2 b vi Incremental Cost Estimation</p> <p>Incremental Cost Matrix has been revised. This is a result of discussions with all partners and the government. UNDP's inputs will now be provided for all four outcomes and GEF's inputs have been adjusted accordingly. Discussions with the IPGRI, NARC and Li-BIRD have clarified the nature of their in-kind inputs, e.g. IPGRI's inputs are much more policy related than was understood at the time of GEF Brief submission. Total allocations per partner remain unchanged.</p>	<p>Revised Incremental Cost Matrix (ICM) is attached as Annex 1.6 of Section 1, p. 64 These changes have also been incorporated in the Section 1, Part II, Results Framework, p. 3</p> <p>The revised ICM replaces the following chapters in the Section 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 b vi Incremental Cost Estimation, p. 94 • 3 a i Financing plan, p. 109 • Annex 2 F Incremental Cost Analysis, p. 128 •
<p>Logical Framework Matrix for the Western Terai Landscape Project</p> <p>Indicators and some activities have been adjusted to take</p>	<p>Section 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 b ii Project Logical Framework, p. 86

<p>into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the policies and strategies as discussed above • Prevailing conflict and its impact would need to be part of the items taken onboard during inception phase. This is particularly important for ensuring that the programme can work in conflict and ensure sustainable processes for mitigating conflict in those areas. Indeed we are now proposing that the first 12 months of the programme would now be seen as an inception phase towards the end of which field activities 	<p>Framework, p. 86</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 2 A, p. 116
<p>Project Cost Breakdown</p>	<p>Revised Project Cost Breakdown is attached Annex 1.7 of Section 1, It replaces Section 2, Annex 2P of the brief entirely.</p>



**United Nations Development Programme
Project of His Majesty's Government of Nepal
DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT**

Project Number: NEP/02/013(TRAC); NEP/03/GXX (GEF)
 Project Title: Western Terai Landscape Complex Project
 Project Short Title: WTLCP
 Estimated Start Date: 01 January 2004
 Estimated End Date: 31 December 2011
 Management Arrangement: National Execution (NEX)
 Designated Institution: Ministry of Forrest and Soil Conservation, Foreign Aid Coordination Division
 UN Implementing Agency: UNDP
 Beneficiary Country: Nepal
 Project Site: National/Kanchanpur, Kailali And Bardia
 Project Officer: Lisa Singh
 LPAC Approval Date: 16 September 2003

Summary of UNDP & co-financing Inputs as per attached budget	
UNDP/GEF:	
TRAC	\$1,731,739
GEF	\$3,312,278
Block - B Preparatory Funding	\$237,400
Subtotal:	\$5,281,417
Parallel and in-kind inputs for WTLCP:	
<i>Government contribution (in kind)</i>	
HMGN	\$2,613,995
Block B - Preparatory Co-financing	\$44,150
<i>Parallel funding</i>	
SNV	\$2,471,881
WWF-Nepal	\$1,551,390
IPGRI	\$1,081,000
NARC	\$50,000
LI-BIRD	\$15,000
Subtotal:	\$5,169,271
Total (parallel and in-kind):	\$7,827,416
GRAND TOTAL:	\$13,108,833

ACC Sector and Sub-sector:	20 Environment/10 Environment Policies Planning And Legislation
Area of Focus	
Primary Areas of Focus:	03 Promoting Environment and Natural Resources Sustainability
Primary Areas of Sub-focus:	19 Promotion of sustainable natural resource management
Primary Target Beneficiaries	01 Target Groups/04- Other/ 36 Population at large
Strategic Area of Support	Policy Framework and Institutional Framework
Strategic Results Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A comprehensive approach to environmentally sustainable development integrated in national development planning and linked to poverty reduction. 2. Improved capacity of selected institutions for integrated management of energy and natural resources that respond to the needs of poor women and men. 3. Institutional capacity created and enhanced for management of protected areas, bufferzones, and biodiversity-rich areas in productive areas

On behalf of:

Signature

Date

Name/Title

**Government:
(MOF)**

**Designated Institution:
(MFSC)**

UNDP:

Acronyms

APP	Agriculture Perspective Plan	LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
BCP	Bardia Conservation Project	LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
BICP	Bardia Integrated Conservation Project	MFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
BSC	Bardia sub-complex	MoF	Ministry of Finance
BZ	Bufferzone	MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MoPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
CBO	Community based organization	NABC	National Agrobiodiversity Committee
CFUG	Community Forest User Group	NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
CMU	Central Management Unit	NBS	Nepal Biodiversity Strategy
DADO	District Agriculture Development Officer	NGO	Non-governmental organization
DDC	District Development Committee	NPC	National Planning Commission
DFCC	District Forest Coordination Committee	NPD	National Programme Director
DFO	District Forest Officer	PA	Protected Areas
DLO	District Livestock Office	PCP	Participatory Conservation Program
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	PDDP	Participatory District Development Program
DoA	Department of Agriculture	PMC	Project Management Committee
DoF	Department of Forests	PPP	Parks and People Program
DoLS	Department of Livestock Services	PSC	Project Steering Committee
DSCWM	Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management	RBNP	Royal Bardia National Park
HMG/Nepal	His Majesty's Government of Nepal	RDF	Regional Directorate of Forests
INGO	International Non-governmental organization	RSWR	Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute	RTC	Regional Training Center
IUCN	The World Conservation Union	SCDP	Sustainable Community Development Programme
KMTNC	King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation	SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
KSC	Kailali sub-complex	TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
KPSC	Kanchanpur sub-complex	VDC	Village Development Committee
LCC	Landscape Coordination Committee	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
		WTLC	Western Terai Landscape Complex

SECTION ONE

His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/Nepal)

United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Other partners:

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC)

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC)

District Development Committees for Bardia, Kanchanpur, and Kailali Districts

Dutch Government / SNV Nepal (Netherlands Development Organization)

World Wildlife Fund Nepal Program (WWF-Nepal)

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)

Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

LANDSCAPE LEVEL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN NEPAL'S WESTERN TERAI COMPLEX

WESTERN TERAI LANDSCAPE COMPLEX PROJECT (WTLCP)

The project is designed to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the western part of Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape by establishing effective management systems and building capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of the Western Terai landscape complex (WTLC). The project strategy is based on the premise that the long-term viability of globally significant biodiversity hinges on the ability to manage an overall system of habitats in a wide ecological landscape that goes beyond the confines of protected areas. Protected areas remain critical elements in biodiversity management. Therefore, project interventions will strengthen fledgling protected area management systems towards scientific and participatory approaches to improve conservation efforts and effectively address root causes of threats to biodiversity conservation.

On their own, the protected areas are inadequate to ensure the long-term conservation of globally significant biodiversity. Therefore, another critical dimension of the project is to extend biodiversity conservation strategies into the surrounding productive landscape comprising of national forests, agricultural land, riparian strips, and wetlands. This will involve empowering the local communities to modify land-use/resource use practices so as to conserve and maintain the integrity of natural habitats in productive lands. In addition, on-farm management of crop genetic diversity in the productive landscape will be promoted to create and increase opportunities for sustainable management of agrobiodiversity that reduce poverty and improve livelihoods of resource poor and marginal people.

The project's landscape approach will reorient Nepal's policy and legal framework and institutional arrangements towards integrated ecosystem management to achieve the multiple objectives of conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and poverty alleviation. Ultimately, the project aims to develop replicable landscape-level management models to safeguard the biological wealth and vital ecological functions in Nepal.

With reference to the GEF's newly established Strategic Priorities, the project design is consistent with the objective of Strategic Priority II, i.e. Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production landscapes and Sectors.

Part Ia Situation Analysis

1. The project will conserve and ensure the sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in the Western Terai landscape complex. A detailed description of the problem to be addressed is provided in Part 2bi of Section 2¹ of this document. The relevant outcome in the Country Programme is SAS: G3-SGN1-SASN1 – a comprehensive approach to environmentally sustainable development integrated in national development planning and linked to poverty reduction.
2. The national institutional and legal framework is described in Part 2bi of Section 2. A description of lessons learned that have influenced project design is provided in Part 2fi of Section 2.

Part Ib Strategy

3. Nepal's approach to sustainable development while conserving biodiversity, and its national commitment to these goals are described in Part 1b of Section 2. UNDP's program in support of these goals is described in Part 4ai of Section 2, while the specific activities undertaken through this project in support of policy development and strengthened national capacities are described in Part 2biii of Section 2.

Part II. Results Framework

4. This project has been designed for 8 years to allow sufficient time for a consolidation and institutionalization phase (years 7-8). During years 1 to 6 policies will be formulated, capacities and institutional frameworks at various levels strengthened, and various activities piloted both in the protected areas, bufferzones and in the productive landscape. It is expected that from year 6 onwards, institutions and communities at various levels will be fully capable of implementing the activities. During years 7 and 8, work on the secondary areas of biodiversity significance (see Part 2biii of Section 2) may commence subject to resource availability. This approach is reflected in the following Results Framework. For specialised activities, e.g. managing micro-credit, services of existing micro-finance institutes will be sought. Similarly clear working arrangements will be developed with e.g. SNV's Biogas Support Programme for provision of alternative energy. An outline work plan has been attached as Annex 1.2. A detailed log-frame matrix is provided in Annex A of Section 2. For each programme year a work plan with detailed activities and inputs would be prepared (see Chapter V).

¹ Section 2, the GEF Brief, is an integral part of the project document.

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Results Framework: A comprehensive approach to environmentally sustainable development integrated in national development planning and linked to poverty reduction.		
Outcome indicator as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and target. Specific policy, legal, and regulatory measures taken related to biodiversity conservation.		
Applicable Strategic Area of Support: G3-SGN1-SASN1 - Environment and energy for livelihoods/Policy framework G3-SGN1-SASN2 - Environment and energy for livelihoods/Institutional framework		
Partnership Strategy: Close partnerships with different partners (including different government agencies, donors, and I/NGOs) forged to help HMG/Nepal integrate priorities of poverty reduction and natural resource management into national development planning. The project will work through existing institutions at the central, regional, and local levels to strengthen capacities and build up their mechanisms for intersectoral coordination and sustainable use of biodiversity. There are various donor and NGO-related projects operating in the WTLCF area, including CARE Nepal's Bufferzone Development Project, KMTNC's Bardia and Suklaphanta Conservation Projects, WWF's Critical Area Rehabilitation Programme (CARP/TAL) and Bardia Integrated Conservation Project (BICP), and UNDP's Participatory Conservation Project (PCP). The proposed coordination mechanisms will allow for establishment of strong programmatic linkages with all these ongoing interventions. Cross-project learning linkages with other projects and programmes operating outside of the WTLCF, such as SNV's Biodiversity Sector Support Programme (BISEP-ST), DFID's Livelihoods Forestry Programme (LFP), KMTNC's Tiger Rhino Corridor Project and the <i>in situ</i> conservation project of IPGRI/NARC/LiBIRD will be developed. WTLCF will also collaborate with existing training institutions, for instance the Danida-supported Regional Training Centre (RTC) in designing training modules that can be incorporated into their curriculum. Details of ongoing partner interventions are provided in Annexes 2 E, 2 F, 2 K and 2 O of Section 2.		
Project title and number: Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex (NEP/02/013, NEP/03/G##)		
Objectives	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification
Development Objective: to ensure conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in the Nepal's Western Terai Landscape		
Immediate Objective: To establish effective management systems and build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of Nepal's Western Terai Landscape Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation cover across the targeted landscape area remains at least 90% of present by Year 4 	Measurements by satellite imagery / aerial photos & field ground truthing results at the beginning and at the end of the project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of total vegetation cover in blocks >500 ha remains at least 80% of present by Year 4 	GIS maps of land use Field records
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of multiple connections of continuous forests maintained across complex by Year 4 	--
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of flagship species (tigers and elephants) in both protected areas and productive areas maintained or increased by Year 4 	Environmental monitoring studies and sampling surveys
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of existing landraces identified in project sites maintained by Year 4 	--

Outcome 1: The national policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
<p>Output 1.1: National policy environment and legal framework to support integrated landscape planning in Western Terai Landscape Complex improved</p>	<p>Year 1: - Action plan for education and awareness-raising on landscape-level biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation and project-related information dissemination targeting central level stakeholders developed and under implementation.</p> <p>Year 2: - Ministerial level mechanism for intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC established and functioning.</p> <p>Year 5: - Agrobiodiversity conservation components incorporated into Agriculture Perspective Plan. Government agricultural subsidies and credit policies reoriented to include local crop varieties.</p> <p>Year 6: - Intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC in central-level policy-making arena fully institutionalized.</p> <p>- Legislation reoriented/established to legitimize biodiversity management in biological corridors/habitat networks.</p>	<p>1.1 Institutionalize intersectoral planning and coordination for the Western Terai Landscape Complex (WTLC) in the central-level policy-making arena through the Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee in the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and through the National Agrobiodiversity Committee (MoAC).</p> <p>1.2 Work with MFSC and MoAC to put in place policies and legislation for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity covering biological corridors/habitat networks across protected and productive areas in the WTLC.</p> <p>1.3 Integrate biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation criteria in Nepal's Agriculture Perspective Plan.</p> <p>1.4 Reorient government agricultural subsidies and credit policies towards inclusion of cultivation/management of native varieties.</p> <p>15 Build policymakers' and central-level stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination.</p> <p>1.6 Reinforce policy framework for integrated landscape planning by incorporating the relevant lessons learned in Nepal's 11th Five Year Plan (year 4) and 12th Five Year Plan (year 8).</p>	<p>Support for national consultant, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for logistics of meetings</p> <p>Support for national consultant, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for national consultant, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for national consultant, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for national consultant, education/ awareness-raising workshops, field visits, transport and field interaction with accompanied government staff, publication –editing and printing</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
			Cost of Output 1.1 / Outcome 1: US\$ 826,868 Co-funding: GEF: \$ 58,426 HMG/N: \$ 90,197 UNDP: \$ 45,000 WWF: \$ 87,912 IPGRI: \$540,000 NARC: \$ 4,833 Libird: \$ 500
Outcome 2: The institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex is established			
Output 2.1 Regional/district policy environment and regulatory framework improved for landscape management of biodiversity	Year 1: - Action plan for education and awareness-raising on landscape-level biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation and project-related information dissemination targeting regional/district/village stakeholders developed and under implementation. Year 6: - Legislation reoriented/established to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in WTLC. - Biodiversity/agrobiodiversity conservation criteria integrated into operational management plans of district technical agencies (in particular, DFOs, DADOs, and DLOs).	2.1 Amend and/or establish bylaws and legislation to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in the WTLC. 2.2 Strengthen mandates of district technical agencies (DFO, DADO, and DLO) in biodiversity conservation by integrating biodiversity conservation criteria in operational management plans. 2.3 Build regional/district/village authorities and stakeholders' support (e.g. through DFCC) for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination.	Support for national consultant, publication –editing and printing, field interactions Support for logistics of meetings, trainings, publication –editing and printing Support for national consultant, education/ awareness-raising workshops, field visits, transport and field interaction with accompanied government staff, publication –editing and printing Cost of Output 2.1: US\$ 463,010 Co-funding: GEF: \$ 187,207 HMG/N: \$ 54,379 UNDP: \$ 64,770 SNV: \$ 120,165 WWF: \$ 33,189 NARC: \$ 2,300

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
			Libird: \$ 1,000
<p>Output 2.2 Institutional mechanisms and capacities for integrated planning and management of biodiversity in targeted landscape strengthened</p>	<p>Year 1: - Institutional framework for participatory planning and decision making process and modus operandi for agrobiodiversity elements and linkages with other elements of WTLC project established at community/district, regional, and national levels.</p> <p>- Relevant training provided to project management staff, staff members of key coordinating institutions, and members of intersectoral committees.</p> <p>- Phasing plan for project interventions in WTLC project sites formulated</p> <p>- Mechanism for cross-project information sharing and learning established among programs/projects within targeted landscape and other relevant programs.</p> <p>Year 2: - Regional and local level mechanisms for intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC established and functioning.</p> <p>Year 4: -An operational plan for institutionalization of landscape</p>	<p>2.4 Work with MFSC and Regional Directorate of Forests to establish intersectoral and interdistrict coordination mechanisms for integrated planning and management of biodiversity in the WTLC.</p> <p>2.5 Enhance the capacity of local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities, and VDCs) to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with social and economic development objectives in local plans and programs.</p> <p>2.6 Strengthen regional land review and distribution mechanisms to ensure long-term prevention of re-encroachment into areas previously occupied by squatters and encroachment into other forestlands of WTLC.</p> <p>2.7 Establish a framework for transboundary coordination and collaboration between Nepal and Indian government land agencies in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources.</p> <p>2.8 Establish a mechanism for on-going cross-project information sharing and learning among programs, including between protected areas and productive areas within WTLC and other relevant programs.</p> <p>2.9 Establish district-level trust funds under the management of DDCs in the WTLC to sustainably manage recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Support for logistics of meetings, trainings, field visits, transport, and field interaction among stakeholders</p> <p>Support for logistics of meetings, trainings, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for logistics of meetings, transport, and field interactions</p> <p>Support for logistics of meetings, field visits/interactions, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for logistics of meetings, field visits/interactions, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for national consultant, logistics of meetings, trainings</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>management prepared by MFSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Framework for transboundary coordination and collaboration between Nepal and Indian land agencies to deter transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources established and under implementation. <p>Year 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation programs incorporated into district level periodic plans. - Regional land review and distribution mechanisms reinforced to effectively prevent re-encroachment in WTLC forestlands. <p>Year 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intersectoral and interdistrict coordination mechanisms for landscape planning and management fully institutionalized at regional and local levels. - District level trust funds to manage recurrent costs of project-related interventions in productive landscape established. 	<p>interventions within the productive landscape of the WTLC.²</p>	<p>Cost of Output 2.2: US\$ 1,773,395</p> <p>Co-funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF: \$ 721,528 HMG/N: \$ 209,585 UNDP: \$ 249,633 SNV: \$ 463,134 WWF: \$ 127,915 NARC: \$ 1,600

² See Section 2, Annex 2 L, Table 6 for further details.

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
<p>Output 2.3 Information and planning tools to facilitate landscape management of biodiversity improved</p>	<p>Year 1: - Plan and process for systematic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of project impacts on biodiversity and socioeconomic indicators developed.</p> <p>Year 2: - Baseline inventories, mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices completed.</p> <p>- Participatory diagnostic for understanding local crop diversity and the process of traditional management system of genetic resources and social seed networks undertaken.</p> <p>- Best practices for on-farm management of local crop biodiversity <i>in situ</i> identified and applied to WTLC project areas.</p> <p>- Market feasibility studies conducted to analyze market potential for local resources (such as local crop varieties and NTFPs).</p> <p>Year 3: - Monitoring and evaluation process fully functional, including: relevant institutions and community groups trained in monitoring methods; and standardized monitoring protocols developed and under implementation.</p>	<p>2.10 Complete and update baseline inventories on social, economic and biodiversity (including impact of conflict), mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices in WTLC.</p> <p>2.11 Carry out targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the WTLC.</p> <p>2.12 Develop and implement a coordinated monitoring and information management system to support landscape level management.</p> <p>2.13 Develop and implement landscape level plan to support integrated land use planning and management of biodiversity resources in WTLC.</p> <p>2.14 Formulate and implement habitat and species conservation plans for the WTLC.</p> <p>2.15 Formulate and pilot integrated management plan for Churia range, which integrates biodiversity conservation with watershed protection and landslide/flooding control.</p> <p>2.16 Support for the implementation of all the above systems and plans</p>	<p>Support for international/national consultants, transport and field visits/interactions, field surveys, preparation of plans, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for international/national consultants, transport and field visits/interactions, field surveys/research, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, equipment and materials required for monitoring, information management, and data analysis, transport and field visits/interactions, publication –editing and printing</p> <p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, transport and field visits/interactions, field surveys, preparation of plans</p> <p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, transport and field visits/interactions, field surveys, preparation of plans</p> <p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, transport and field visits/interactions, field surveys, preparation of plans</p> <p>Support for training, logistics, transport and field visits, equipment</p> <p>Cost of Output 2.3: US\$ 1,636,852 Co-funding:</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>Year 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key core areas and corridors for biodiversity conservation identified and mapped in project's protected areas and productive landscape. - Targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices completed. <p>Year 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape level management plan prepared for WTLC. - Integrated Churia management plan prepared and under implementation in 80% of project area VDCs in Churia range/foothills. - Habitat and species conservation plans for WTLC prepared and under implementation. - A centralized monitoring and information management system for landscape planning and management in place and managed by a government department. 		<p>GEF: \$ 622,669 HMG/N: \$ 180,869 UNDP: \$ 215,430 SNV: \$ 399,679 WWF: \$ 110,389 IPGRI: \$ 102,000 NARC: \$ 5,816</p> <p>Cost of Outcome 2: US\$ 3,873,257 Co-funding: GEF: \$ 1,531,404 HMG/N: \$ 444,833 UNDP: \$ 529,833 SNV: \$ 982,978 WWF: \$ 271,493 IPGRI: \$ 102,000 NARC: \$ 9,716 LI-BIRD: \$ 1,000</p>
Outcome 3: Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed			
Output 3.1 Management of protected areas strengthened	Year 1: - Needs assessment of protected area staff and service providers in participatory and scientific management undertaken and training plan prepared.	3.1 Develop and implement training in participatory and scientific management of protected areas and buffer zones for protected areas staff and service providers (such as NGOs, women and community groups) in WTLC.	Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, transport and field visits/interactions

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>Year 2: - Bufferzone support units and internal support and communication structures between buffer zone groups and protected areas staff fully institutionalized.</p> <p>Year 4: - Participatory and scientific protected area and bufferzone management tools under implementation by RBNP and RSWR staff.</p> <p>- At least 50% of user groups in WTLC's protected area bufferzones actively involved in conservation-related activities.</p> <p>- Anti-poaching planning and operations in protected areas fully functioning and on self-sustaining footing.</p> <p>- Measures to prevent future re-encroachments and habitat restoration in areas evacuated of squatters (RSWR) under implementation.</p> <p>Year 5: - Infrastructure and facilities to support effective management of protected areas</p>	<p>3.2 Enhance capacity of protected area staff and bufferzone communities in anti-poaching planning and operations.</p> <p>3.3 Institutionalize bufferzone support units, internal support and communication structures between buffer zone groups and protected areas staff.</p> <p>3.4 Strengthen local community participation in conservation activities in protected areas and bufferzones, including prevention of illegal activities (poaching, timber felling, and forest fires), maintenance of biodiversity hotspots, and rehabilitation of degraded habitats.</p> <p>3.5 Build infrastructure facilities to support effective management of protected areas, including improved communication systems between protected areas in WTLC and park patrolling facilities.</p> <p>3.6 Develop and implement plan for prevention of future re-encroachments and habitat restoration and management in RSWR.</p> <p>3.7 Establish revolving fund to cover recurrent costs in biodiversity conservation interventions in WTLC's protected areas.³</p>	<p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, equipment, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, equipment and materials, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for training, logistics for meetings, equipment and materials</p> <p>Support for infrastructure improvements, equipment, and materials</p> <p>Support for preparation of plan, logistics for meetings, equipment, transport and field visits/ interactions</p> <p>Support for national consultant, logistics of meetings, training</p> <p>Cost of Output 3.1: US\$ 1,906,799 Co-funding: GEF: \$ 582,938</p>

³ See Section 2, Annex 2 L, Table 6 for details.

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>improved.</p> <p>Year 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training modules in participatory and scientific management of biodiversity assets in protected areas incorporated into existing training institution's curriculum and offered as regular program. - Trust fund to manage recurrent costs of biodiversity management in protected areas established. 		<p>HMG/N: \$ 288,690</p> <p>UNDP: \$ 255,301</p> <p>SNV: \$ 478,367</p> <p>WWF: \$ 301,503</p>
<p>Output 3.2</p> <p>Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity integrated in government-managed forests</p>	<p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs assessment of DFO staff and service providers in integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management undertaken and training plan prepared. <p>Year 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity-friendly and sustainable forest management practices under implementation by DFO staff in WTLC. - At least 3 demonstration sites in government-managed forests of productive landscape under biodiversity-friendly activities. - Anti-poaching planning and operations in government-managed forests in productive landscape fully functioning and on self-sustaining footing. 	<p>3.8 Develop and implement training in integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management for government field staff and service providers (NGOs, women and community groups).</p> <p>3.9 Enhance capacity of District Forest Office staff and community groups in anti-poaching planning and operations.</p> <p>3.10 Survey and demarcate government-managed forests and internal biodiversity hotspots/critical habitat linkages nested within these zones to facilitate enforcement and management of biodiversity resources.</p> <p>3.11 Develop and implement plan for prevention of future re-encroachment and management of areas from where squatters have been evicted.</p>	<p>Support for national/international consultant, trainings, logistics for meetings, transport and field visits/ interactions</p> <p>Support for trainings, logistics for meetings, equipment, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for survey and demarcation exercises, plan preparation, equipment</p> <p>Support for preparation of plan, logistics for meetings, equipment, transport and field visits/ interactions</p> <p>Cost of Output 3.2: US\$ 1,837,916</p> <p>Co-funding:</p> <p>GEF: \$ 561,880</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>- Measures to prevent future re-encroachments and habitat restoration in areas from where squatters were evicted (Basanta forest) under implementation.</p> <p>- Government-managed forests and internal biodiversity hotspots/critical habitat linkages surveyed and demarcated.</p> <p>Year 6: - Training modules in biodiversity-friendly and sustainable forest management practices incorporated into existing training institution's curriculum and offered as regular program.</p>	<p>3.12 Support to the implementation of all the above plans and mechanisms</p>	<p>HMG/N: \$ 278,261 UNDP: \$ 246,078 SNV: \$ 461,086 WWF: \$ 290,611</p> <p>Cost of Outcome 3: US\$ 3,744,715 Co-funding: GEF: \$1,144,818 HMG/N: \$ 566,951 UNDP: \$ 501,379 SNV: \$ 939,453 WWF: \$ 592,114</p>
Outcome 4: Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods			
<p>Output 4.1: Sustainable and biodiversity-friendly management of land and natural resources practiced in community areas to reduce pressures on wild</p>	<p>Year 1: - Needs assessment of grazing and community forest user groups and service providers in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly practices undertaken and training plans prepared.</p> <p>Year 4:</p>	<p>4.1 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for local grazing user groups in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices, including alternative fodder production, stall feeding, and breed improvement strategies.</p> <p>4.2 Provide targeted training to livestock extension and service providers and involve them directly in</p>	<p>Support for national consultant, trainings, equipment and materials for demonstrations, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for national consultant, trainings, development of extension materials,</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
biodiversity assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity-friendly livestock management demonstrated by 2-3 grazing user groups in both protected area bufferzones and productive landscape. - At least one project-promoted biodiversity-friendly practice adopted by 30% of grazing user groups. - Targeted training provided to livestock extension and service providers in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices. - Biodiversity-friendly community forest management demonstrated by 2-3 community forest user groups in both protected area bufferzones and productive landscape. - At least one project-promoted biodiversity-friendly practice adopted by 30% of community forest user groups. - Targeted training provided to DFO staff and service providers in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community forest management. - Biodiversity conservation components incorporated into 30% of community forest operational plans and under implementation in project sites. - Best practices in preventing/mitigating 	<p>developing and implementing training of local men and women to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable livestock management practices.</p> <p>4.3 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for community forest user / leasehold forestry / collaborative forest management groups in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly forest management, including integration of biodiversity conservation criteria in their respective Operational Plans.</p> <p>4.4 Provide targeted training to DFO staff and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of local men and women to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community / leasehold / collaborative forest management.</p> <p>4.5 Develop a cadre of local trainers/expertise for dissemination and replication of biodiversity-friendly and sustainable practices in livestock management and community forestry.</p> <p>4.6 Work with DADO, DFO, and DLO and service providers to promote best practices among user groups in preventing/mitigating crop/livestock depredation and human casualties by wildlife.</p> <p>4.7 Work with local authorities, extension staff, and service providers to mobilize high impact communities in Churia hills to implement measures in watershed management and protection and flood/ landslide control.</p>	<p>transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for national consultant, trainings, equipment and materials for demonstrations, transport, field visits/interactions, and amendments to operational plans</p> <p>Support for national consultant, trainings, development of extension materials, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for national consultants, trainings, development of training aids and materials, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for national consultants, trainings, development of extension materials, transport and field visits/interactions</p> <p>Support for logistics for meetings, equipment and materials</p> <p>Cost of Output 4.1 US\$ 955,340 Co-funding:</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>crop/livestock depredation and human casualties by wildlife promoted by district technical agencies (in particular, DADO, DFO, and DLO) and service providers to local user groups.</p> <p>Year 6: - Information dissemination and replication of biodiversity-friendly and sustainable practices in livestock management and community forestry through cadre of local trainers under implementation.</p> <p>- Concerted efforts among local communities, authorities, and service providers in watershed protection and flood/landslide control under implementation.</p>		<p>GEF: \$ 125,114 HMG/N: \$ 327,499 UNDP: \$ 141,986 SNV: \$ 119,010 WWF: \$ 129,931 IPGRI: \$ 100,000 NARC: \$ 8,800 Libird: \$ 3,000</p>
<p>Output 4.2 Agrobiodiversity-oriented management of agricultural lands practiced by local communities to maintain traditional crops and landraces</p>	<p>Year 1: - Needs assessment of farmers groups and agriculture extension/service providers in agrobiodiversity conservation and management undertaken and training plans prepared.</p> <p>Year 4: - On-farm agrobiodiversity conservation and use demonstrated by 2-3 farmers groups in both protected area bufferzones and productive landscape.</p> <p>- At least one project-promoted good practice in on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation adopted by 30% of farmers'</p>	<p>4.8 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for farmers groups in improving productivity and agrobiodiversity-centered agriculture.</p> <p>4.9 Provide targeted training to agriculture extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of local men and women to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in agrobiodiversity management.</p> <p>4.10 Provide and implement best practices for strengthening partnerships between formal and informal institutional and farming communities, multi-institutional and interdisciplinary teams, and</p>	<p>Support for trainings, equipment and materials for demonstrations</p> <p>Support for trainings, development of extension materials</p> <p>Support for logistics for networking meetings</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>groups in project sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeted training provided to agriculture extension and service providers in agrobiodiversity management. - Community biodiversity registers (CBR) developed and maintained by at least 10% of VDCs in project area. - Best practices for enhancing genetic benefits to farming communities, including participatory plant breeding (PPB) and participatory variety selection (seed of choice) activities, under implementation. <p>Year 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnerships among local farming communities and formal and informal institutions established. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community seed networks and nodal farmers fully established. <p>Year 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralized, small scale ex situ facilities aimed at preserving endangered/threatened landraces established. 	<p>rapport building with local communities.</p> <p>4.11. Promote participatory plant breeding (PPB) and participatory variety selection (seed of choice) in order to encourage farmers to select and maintain diversity that address local seed supply.</p> <p>4.12 Strengthen community seed networks and nodal farmers roles in searching new diversity, select, maintain and exchange the germplasm and knowledge with community.</p> <p>4.13 Enhance local management and decision making capacity of local institutions in managing and using agrobiodiversity for community benefits through information systems (ie, Community Biodiversity Registers).</p> <p>4.14 Develop decentralized small scale ex situ facilities at commodity level to preserve landraces that are endangered and under threat.</p>	<p>Support for trainings and networking meetings</p> <p>Support for trainings and networking meetings</p> <p>Support for information system development, trainings</p> <p>Support for establishment of facilities</p> <p>Cost of Output 4.2 US\$ 1,496,279</p> <p>Co-funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF: \$ 168,984 HMG/N: \$ 442,338 UNDP: \$ 191,774 SNV: \$ 160,740 WWF: \$175,492 IPGRI: \$ 321,000 NARC: \$ 25,451 Libird: \$10,500
<p>Output 4.3 Local communities empowered to pursue diversified livelihoods</p>	<p>Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community institutions in bufferzones equipped with necessary skills and know-how to operate independently. 	<p>4.15 Provide technical support for formation of viable community user groups (in particular, grazing user groups, community forest user groups and farmers groups) in bufferzones and high-</p>	<p>Support for trainings, networking meetings</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
<p>that reduce pressures on wild biodiversity assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive coverage of community institutions established in bufferzones. - A needs assessment conducted to match feasible enterprise development options with skills and requirements of local communities, taking into consideration the particular needs of women and disadvantaged groups <p>Year 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community user groups established in pilot sub-sites of high-impact productive areas. - Promotion of involvement of women and members of disadvantaged groups undertaken in user group formation in order to achieve 50% membership of women and members of disadvantaged groups in user groups. - Alternative fuels/improved efficiency cooking facilities promoted in order to increase proportion of participating households by 10% of baseline. - Integrated skills training and enterprise development programs targeting women and disadvantaged groups undertaken to increase both women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups increased by 10%. <p>- Project's alternative livelihoods</p>	<p>impact communities in productive areas (with particular focus on women and disadvantaged groups).</p> <p>4.16 Strengthen the Bufferzone/ community institutions within protected areas of WTLC through targeted training and technical inputs with particular focus on women and disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>4.17 Support local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities & VDCs) in developing and implementing ecotourism management plans and mainstreaming ecotourism planning into DDC and VDC planning process.</p> <p>4.18 Develop a social mobilization and training program for undertaking community-based ecotourism development.</p> <p>4.19 Develop and implement local strategies for alternative energy and fuel to reduce local pressures on biodiversity resources.</p> <p>4.20 Develop and implement integrated skills training and enterprise development programs (targeting women, disadvantaged groups, and fuelwood sellers, small farmers groups) which reduce pressure on biodiversity resources.</p> <p>4.21 Implement best practices in local capacity in capital generation and credit mechanisms to support livelihood improvements and productive investments for high impact communities in critical bottleneck areas of productive landscape.</p>	<p>Support for trainings, networking meetings</p> <p>Support for national/international consultant, plan preparations, logistics for meetings, trainings</p> <p>Support for national/international consultant, trainings</p> <p>Support for national/international consultant, equipment</p> <p>Support for national/international consultant, field visits, transport, trainings, development of training aids and materials</p> <p>Support for trainings, documentation/ publication, networking meetings</p> <p>Cost of Output 4.3 US\$ 859,841 Co-funding: GEF: \$ 124,684 HMG/N: \$ 326,374 UNDP: \$ 141,498</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>development activities conducted with aim to improve per capita income of local communities by at least 10%.</p> <p>Year 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated skills training and enterprise development fully developed and under implementation in all project sites. - Ecotourism planning and management mainstreamed into DDC and VDC planning processes. - Social mobilization and training program for community-based ecotourism developed and under implementation. - Best practices in local capital generation and credit mechanisms to support livelihood improvements and productive investments under implementation. - Community user groups established in remaining sub-sites of high-impact productive areas. 		<p>SNV: \$ 118,601 WWF: \$129,484 IPGRI: \$ 18,000 NARC: \$ 1,200</p>
<p>Output 4.4 Biodiversity conservation values and practices mainstreamed among local communities</p>	<p>Year 1: Needs assessment for education and awareness-raising in biodiversity conservation among local stakeholders undertaken and strategies/action plan formulated.</p> <p>Year 4:</p>	<p>4.22 Formulate and implement strategies for on-going education and awareness raising among local stakeholders for biodiversity conservation, including conducting conservation awareness education in local schools and mobilizing support of local religious leaders and traditional/cultural organizations.</p>	<p>Support for national/international consultant, transport, and field visits/interactions, development of plan, development of materials, networking meetings</p>

Intended Outputs	Output targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
	<p>- Strategies for on-going education and awareness raising among local stakeholders in biodiversity conservation under implementation.</p> <p>-Biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation education imparted in 30% of schools in project area.</p> <p>Year 5: - Campaign to foster community ownership and participation in biodiversity under implementation.</p>	<p>4.23 Foster community ownership of biodiversity resources in landscape by linking community awareness building with information display devices in villages and land management units which identify responsible parties and conservation role within overall landscape.</p> <p>4.24 Support to the implementation of all the above plans and mechanisms</p>	<p>Support for national/international consultant, transport, and field visits/interactions, preparation of information display devices, networking meetings</p> <p>Cost of Output 4.4 US\$ 1,070,983</p> <p>Co-funding:</p> <p>GEF: \$ 158,848</p> <p>HMG/N: \$ 415,803</p> <p>UNDP: \$ 180,269</p> <p>SNV: \$ 151,099</p> <p>WWF: \$ 164,964</p> <p>Cost of Outcome 4: US\$ 4,382,443</p> <p>Co-funding:</p> <p>GEF: \$ 577,630</p> <p>HMG/Nepal: \$ 1,512,014</p> <p>UNDP: \$ 655,527</p> <p>SNV: \$ 549,450</p> <p>WWF: \$ 599,871</p> <p>IPGRI: \$ 439,000</p> <p>NARC: \$ 35,451</p> <p>Libird: \$ 13,500</p>

Part III Management Arrangements

Execution and Implementation Arrangements:

5. The project will be nationally executed by HMG/Nepal. Overall responsibilities for execution will be vested with MFSC since the bulk of the targeted project area falls within national forestland and protected areas. However, given that this is a cross-sectoral project, based on its landscape-level approach to biodiversity management, MFSC will coordinate and facilitate the involvement of the other main ministries, in particular, MoA and MoLD, in project execution through the Project Steering Committee and implementation through line agencies and relevant partners. UNDP will provide overall oversight and monitoring for project implementation, including financial (for UNDP and GEF funds). The project will be jointly implemented by the district line agencies operating in the WTLC project sites, in particular, RBNP, RSWR, DFOs, DADOs and DLDOs, in collaboration with NARC, local authorities, NGOs, CBOs, and local community groups.

Central Level Operations:

6. A **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will be constituted at the national level to provide overall policy guidance, facilitate intersectoral/inter-agency coordination, approve the annual workplan and budget and substantial and policy guidelines. PSC will monitor progress and performance of the project. PSC will have a key role in the institutionalisation of the multisectoral approach and ensuring full involvement of multiple partners. The PSC will be chaired by the Secretary of MFSC. Members will include: relevant representatives from MFSC's internal divisions/departments (including DNPWC and DoF), MoAC, DoA, DoLS, MoF, NPC, MoPE, MoLD, UNDP, SNV, WWF-Nepal, NARC, IPGRI, LI-BIRD and I/NGOs such as KMTNC and IUCN. This committee will serve as a forum for: sharing strategies and programmatic approaches, research findings and conclusions relevant to the application of a landscape approach; jointly determining roles and responsibilities among stakeholders and coordinating interventions to ensure complementary synergies and to avoid duplication of efforts; developing an overall long-term strategy for maintaining the integrity of biodiversity within WTLC; mobilizing additional support to scale up interventions; and coordinating the various funding mechanisms available to avoid duplication of resources. PSC decisions will be those agreed upon by the majority and will be minuted and circulated as the PSC decisions. The PSC will meet at least twice a year. The presence of at least 50% of the members will be considered as quorum for the PSC.
7. The PSC will be firmly anchored in the existing government structure through formal inter-linkages with existing ministerial level committees. In particular, it will be accountable and report to, as well as seek policy guidance from, the ministerial level **Progress Review Committee (PRC)** on project activities and progress and relevant policy issues. The PRC convenes twice a year and will provide a critical forum for mainstreaming the WTLC project's landscape approach into national policies. The Minister (MFSC) chairs the PRC, and the Secretary of MFSC (the PSC Chairman) participates in the PRC as Member Secretary. The National Planning Commission (NPC) is also represented in this high level, ministerial committee.
8. In addition, a **Project Management Committee (PMC)** will be formed at the central level to provide and coordinate relevant technical expertise for project implementation. The PMC comprises of the government line agencies that directly implement the project

and of the co-funding partners. The PMC will be chaired by the Chief, Foreign Aid Coordination Division (FACD), MFSC, who will simultaneously take on the role of the National Project Director (NPD). The Director Generals of DNPWC, DoF, DoA and DoLS will be co-Vice Chairs of the PMC. Members of the PMC will include MoLD, DSCWM and UNDP, WWF, SNV, IPGRI, NARC, and LI-BIRD. The PMC can invite members in the PMC from other institutions if deemed necessary. The PMC will meet at least once a quarter to review the annual work plan and budget (based on the draft district plans proposed by District Forest Coordination Committees), review the progress made in the preceding quarter, review and approve the quarterly workplans (based on the annual workplan), and provide implementation guidelines for all project activities. All work plans will be based on inputs from central, regional, and site-level operations. The PMC will coordinate operations undertaken at central and landscape level. PMC decisions will be those of the majority. The minutes of the PMC meeting will be effectuated as the decision taken for project implementation.

Regional and Site-Level Operations:

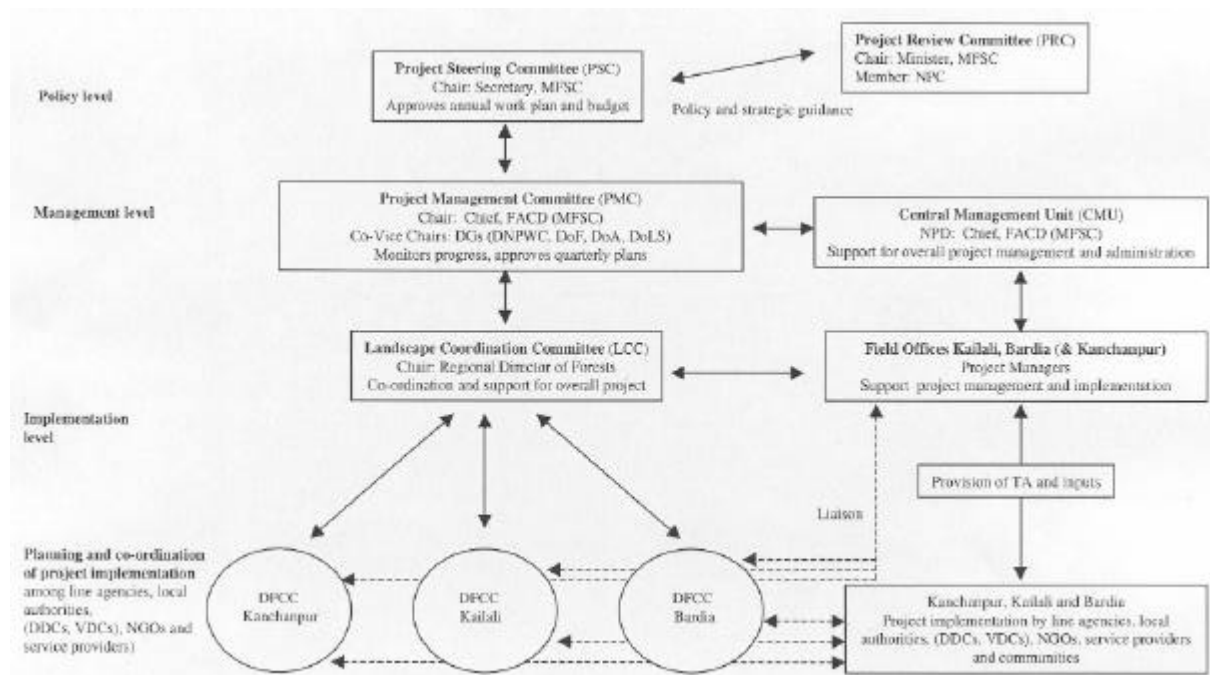
9. The policy-level Steering Committee will be complemented with regional and site-level mechanisms to facilitate coordination, collaboration, cross-fertilization, and networking among multiple stakeholders (i.e., community user groups, local authorities, government line agencies, NGOs/CBOs, and donors) from landscape to local levels. At the regional/landscape level, a **Landscape Coordination Committee (LCC)**, under the chairmanship of the senior-most Regional Director of Forests (either RD from Far and Western Regional Forest Directorate or RD from Mid Western Forestry Directorate), will be established to coordinate project implementation among the different districts' government line agencies, local authorities, NGOs, CBOs, and representatives from local communities. The Regional Agrobiodiversity Adviser (NARC, Khajura) will be a Vice Chair of the LCC. The park warden (either RNBP or RSWR) from the same region as the LCC chairperson will be the member secretary of the LCC. Field office Project Managers will participate in the LCC meetings as members.
10. The LCC will meet at least once every quarter. The LCC quarterly meeting will develop and finalize a quarterly workplan (including proposed budget allocations) and review the progress of project activities in all three districts. The decisions of the LCC will be minuted and should be in accordance with the approved annual and quarterly workplans. The annual and quarterly workplans will have to be endorsed by the PMC and project activities will be implemented based on approved annual and quarterly workplans.
11. Within the project area, three **District Forest Coordination Committees (DFCC)** will be formed under the DDC for the proposed landscape sub-complexes to ensure joint collaboration and coordination among project partners in the implementation of the project activities at district and community level. As the DFCC is a co-ordinating body, the DFCC should represent all major stakeholder groups in the district. The suggested composition of the DFCC is therefore: DDC Chairman (chairperson), DDC-members, municipality /VDC representatives, Warden, DSCO, DPRO, WDO, DAO, DLDO, DVO, LDO, relevant NGO and CBO representatives, user representatives including women groups and DFO (Member Secretary). Field office Project Managers will participate in their respective districts' DFCC meetings as members.
12. The project activities will be implemented by a variety of stakeholders depending on the nature of the activities, including government line agencies, local authorities, NGOs,

CBOs, and user groups. The NGO/CBO partners will be tasked with providing technical assistance and delivering services to user groups and government field staff and will be chosen based on technical capacity, relevant field experience, cost-effectiveness and past performance (see Annex 2O of Section 2 for an overview of the functions and expected roles of the various project stakeholders). The overall purpose of the DFCC is to bring transparency and trust about the landscape programme in the district. For this, the DFCC will be the forum, where all related stakeholders will interact four times a year to perform the following tasks:

- prioritise the issues in landscape development and provide guidelines for district landscape planning (both quarterly plans and annual plans), finalise and approve the plan and forward this plan for endorsement by legal decision making bodies;
- identify stakeholders relevant in landscape-development, including line agencies, NGOs, service providers, local government institutions, industry, to play a role in implementation of the district plan;
- resolve conflicts in the sector, taking advice and decisions according to by-laws to be developed;
- monitor and evaluate the district program and formulate issues relevant for discussion in the LCC.

13. The different project implementation tiers will be supported by the Central Management Unit (CMU) and field offices, a professional staff with the necessary set of skills and experience in managing similar projects and ensuring delivery of project outputs by relevant stakeholders (see Chapter V). The NPD will supervise CMU staff and ensure project targets are met in project implementation. The proposed implementation arrangements are encapsulated in the following diagram.

Diagram 1: Proposed Implementation Arrangements for WTLC Project



Inception Phase

14. The first 12 months of the programme will form an inception phase during which uniform working arrangements and norms which will be agreeable to all partners will be developed and made operational, e.g. DFCCs established, project staff will be recruited, baseline data verified and priority site selection completed (agrobiodiversity). The WTCLP is expected to be fully staffed and operational in all primary sites by the end of the inception phase.
15. Verification and amending the baseline data is particularly important to ensure that project planning, management and monitoring systems have a sound platform. Conflict assessment needs to be conducted as part of the baseline data collection and opportunities for rapid impact programmes assessed.
16. Based on the broad understanding of the financial management strategies as highlighted in this project document, detailed WTLCP specific guidelines will be developed within the first 3 months of project implementation to ensure adherence to standardized salaries and allowances (to the extent possible keeping in mind the parallel funding arrangements), DSAs, other incentives, and procurement policies and programmes. Similarly, transparent and accountable fund flow mechanisms will be developed to ensure efficient and effective project implementation, and disbursement of project resources through the government budget to the extent possible. Also a synchronised set of guidelines in terms of planning, monitoring, reporting and auditing will be developed to satisfy the needs of HMGN and all co-funding partners. All these guidelines need to be endorsed by the PMC.
17. During the PDF-B phase primary and secondary priority working areas have been identified but only with regard to work contributing to GEF Operational Programme 3, Forest Ecosystems (see Part 2biii and Annex 2 C of Section 2). Due to the late inclusion of activities contributing to GEF Operational Programme 13, Agrobiodiversity, full baseline information is yet to be made available and site selection to be conducted for agricultural biodiversity activities in the field. To the extent possible and to maximise the impact of WTCLP inputs, priority sites for forest biodiversity and agrobiodiversity should coincide.

Part IV Budgets and Parallel Input Management

18. HMGN will provide the services of National Programme Director, who will lead the programme. The contribution in kind and logistic support from the government for programme implementation will be provided by HMGN through NPD. HMGN will also depute the Programme Coordinator (PC) and two Project Managers for the WTLCP/TAL, all on full-time basis. The working time of line agency staff both at central and district level (particularly RBNP, RSWR, DFOs, DADOs and DLDOs) and local government staff who will implement the programme is provided as part of the government co-funding. The services of National Agrobiodiversity Adviser (NABA) and Regional Agrobiodiversity Adviser (RABA) will be provided by NARC as part of their co-funding contribution.
19. The MFSC will provide full-fledged office space to the exclusive use to the programme staff in Kathmandu for the duration of the programme. The existing TAL project offices (in the Regional Director's Office in Dhangadhi and Royal Bardia National Park headquarter) set up by HMGN and WWF will be used as WTLCP offices as TAL is long-term programme of HMGN. A provision for setting up a smaller project office in

Kanchanpur either in the premises of Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve or in the District Forest Office, whichever most appropriate, has been made. Decision on the need to establish a third project office will be made at the end of the inception phase.

20. The following applies to the co-funding inputs from the partners. Financial inputs from WWF-Nepal and SNV will be in the form of parallel funding. The inputs from IPGRI will be mostly professional staff inputs in-kind (with the exception of the IPGRI's ongoing GRPI programme for which a management arrangement is already in place with NARC). The inputs from NARC will be partly professional staff inputs and provision of laboratory facilities (both in-kind). All inputs from Li-BIRD will be professional staff inputs in kind. Details on IPGRI, NARC and Li-BIRD co-funding contributions are in Annex 1.4.
21. In terms of these different kinds of inputs, the following has been agreed in terms of their management and applicable conditions. Vis-à-vis managing the in-kind staff and other inputs from IPGRI, NARC and Li-Bird, the terms and conditions of the respective institution will apply. However, with regard to financial inputs from different parallel funding sources (SNV, WWF, UNDP, GEF) which will be available for achieving WTLCP outcomes, it has been agreed that inputs will be segregated by co-funder whenever possible. This will allow for developing a set of unilateral terms and conditions for WTLCP.
22. National Execution Guidelines will apply for the inputs UNDP and GEF provide. UNDP and GEF funds will need to be deposited to separate dedicated bank accounts both at central and district level. For the inputs WWF Nepal provides and for the staff to be hired TAL conditions as mentioned in WWF's grant agreements with HMG will apply. The detailed arrangements for governing SNV inputs in the Biodiversity Sector Programme (BISEP-ST) are currently under development. SNV follows the sector approach where the partner (MFSC) is in the driver's seat. SNV's decision will be based on the proposal of the Executing Agency of WTLC (MFSC). At present SNV applies HMG/N rules and regulations in the BISEP-ST. However, for specific modalities, such as DSA, TDA, the NARMSAP rules and regulations will apply. Other modalities are still under discussion and will be endorsed as soon as possible by both parties. Fund channeling is under discussion as well and could be partly through Red Book and partly direct funding. MFSC and SNV/Nepal will jointly decide on it based on MFSC's proposal. Table 1 summarises the use of programme resources.

Table 1. Breakdowns of WTLCP budget

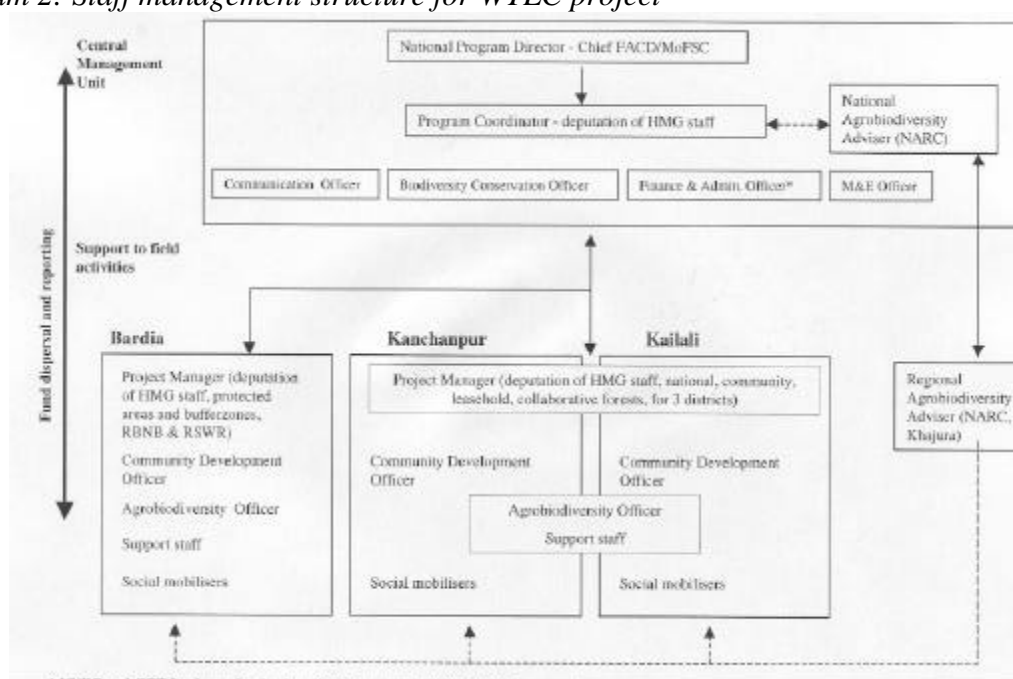
Breakdown	USD	%
1) Programme vs. administrative cost		
Programme costs	10,553,661	82%
Administrative and operational costs	2,273,623	18%
Total	12,827,284	100%
2. Field vs. central budget		
Field expenditure	11,341,580	88%
Central expenditure	1,485,704	12%
Total	12,827,284	100%

Breakdown	USD	%
3) Budget per outcome		
Outcome 1 National policy environment & legal framework	826,868	6.45
Outcome 2 Institutional framework	3,873,257	30.20
Outcome 3 Sustainably managed government lands	3,744,715	29.19
Outcome 4 Sustainable livelihoods	4,382,444	34.17
Total	12,827,284	100.00

23. SNV Nepal has a pool of technical advisors available in Nepal. Given that the WTLC Programme is a sub-component of the Biodiversity Sector Support Programme (BSSP), also the WTLCP can draw on the pool of advice SNV/N offers. Based on an expressed demand from WTLCP and an approved ToR, these advisors can be mobilised to support the project activities. These inputs would be over and above the financial input committed by the Dutch government to the WTLCP. However, work related costs, such as travel will be borne by the WTLC budget. This TA component is part of SNV's overall support to the Biodiversity Sector Support Programme. SNV's programme in Nepal is implemented along three thematic areas and programming around Natural Resource Management, Governance and Private Sector Development. Advisors not directly related to the sectors are positioned in a separate unit called the Advisory Service Unit (ASU). The three sectors and SNV's flexible pool of advisers (ASU) offer advice in the fields of process development, local governance, gender, institutional development, organisational strengthening, planning, monitoring and evaluation, sustainable tourism, NTFP, renewable energy, small-enterprise development and security.

24. Project Management Committee will assess the staff needs on a yearly basis. PMC will decide on Personnel (both long-term, temporary and consultants) and Sub-contracts. The proposed staff and management arrangements are encapsulated in the following diagram.

Diagram 2: Staff management structure for WTLC project



Part V Knowledge Management Approach for WTLCP

25. The project will apply an adaptive learning approach to the implementation of project activities and production of project outputs. In order to adaptively learn, project participants must be able to take time to reflect on their work and that of their counterparts and in other projects in the Nepal and indeed around the world. In order to adaptively manage project implementation, participants must be enabled to capture their learning in the form of written best practices and worst practices – in the form of lessons learned. Project stakeholders must manage knowledge.
26. The following are key elements to this knowledge management approach:
- A key element is devising a communications strategy for the project. Before knowledge management can begin, an analysis of what kind of knowledge, learning, and information the project wants to cultivate, i.e. what message does the project want to get across? The answer to this question influences activities in awareness raising and applying innovative tools, such as websites for disseminating information.
 - A second element to knowledge management is annual work planning and monitoring (see paragraphs 27-28 below).
 - A third element is to schedule regular pauses in project implementation for reflection. This “reflective practice” will be driven by the Programme Coordinator who will be involved with the project for the life of the project. S/he will be asking questions and keeping knowledge management at the front of the agenda with project managers, staff and site-level stakeholders. This will be done in many different ways, e.g. by supporting cross-project learning by asking questions regarding learning of stakeholders at the site level, facilitating the flow of information from other projects to this project and cross-project learning activities and visits.
 - A fourth element to knowledge management is capturing lessons learned. The project will do this through cross-site exchanges to promote learning; annual “round-table” discussions on lessons learned and their implications on the following year’s work plan, both at the districts and at national level; formal analysis of lessons learned and reporting of the results. This will include emphasizing on the absorption of national and international best practices through study tours and useful follow-up and promoting effective communication among project participants. Towards the end of project period, WTLCP would publish and disseminate a lessons learned handbook.

Part VI Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

27. The project is designed to integrate Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) into project implementation. M&E is a crucial part of the project’s emphasis on knowledge management and adaptive management. Continuous learning will be very much at the core of the project approach. Annex 1.8 contains a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, several elements of which are also discussed below.

Work plan

28. Annual Work Plan: The NPD shall be required to produce an inception report with an annual work plan and budget included in the programme document within 45 days from the start of the programme. This may include the budget revision if necessary, to reflect the activities to be undertaken as per the work plan. This, as well as the subsequent annual workplans and budgets will be developed with full participation from all Project Management Committee members. The annual work plans will provide the necessary

details on the in kind and financial contributions to be provided by each co-funder, including the in-kind specialist inputs from IPGRI, NARC and Li-BIRD. Each DFCC will draft an annual plan and budget for the respective district. Those drafts will be first discussed at the LCC and then forwarded to the PMC for finalisation, partner coordination and allocating the partner inputs to respective activities.

29. Quarterly Work Plans: The PC will prepare a breakdown of the annual work plan into quarterly work plans and quarterly budgets for submission to UNDP and other partners as appropriate. Quarterly work plans shall form the basis for quarterly releases of funds to the respective project accounts and also the preparation of quarterly progress reports.

Reports

30. Quarterly Reports: Upon completion of a quarter the PC will prepare a brief quarterly progress report. This report should describe actual programme progress against each quarter's work plan and budget, identify any problems encountered, explain the main variances from the work plan and budget, and present plans and recommendations for the next quarter's work.
31. Interim Reports: The PC will prepare Interim Reports for the PSC to consist of brief summary of progress in relation to work plan and update on financial progress if requested.
32. Annual Programme Report (APR): The PC will prepare the Annual Programme Report (APR) and submit it PMC by the end of October each calendar year. This is a reporting tool on the progress towards outcomes and production of outputs and the constraints faced during the period of implementation. It helps monitoring project performance and progress on results achieved, as the output indicators and annual output targets in the SRF and/or the project document. UNDP will complete the GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) for each year (due June) that the project is under implementation.
33. Terminal Report: A project terminal report will be prepared by the PC in collaboration with the NPD. This report should be available in draft form for the final evaluation mission, and in final form sufficiently in advance to allow review and technical clearance by the executing agency prior to the closure of the programme.

Technical Review Meetings

34. Tripartite Review (TPR) and Annual Review: The programme will be subject to tripartite reviews as per the GEF requirements. In the absence of a TPR requirement, the programme will be subject to annual review to be performed by the SC. The NPD will be responsible to prepare and submit, before the TPR/Annual Review meeting, an APR.
35. Quarterly Review: The quarterly review will be held at programme implementation level. For this the PMC will meet regularly at quarterly basis for well co-ordinated programme implementation.

Monitoring, audits and evaluations

36. Field Visits: UNDP CO shall arrange regular field visits in consultation and co-ordination with NPD and PC for monitoring purposes. Participation from all partners in such visits is strongly encouraged.

37. Management Audit: The programme will be subject to management and financial audit (for UNDP and GEF inputs) at the end of each year as per NEX requirements.
38. Evaluations: During the project duration, three independent evaluations will be carried out, as per GEF guidelines. An Initial Evaluation will be conducted by the end of 2nd year of programme implementation, a Mid-Term Review by the end of 5th year of programme and Final Evaluation on the 8th year of the programme (see Annex 1.8).

Part VII Legal Context

39. This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by the parties on 23 February 1984. The host country implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in that Agreement.
40. UNDP acts in this Project as Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and all rights and privileges pertaining to UNDP as per the terms of the SBAA shall be extended mutatis mutandis to GEF.
41. Management of the WWF inputs will be governed by the Supplementary Agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and World Wildlife Fund, Inc. / Nepal Programme (entry into force July 13, 2001).
42. In December 2002 SNV signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Finance on behalf of HMGN on the implementation of the Biodiversity Sector Support Programme (BSST). WTLCP is a sub-component of BSSP.
43. Working arrangements will be developed between MFSC and IPGRI to provide an overall legal framework for agrobiodiversity activities.
44. The UNDP Resident Representative in Nepal is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document, provided that s/he has verified the agreement thereto by GEF Unit and is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document and co-funding partners have no objection to the proposed changes:
 - Revision of, or addition to, any of the annexes to the Project Document;
 - Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of the inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation (for GEF and UNDP inputs only);
 - Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility (for GEF and UNDP budgets only); and
 - Inclusion of additional annexes and attachments only as set out here in this Project Document.

Annexes to Section 1

- Annex 1.1 Terms of Reference
- Annex 1.2 Outline work plan (annual workplans to be developed)
- Annex 1.3 Project Budget for GEF & UNDP inputs
- Annex 1.4 Details of IPGRI, NARC and LiBIRD co-funding contributions (in kind)
- Annex 1.5 Council Comments at the Approval
- Annex 1.6 Revised Incremental Cost Matrix
- Annex 1.7 Revised Project Cost Breakdown
- Annex 1.8 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan

Annex 1.1: Terms of Reference

List of Proposed Project Staff

I HMGN staff (part of co-funding inputs)

1. National Program Director (NPD, MoFSC), 1
2. National Agrobiodiversity Advisor, (NABA, NARC), 1
3. Regional Agrobiodiversity Advisor (RABA, NARC, Khajura Research Station), 1

II Kathmandu-Based WTCLP Staff

4. National Program Coordinator (PC, on deputation from MoFSC), 1
5. Biodiversity Conservation Officer* (BCO), 1
6. Communication Officer* (CO), 1
7. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer* (MEO), 1
8. Finance Officer* (FO), 1

III. Field-Based WTCLP Staff

Field Office WTCLP Staff

9. Project Manager (PM, on deputation from MoFSC), 2
10. Community Empowerment and Development Officer (CEDO), 3
11. Agrobiodiversity Officer, (ABO) 2
12. Social mobilisers (20, number dependent on eventual area coverage)

Support Staff

13. Secretaries, 3
14. Finance Assistant (FA) 2
15. Drivers, 4

- The costs of programme staff will be shared between UNDP, GEF, WWF and SNV. Posts 5-8 will be funded by GEF. Funding for posts 4, 9-11 and 13-15 will be from WWF and for post 12 (social mobilisers) from SNV.
- Short term consultants (nationals or internationals) will be funded by either UNDP or GEF, depending on the assignment. All evaluations will be funded by GEF. In addition, there would be also short term consultants from WWF and SNV.

International Consultants:

Short term international consultants will be recruited to provide services in the specific area of the project during implementation. The acquisition of such services will bring about experiences of landscape level of conservation from other parts of the world into the Western Terai Landscape, in the area of conservation financing, sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livestock management. The services of international consultants will also be acquired for conducting reviews, evaluations and impact assessment.

National Consultants:

Short term national consultants will be hired to work together with the project team for a limited period in the areas where external assistance would require, for example, review of national policies and systems, preparation of manuals and working guidelines related to micro-enterprise, micro-credit, resource mobilisation and training, development of baseline, setting up sustainability strategies, and establishing monitoring and evaluation system.

Services of national consultants will be acquired to assist the team led by international consultants.

Sub-contracts:

Provision for subcontract is made for those activities that require relatively longer period of accomplishment and involve people from more than one field to work together. Activities like skill development training, micro-enterprise development, inventory and resource surveys would be sub-contracted to national NGOs and CBOs on the grounds of their proven capacity to work effectively in the specific field.

I HMGN staff

1. National Program Director (NPD)

Duty Station: Kathmandu
Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The NPD is the principal representative of the government at the program level and will assume the overall responsibility for the successful execution and implementation of the project, and accountability to HMG/Nepal and all co-financiers for the proper and effective use of project resources. The NPD will be responsible for managing the implementation of the project, which includes personnel, subcontracts, training, equipment, administrative, financial and reporting. The NPD will also be responsible for: the achievement of the outputs and hence, the objectives of the program; ensuring that the Central Management Unit (CMU) is established as an integral entity working within the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) to ensure full ownership by MFSC and to facilitate eventual transition within its institutional structure; ensuring that the CMU assumes a facilitating role and existing institutions with the appropriate mandates are equipped with the necessary skills, capacities, and responsibilities and assume an active management role during project implementation; and ensuring the co-operation and support from project partners.

The **specific responsibilities** of the NPD will include the following:

- Ensure that all prerequisite and prior obligations of the government to the project, including government's contribution are met.
- Set up and manage the program office, including staff facilities and services, in accordance with the program's work plan.
- Prepare regular updates and ensure the implementation of a detailed work plan consistent with the provisions of the program document.
- Act as the chief representative of the program during review meetings, evaluations, and discussions and, hence, is responsible for preparation of review and evaluation reports.
- Support to identify potential candidates, national and international, for posts under the program, recruit these individuals as well as assume responsibility for their administration as per the appropriate guidelines.
- Exercise over all technical, financial and administrative authorities of the program including supervision of national and international personnel assigned to the program.
- Monitor the physical and financial performance of the program and update the work plan at least every six months.
- Assume direct responsibility to the government and all co-financiers for the funds provided under the program, consistent with the relevant financial accounting rules and procedures.
- Open and operate a project bank account, certify payment requests, and approve project expenditures and financial statements, in accordance with appropriate financial rules and procedures.
- Ensure timely preparation and submission of reports including technical, financial, study tour reports, as well as project performance and evaluation reports.
- Ensure that the National Programme Coordinator is empowered to effectively manage the project and the other project staff to perform their duties effectively.

- Ensure that the intersectoral planning and coordination mechanisms from central to local levels are established and institutionalized as per project workplan.
- Ensure that relevant government entities take the lead in strengthening the land review and distribution mechanisms and undertaking other relevant measures for long-term prevention of re-encroachment into areas previously occupied by squatters and encroachment into other forestlands of the Western Terai Landscape Complex.

Appointment:

The NPD will be the Chief, Foreign Aid Coordination Division (FACD) of the MFSC.

2. National Agricultural Biodiversity Adviser (NABA, NARC staff 3 months a year; part time contribution)

Duty Station: Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Agricultural Botany Division, Nepal
Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Khumaltar
Duration: 8 Years

Responsibilities:

The National Agrobiodiversity Adviser (NABA) will work under the guidance of National Program Director (NPD) and in close coordination with the Programme Coordinator. Major responsibility of the national agrobiodiversity advisor is to facilitate coordination and keep close liaison with the key stakeholders of agrobiodiversity. S/he will contribute technical expertise of agrobiodiversity issues at the central management unit and report to PC and NPD. S/he will ensure linkage between key actors of IPGRI supported the project “Strengthening scientific basis of in situ conservation of agrobiodiversity” funded by IDRC and the project, “Conservation and sustainable use of native tropical fruit trees diversity” funded by ADB; Home garden project funded by SDC, the project “Enhancing the contribution of neglected and underutilized species to food security and to the incomes of rural poor: Nepal component Finger-millet” funded by IFAD and “Genetic Resources Policy Initiative” funded by IDRC and DGIS and Western Terai Landscape Complex Project.

Specific responsibilities

- Facilitate coordination of agrobiodiversity stakeholders including NGOs and provide technical expertise in his/her area of expertise
- Support implementation of activities related agricultural biodiversity component of the WTLCP project
- Support for management and administration of agrobiodiversity activities where and when necessary
- Strengthen GO-NGO partnership in conservation and utilization of agrobiodiversity
- Link with IPGRI and NARC projects and partners
- Contribute to monitoring and evaluation of agrobiodiversity activities
- Assist in formulation of strategic guidance and policy issues as related to agrobiodiversity issues

Appointment: National Project Co-ordinator of “Strengthening scientific basis of in situ conservation of agrobiodiversity in Nepal “ and “Genetic Resource Policy Initiative Project” from NARC, Kathmandu

3. Regional Agricultural Biodiversity Adviser (RABA) (NARC staff at Agricultural Research Station, Nepalgunj contributing 5 months a year)

Duty Station: Regional Agricultural Research Station, Khajura, Nepal Agricultural
Research Council (NARC)
Duration: 8 Years

Responsibilities:

The Regional Agricultural Biodiversity Adviser will work under the supervision and guidance of NABA and PC and in close liaison with all Project Managers. S/he will backstop Regional Agrobiodiversity Officer in implementing the overall agrobiodiversity activities at field level

and report to the PC and NABC. The major role of the RABA will be to establish and facilitate strong linkages amongst all the major stakeholders of agrobiodiversity at the district levels and at the center level to ensure that program activities are implemented successfully. RABA will also ensure the facilities and staff of Regional Agricultural Research Station, Khajura are provided as per the co-financing commitment of NARC. The RABA will ensure that GO-NGO linkages and also with other line agencies for managing the field-level program implementation and for achievement of the field level outputs. Executive Director of NARC with consultation with NABC, and NDA will nominate this position.

The **specific responsibilities** of the RABA will include the following:

- Support and facilitate establishment of a coordinated and collaborative approach among project partners at field-level in implementing project interventions and achieving desired outcomes.
- Participate to the development of district work plans and ensure that they are consistent with the envisaged outputs and objectives of the project document.
- Backstop and provide technical assistance to all activities of agrobiodiversity officers posted in Kailali, Kanchanpur and Bardia districts as needed
- Assist the Regional Agricultural Biodiversity Officer (RABO) in activities related to participatory plan breeding, community seed networks and community related biodiversity based livelihoods options including livestock, horticulture and crops.
- Assist the PC in assessment and organization of required skills training and capacity building of government agency staff, local authorities, and key stakeholders in inter-sectoral/interagency coordination, planning, and management at local and regional levels.
- Assist the PC in ensuring field-based project staff receive relevant skills training and knowledge development required for effective and efficient project administration and implementation.
- Maintain close coordination/linkages with targeted DDCs, VDCs, ADO, DFO, Chief Wardens, I/NGOs, NARC, LI-BIRD and other concerned line agencies within the project area and keep them fully informed of the project activities.
- Link the project activities with outreach programmes of Regional Agricultural Research Station

Appointment: Director of ARS, Khajura, NARC

II Kathmandu-based WTLCP staff

4. Program Coordinator (deputation of MFSC staff)

Duty Station: Kathmandu with frequent visits to the field

Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The Program Coordinator is the principal representative of the Executing Agency at the project level. The primary function of the PC is to oversee the implementation of the project, in consultation with the National Project Director under the overall policy direction of the Project Steering Committee. The PC will have to establish strong coordination with stakeholders from central to field levels to ensure that the project activities are implemented successfully based on participatory and mutual consultations. The PC needs to liaise with partner organizations to ensure consistency and linkages with the activities under implementation by other projects in the targeted landscape. In particular, the PC will be responsible for managing the implementation of the program activities related to personnel, subcontracts, training, equipment, administrative, and financial management. The PC will support the NPD in ensuring that the CMU is established as an integral entity working within the MFSC to ensure full ownership by MFSC and to facilitate eventual transition within its institutional structure; and ensuring that the CMU assumes a facilitating role and existing institutions with the appropriate mandates are equipped with the necessary skills, capacities, and responsibilities and assume an active management role during project implementation. The PC, together with the NPD, will be responsible for the achievement of the outputs and, hence, objectives of the program; and ensuring the cooperation and support from all project partners.

The **specific responsibilities** of the PC will include the following:

- Ensure that all prerequisite and prior obligations of the Executing Agency are met.
- Set up and manage the project office in accordance with the project work plan.
- Prepare regular updates and ensure the implementation of a detailed work plan consistent with the envisaged outputs and objectives of the Project Document; this work plan should schedule the implementation of activities/tasks to be performed reflecting how these activities would contribute towards the delivery of outputs and achievement of objectives.
- Report to the NPD on a regular basis, and identify and resolve implementation problems with the assistance of the NPD if necessary.
- Act as a representative, as called upon by the NPD, during review meetings, evaluations and discussions.
- Select, recruit, and supervise project personnel and subcontractors/consultants, maintaining strong quality control and providing advisory support as required.
- Supervise the procurement and maintenance of project equipment and development of infrastructure.
- Maintain close coordination/linkages with targeted DDCs, VDCs, concerned line agencies and I/NGOs and keep them fully informed of the project activities through formal and informal interactions; the PC will work to obtain full support and cooperation from these agencies/agents to make this program a success.
- Oversee the needs assessment and provision of required skills training and capacity building of government agency staff, local authorities, and key stakeholders in intersectoral/interagency coordination, planning, and management from local to central levels.

- Ensure project staff receive relevant skills training and knowledge development required for effective and efficient project administration and implementation.
- Act as a regular liaison with the UNDP Country Office, government agencies, co-funders, and other project partners.
- Supervise timely preparation and submission of quarterly and annual progress reports, work plans, budgets, and financial plans as required.
- The PC, while ensuring the effectiveness of the Western Terai Landscape Project, plays a lead role in upgrading the capacity building towards self-governing institutions capable to show impacts on sustainable conservation and local development.
- The PC will ensure the systematic transfer of responsibilities, authority and ownership of the project to the relevant institutions and community from project inception.
- The PC will perform all other tasks, as required, to make the program a success.
- The PC will be responsible for information dissemination and resource mobilization.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have at least an MSc in a relevant field with at least ten years of working experience in conservation or conservation-related development efforts in Nepal. S/he should also have had direct and positive experience working with local community organizations and government agencies, including but not limited to local traditional groups, User Groups, VDCs, DDCs and so on. S/he must be willing to travel frequently. The candidate must be computer literate, with proven abilities in English language writing and speaking skills. S/he should have proven abilities to effectively coordinate a large, multi-disciplinary project involving diverse stakeholders. S/he should also have the ability to use tact and diplomacy to resolve conflicts and achieve results.

5. Biodiversity Conservation Officer (BCO)

Duty Station: Kathmandu with frequent visits to the field
Duration: 8years

Responsibilities:

The BCO will work under the supervision of and report to the PC. S/he will be responsible for developing and implementing the project's activities in support of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the protected areas and productive landscape. S/he will facilitate the execution of all biodiversity conservation and sustainable land/resource management components and activities of the project that are executed at the field level, by forming the vital link between people and their local institutions and the objectives of the project. S/he will work in close collaboration with other project staff, subcontractors/consultants, and project partners.

The **specific responsibilities** of the BCO will include the following:

- Act as a deputy to assist the PC as required.
- Provide overall technical guidance and oversight to the development and delivery of conservation and sustainable use planning and project activities;
- Assist the Monitoring and Information Management Specialist (MIS) in: developing biological indicators to measure program efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and relevance from biodiversity conservation point of view; and designing and

implementing strategy for involving local communities in participatory monitoring and evaluation.

- Work closely with local authorities in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into local development planning and programming, with support from Community Development Specialist
- Facilitate through Nepalese government agencies transboundary coordination and collaboration with Indian counterparts in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources
- Facilitate the formulation and implementation of planning tools for landscape-level biodiversity management, including the landscape-level management plan, habitat and species conservation plans, and integrated management plan for Churia range, with support from MIS and other relevant project staff and consultants
- Assess training needs of protected area staff and service providers in scientific and participatory management of protected areas; oversee development and implementation of targeted training modules
- Liaise with existing training institutions, such as the Regional Training Center, to ensure the institutionalization of training modules developed for protected area and DFO staff, service providers, and user groups in conservation and sustainable use skills and knowledge enhancement.
- Ensure capacity-building of protected area and DFO staff and local community members in anti-poaching planning and operations, working in close collaboration with WWF-TAL staff and relevant project partners.
- Work with DFO and protected area staff to develop and implement plans for prevention of future re-encroachments and habitat restoration of areas evacuated of squatters in project area.
- Develop and implement plan to strengthen local community participation in conservation activities, with support of Community Development Specialist and Community Development Facilitator.
- Work with DFO staff to ensure comprehensive surveying and demarcation of government-managed forests and internal biodiversity hotspots/critical habitat linkages in project area.
- Work with DADO, DFO, and DLO and service providers to promote best practices among user groups in preventing/mitigating crop/livestock depredation and human casualties by wildlife, with support of Community Development Specialist.
- Work with local authorities, extension staff, and service providers to mobilize high impact communities in Churia hills to implement measures in watershed protection and flood/landslide control, with support of Community Development Specialist and Community Development Facilitator.
- Based on advice of PC, assist in the planning and execution of the project's agrobiodiversity-related components to ensure they are effectively integrated into the project's overall conservation and sustainable use strategies and interventions; support and work in close consultation/collaboration with relevant organizations. Support the Community Development Specialist and consultants, through technical inputs and guidance, in formation and strengthening of local user groups in biodiversity-friendly land/resource management.
- Develop and implement local strategies for alternative energy and fuel to reduce local pressures on biodiversity resources.

- Advise the Project Managers and PC regarding the need for subcontracts/consultancies in his/her area and assist the PC in the recruitment and oversight of subcontractors/consultants in his/her area.
- Provide technical inputs and support to MIS in organization of training of locals, line government staff, and service providers in the collection, analysis and application of biological data.
- Provide technical inputs in promoting conservation and sustainable use through education/awareness materials development and community outreach activities, as required.
- Based on the advice of the Project Managers and PC, liaise with the concerned government agencies and related NGOs and INGOs working in this area, in order to better coordinate implementation of plans and execution of activities.
- Act as facilitator or trainer in areas of his/her knowledge, as required.
- Provide additional support as requested by the LC/PC and as required to make this project a success.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have a Master's degree in NRM or relevant area with over five years of strong field and program development experience, with at least five years of relevant field experience. The candidate must have a strong scientific background in conservation planning and biodiversity monitoring of wild fauna and flora and experience in sustainable land/resource use practices. The BCO must also possess excellent English report writing, and computer skills. Priority will be given to candidates who demonstrate a high level of motivation and good social and interpersonal skills. S/he must be willing to travel frequently and must be willing to work in a multi-stakeholder environment under extreme conditions.

6. Communication and Documentation Officer (CO)

Duty Station: Kathmandu with frequent visits to the field

Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The CS will work under the supervision of and report to the PC. S/he will be responsible for developing and implementing the project's public information dissemination and stakeholder networking activities. S/he will also be responsible for the publication and documentation of program-generated material under the supervision and guidelines of the PC. The CS will be responsible for generating progress reports, workshop materials, proceedings, posters, brochures and the release of publications to a wide range of audience. S/he will work in close collaboration with other project staff, subcontractors/consultants, and project partners.

The **specific responsibilities** of the CO will include the following:

- Design and establish channels for regular project information dissemination, sharing, and networking among stakeholder communities (from local to central levels), such as printed newsletters and electronic communication tools.
- Develop and implement a cross-project information-sharing and learning mechanism among partner institutions within targeted landscape and other relevant programs, taking into consideration methods and best practices in managing such learning portfolios.

- Assess the need for conservation-related extension materials for the project, with assistance/inputs from relevant project staff and consultants, design and develop these materials.
- Develop and implement an awareness-raising and outreach campaign on relevance of biodiversity conservation and landscape management approach at initial stage of project.
- Ensuring an adequate flow of information at national and state levels to increase awareness and interest in the sustainable activities being carried out in the project.
- Support, as needed, other project staff members and consultants in all activities related to community outreach, awareness-raising, information dissemination, and stakeholder networking.
- Prepare and periodically update conservation awareness materials for use in social outreach, with assistance/inputs from relevant project staff and consultants.
- Support the central and field level technical staffs in producing progress reports, technical reports, and other reports.
- Prepare and distribute attractive, easily comprehensible, and cost effective communication tools and information materials, as required.
- Translate documents of public concern in Nepali and English.
- Establish liaison and exchange services with other relevant documentation/publication centers and projects both in Nepal and outside with similar landscape program for information exchange.
- Edit project-related progress reports and documents.
- Act as facilitator or trainer in areas of his/her knowledge, as required.
- Advise the PC regarding the need for subcontracts/consultancies in his/her area and assist the PC in the recruitment and oversight of subcontractors/consultants in his/her area.
- Provide additional support as requested by the PC and as required to make this project a success.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have a Master’s degree in Mass communications with a minimum of five years relevant working experience. S/he should have an extensive experience in communication and diffusion strategies and techniques, documentation, publication, and audio-visual material preparation in relation to conservation and development fields. S/he should possess excellent writing, editing, and speaking skills in both English and Nepali. S/he should be well versed in the latest electronic publishing and graphics methods. Knowledge and experience in GIS will be desirable. The candidate should be willing to travel extensively in the field, work in a multi-stakeholder environment and under time pressure. Priority will be given to candidates who demonstrate a high level of motivation and good communication, social, and interpersonal skills.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (MEO)

Duty Station: Kathmandu with frequent visits to the field
 Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The MIS will work under the supervision of and report to the PC. S/he will be responsible for developing and implementing the project’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and overseeing all components and activities of the project that relate to information/data

collection and management. S/he will work in close collaboration with other project staff, subcontractors/consultants, government institutions, and project partners to ensure a coordinated approach in M&E and information management to support landscape-level management of the WTLC. S/he will also be responsible for working with MFSC to build up its capacity in and ensure institutionalization of centralized management and institutionalization of research, M&E and information management for the WTLC prior to project completion.

The **specific responsibilities** of the MIS will include the following:

- Provide overall technical guidance and oversight to the development and delivery of the project's monitoring and evaluation system and information management system, integrating GIS technology in a holistic approach.
- Oversee and be responsible for development and monitoring of biological and socioeconomic indicators to measure program efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability, working in close collaboration with other project staff and consultants.
- Oversee the design and establishment of a sustainable community-based monitoring and data collection system, linked with the overall M&E system, including training community members in data collection, with assistance/inputs from other project staff and consultants.
- Facilitate a coordinated and collaborative approach to research, monitoring and information management among relevant programs and institutions operating in the WTLC, including the development of common protocols in monitoring and information sharing and capitalizing on different institutions' expertise, resources, and facilities.
- Develop procedures/guidelines for: data collection, process monitoring, participatory M&E system, periodic reporting, and internal evaluation framework.
- Prepare data collection formats for field staff members covering relevant socio-economic and environmental aspects, including: natural resource management, tourism, community development and social mobilization, agriculture, livestock and pasture management issues (special attention should be made in gathering information from biodiversity "hot spots," and that has direct relevance to conservation management).
- Based on the advice of the PC, liaise with the concerned government agencies (for example the DNPWC and DDC) and other agencies such as I/NGOs working in this area, in order to better coordinate data collection related to baseline establishment and ongoing M&E and research, and formulate plans and execute activities.
- Oversee and provide technical support in the completion of baseline inventories, mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices in WTLC.
- Oversee and provide technical support in implementation of targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps for wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
- Identify training needs of and organize training provision for central and field-level government staff in undertaking monitoring and information management activities and applying monitoring results and research findings in adaptive management of WTLC.
- Provide guidance and support to the Biodiversity Conservation Specialist in the development of planning tools, including landscape, habitat, species management plans.
- Oversee analysis and interpretation of geographical, biological, socio-economic data, applying them to management and policy recommendations.
- Oversee and be responsible for all data storage, management and retrieval.

- Provide guidance and support to project team members and consultants in development and implementation and/or modification of data collection, monitoring and review procedures, and assessment of results and activities.
- Prepare and implement a program for enhancing the M&E and GIS usage/application capacities of project team members and relevant partner institution, including organizing and conducting workshops.
- Assist in development of biodiversity related awareness and educational materials with use of GIS maps.
- Establish mechanisms for linking monitoring feedback with the project's decision-making processes, including periodic review and assessment exercises, and adaptive management strategies.
- Review relevant reports/studies that have bearing on research, monitoring, and information management for the WTLC, and apply relevant findings/recommendations in design and implementation of the project's research, monitoring, and information management activities.
- Working in close collaboration with the Communication Specialist, disseminate baseline, monitoring, and research findings to relevant stakeholder groups, from local to central levels.
- Advise the PC regarding the need for subcontracts/consultancies in his/her area and assist the PC in the recruitment and oversight of subcontractors/consultants in his/her area.
- Act as facilitator or trainer in areas of his/her knowledge, as required.
- Keep abreast of new methods and techniques with regard to M&E of biodiversity conservation initiatives globally.
- Provide additional support as requested by the PC and as required

Qualifications:

The MIS should have a MSc degree in biological sciences or conservation related subject, with at least five years of relevant field experience. S/he should have extensive experience in developing and establishing monitoring systems and GIS application, specially in the field of environment and natural resource management. S/he must possess research and English report writing skills. The candidate should be willing to travel extensively between Kathmandu and the field. Priority will be given to candidates who demonstrate a high level of motivation and good social and interpersonal skills.

8. Project Finance Officer (FO)

Duty Station: Kathmandu

Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The Project Finance Officer will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Project and will report directly to the PC. S/he is expected to manage and collate four separate sets of accounts each for HMGN, UNDP/GEF, WWF and SNV.

The **specific responsibilities** of the FO will include the following:

- Set up a financial accounting, transactions and reporting system for the project in accordance with HMGN's, UNDP's, WWF's and SNV's financial rules and regulations.
- Advise the PC on the budgetary implications of project management decisions.

- Ensure that all financial transactions, both in programme districts and in Kathmandu, are in compliance with the applicable financier rules and procedures.
- Supervise the District Finance Assistance in all aspects of financial management.
- Assist in the preparation of financial/budgeting components of annual and quarterly work plans and other required reports.
- Prepare payment requests for submission to applicable financiers through the PC.
- Facilitate audits of project accounts conducted by external auditors.
- Assist with the preparation of tender documents for subcontracts and procurement of goods and services.
- Maintain updated the accounting books and related documentation to monitor and control the project budget to prevent over-expenditures.
- Prepare the needed budgets and financial reports, ensuring fiscal and financial accountability, to be submitted to the co-funders, through the National Project Director.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have at a graduate degree in Business Administration and/or Accounting plus a minimum of five years experience in administering large-scale projects. S/he must have excellent computer skills, especially in spreadsheet manipulation and work planning skills and proven abilities in English writing. S/he should have demonstrated ability to learn and adapt to on the job demands.

III Field office staff (WTLCP)

9. Project Manager (PM on deputation from MoFSC) 2

Duty Station: Kailali, Bardia (and Mahendranagar)
 Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

At the onset, two Project Managers are envisaged; one tasked with overseeing activities in the projected areas (based in Bardia) and another one overseeing activities in national forest and agrobiodiversity (based in Dhangadhi). Each project manager will work under the supervision and guidance of NPD and PC. S/he will be the principal representative of executing the overall activities at field level and report to the PC. The major role of the Project Managers will be to establish strong coordination and linkages amongst all the major stakeholders in the field and at the center level to ensure that program activities are implemented successfully. The Project Managers will each be responsible for managing the field-level program implementation and for achievement of the field level outputs.

The **specific responsibilities** of the Project Managers will include the following:

- Set up and manage the project office at field level in accordance with the project work plan.
- Implement the project activities in within his/her respective area of responsibility as per the annual work plan and budget
- Ensure that the implementation of work plan is consistent with the envisaged outputs and objectives of the project document.

- Oversee the improvement of infrastructure facilities to support effective management of protected areas and national forests, including improved communication systems between protected areas in WTLC and park patrolling facilities (logframe activity 3.5).
- Ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach is undertaken among project partners at field-level in implementing project interventions and achieving desired outcomes.
- Assist the PC in assessment and organization of required skills training and capacity building of government agency staff, local authorities, and key stakeholders in intersectoral/interagency coordination, planning, and management at local and regional levels.
- Assist the PC in ensuring field-based project staff receive relevant skills training and knowledge development required for effective and efficient project administration and implementation.
- Update and report the PC on a regular basis about the progress and constraints and try to resolve implementation problems, if any, in consultation with other project staff members and with advice/guidance of the PC.
- Act as a field level representative, as called upon by the PC, during review meetings, evaluation and discussions.
- Supervise the activities of field-based staff and consultants, including administrative work and delivery of project outputs, and as required by PC.
- Maintain close coordination/linkages with targeted DDCs, VDCs, DFO, Chief Wardens, I/NGOs, and other concerned line agencies within the project area and keep them fully informed of the project activities.
- Prepare annual work plan, quarterly progress report, annual progress report and other plans as required, with assistance/inputs of other project staff and ensure timely submission to the CMU.
- Oversee the work of the Monitoring and Information Management Specialist and other project staff and consultants in developing field-based indicators to measure program efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.
- Assist the PC regarding the need for subcontracts/consultancies and the recruitment and oversight of subcontracts/consultants in the targeted landscape
- Provide additional support to CMU as required.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have at least a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management or relevant area with over 10 years of sound working experience in the field of conservation and development. The candidate should have a firm understanding of community development and expertise in self-reliant and participatory development process. S/he should have a successful record of working with DDCs, VDCs and line ministries in a multi-stakeholder environment. The candidate must be computer literate, with proven abilities in English and Nepali language writing and speaking skills. S/he must be willing to travel frequently and adapt to difficult working conditions. S/he should also have the ability to use tact and diplomacy to resolve conflicts and achieve results.

10. Community Empowerment and Development Officer (Deputy Manager) x 3

Duty Station: Kailali, Bardia, Kanchanpur

Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

Community Empowerment and Development Officer (CEDO) will work under the direct supervision of Project Manager. S/he will be responsible for motivating and mobilising local communities within the assigned project sites to implement project activities. S/he will work closely with community members to undertake and implement project activities to ensure communities activeness in conservation and improvement of their livelihoods.

Specific Responsibilities.

- Act as Deputy to assist PM as required, particularly in the areas of project planning, reporting and financial management
- Plan and implement project activities in the assigned target areas as laid down in the project outputs (log frame)
- Work towards establishing a good rapport with farming communities, and mobilise groups for the effective implementation of the field activities
- Be responsible for the formation of various user groups and strengthen capacity of local institutions, CBOs and user's groups for understanding local agrobiodiversity assessment, monitoring diversity and management of agrobiodiversity resources for conservation decisions Conduct need assessment of communities in enhancing their capacities to make them functional and self-reliant.
- Contribute to baseline inventories, eco geographical surveys, mapping and documentation on agrobiodiversity resources and associated knowledge.
- Design and provide training to the target clientele particularly local level trainings.
- Supervise and backstop social mobilisers in conducting regular meetings with user groups and community members for group mobilisation and sensitisation.
- Assist PM in developing work plant, conducting trainings, study tours and conservation awareness programs.
- Facilitate in identification of training and demonstration sites for study tour and training programs.
- Participate in local meetings and contribute in technical and non-technical matters for smooth field implementation of project activities
- Be responsible for conducting conservation and awareness programs, training etc.
- Assist PM in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into local development planning and programming.
- Be responsible for encouraging community groups in the targeted landscape to meet their basic needs and other IGA opportunities.
- Supervise and monitor project activities in the assigned areas ensuring timely planning and successful implementation.
- Provide technical backstopping to the research farmers and community groups for effective implementation of program activities.

- Mobilize disadvantaged group of communities particularly women and Dalits in overall conservation and development programs.
- Coordinate with other community organizers for regular information sharing and learning.

- Undertake any other job assigned by PM.

Qualifications:

S/he should have a minimum of BSc degree in social sciences (or natural resource management) with at least 5 years of relevant experience in people oriented conservation, social mobilisation, participatory approaches and development programs. The candidates must have a working experience with local communities, DDCs, VDCs and must be able to stay in the village. Working experience in the Western Terai district will be advantageous. S/he should have a successful record of working with DDCs, VDCs and line ministries in a multi-stakeholder environment. The candidate must be computer literate, with proven abilities in English and Nepali language writing and speaking skills. Previous experience from project management will be an asset. S/he must be willing to travel frequently and adapt to difficult working conditions. S/he should also have the ability to use tact and diplomacy to resolve conflicts and achieve results.

11. Agricultural Biodiversity Officer (ABO) x 2

Duty Station: Kailali (supports also Kanchanpur) and Bardia
Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The ABO will work under the supervision of and report to the PM. S/he is responsible for co-ordinating and implementing activities related to agrobiodiversity. S/he will be the focal point of all agrobiodiversity activities at the district level. Responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring the activities related to conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in the productive landscape and buffer zones. Strengthen community based organisations and user groups to enhance local management and decision making capacity of local institutions in managing all agricultural biodiversity conservation initiatives, participatory technology development and sustainable genetic resource management components work in close collaboration with other project staff, sub-contractors/consultants, and project partners. Establish links between thematic teams of agrobiodiversity at central level and community based activities in the fields and also provide linkage with market outlets. Supervise and manage community mobilisers jointly with the Community Development Officer. Reporting at various levels

The **specific responsibilities** of the ABO will include the following:

- Reporting to the Project Manager, ABO will be responsible for coordinating all research and development activities of agrobiodiversity in productive landscape for respective districts
- Work closely with local authorities in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into local development planning and programming, with support from Community Development Specialist.
- Strengthen the mandates of agrobiodiversity agencies by sharing conservation methodologies and good practices for community based PGR management.
- Assist in baseline inventories, eco-geographic surveys, mapping and documentation on agrobiodiversity resources and knowledge.
- Carry out targeted applied research to fill in the gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices in WTLC with technical guidance of National

Multidisciplinary Team of agrobiodiversity and Agrobiodiversity Coordinator located at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Khajura.

- Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for local grazing user groups in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices, including alternative fodder production, stall feeding, and breed improvement strategies.
- Provide targeted training to livestock extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training locals to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable livestock management practices.
- Develop a cadre of local trainers/ expertise for dissemination and replication of Biodiversity-friendly and sustainable practices in livestock management and community forestry.
- Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for farmers groups in improving productivity and agro-biodiversity centered agriculture.
- Provide targeted training to agriculture extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of locals to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in agro-biodiversity management.
- Create awareness and strengthen capacity of community-based organisations on the conservation, value addition and utilization of agricultural biodiversity.
- Implement best practices for strengthening partnerships between formal and informal institutional and farming communities, multi-institutional and interdisciplinary teams, and rapport building with local communities).
- Promote participatory variety selection and participatory plant breeding activities with community in order to develop farmer's capacity to select, maintain diversity and address local seed supply.
- Strengthen community seed networks and nodal farmers role in community based research, conservation and development programmes.
- Enhance local management and decision-making capacity of local institutions in managing and using agrobiodiversity for community benefits through information systems such as Community Biodiversity Registers and biodiversity fairs.
- Build local capacity to develop decentralized small scale ex situ facilities at community level to preserve landraces that are endangered and under threat and link to regional and national genebanks.
- Provide technical support for formulation of viable community user groups (grazing UG, CFUG, FG) in buffer zone of Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and high-impact communities in productive areas through networks of homegardens).
- Provide overall technical guidance and oversight to the development and delivery of conservation and sustainable use planning and project activities;
- Develop and implement plan to strengthen local community participation in conservation activities, with support of Community Development Specialist and Community Development Facilitator.
- Support the Community Development Specialist and consultants, through technical inputs and guidance, in formation and strengthening of local user groups in biodiversity-friendly land/resource management.
- Provide technical inputs in promoting conservation and sustainable use through education/awareness materials development and community outreach activities, as required.
- Based on the advice of the PM/ABC, liaise with the concerned government agencies and related NGOs and INGOs working in this area, in order to better coordinate implementation of plans and execution of activities.

- Act as facilitator or trainer in areas of his/her knowledge, as required.
- Provide additional support as requested by the NABC, RABC, PM and as required

Qualifications:

The ABO should possess a BSc degree in biological sciences or social sciences with at least five years of relevant field experience. The candidate must have a strong scientific background on in situ /on-farm conservation planning and biodiversity monitoring of wild and cultivated agricultural biodiversity and experience in sustainable livelihoods options. The candidate having experiences of participatory methods, participatory plant breeding, in situ conservation, and baseline survey will have added advantages. The ABO must also possess research, English report writing, and computer skills. Priority will be given to candidates who demonstrate a high level of motivation, community mobilisation and good social and interpersonal skills. This is the district-based position with the requirement of frequent field visits.

12. Social Mobiliser (SM) x 20

Duty Station: Based in the community of the selected programme sites; Identified by local community

Duration: 8 Years

Responsibilities:

The Social Mobilisers will work under the overall supervision of Project Manager and in direct supervision of the Community Development Officer. S/he will be responsible for motivating and mobilizing local communities within the targeted landscape to implement landscape level conservation activities. S/he will assist the local communities to undertake and implement conservation and self-reliant community development activities with the aim of making the local communities more proactive towards conservation and improving their livelihood means.

Specific Responsibilities:

- The specific responsibilities of the SM will include the following:
- Be responsible for the formation of various user groups, functional organizations, regularization of their meetings to undertake collective development activities of community members.
- Identify and assess the various needs particularly in enhancing their capacities to make them functional and self-reliant.
- Conduct regular meetings with the aim of mobilizing user groups to undertake socially acceptable saving and asset development programs.
- Be responsible to prepare UG/UC/FOs profiles, conservation and development plans.
- Be responsible for conducting village meetings, study tour, conservation and awareness programs, training etc.
- Be responsible for encouraging local communities in community forest activities in the targeted landscape area to meet their basic needs for fuel wood, fodder and other alternative income generating opportunities.
- Be responsible for mobilizing and effectively involving special target groups, particularly women and disadvantaged groups, in overall conservation and development programs.
- Keep daily records of project activities, trails and other project activities.

- Monitor and supervise the research trials and demonstration blocks.
- Act as a liaison between community members and community organisers.
- Assist community organizers in group motivation and sensitisation.
- Build strong rapport with communities for ensuring the greater viability of the program.
- Co-ordinate with other motivators in exchanging material and experiences for better execution of program.
- Assist community organizers in proper data recording and filing.
- Be responsible to perform other duty as assigned by the immediate supervisors.

Qualifications

The candidate must hold at least secondary education (minimum SLC pass) with some experience in community works. This position is designed to reach disadvantaged group of the community such as women, children and economically disadvantaged groups. S/he must be permanent resident of the community in question and have good rapport with communities. She should have good command of both Nepali and native languages and can ride bicycle.

Support staff

13. Secretaries 3

Duty Station: Kathmandu (1), districts 2-3

Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The Project Secretary will work under the direct supervision of the PC and will be responsible for providing administrative support to staff within the Central Management Unit. Field office secretaries will work under the direct supervision of the concerned Project Manager.

Specific Responsibilities:

- The specific responsibilities of the Secretary will include the following:
- Provide administrative support to the Central Management Unit / Field Office, including typing of correspondence, independent handling of routine letters and queries, in writing or verbally, scheduling appointments, answering phone calls, and miscellaneous related activities.
- Assist in processing documents and administrative and financial management forms, particularly processing of travel request forms, payment request forms, leave applications, etc.
- Assist in the preparation of quarterly and annual progress reports and other required reports.
- Follow up on administrative matters with all partners on behalf of the PC and other staff.
- Organize travel arrangements, both domestic and international, for all staff members.
- Procure and ensure maintenance of project-related equipment and development of infrastructure.
- Manage logistical arrangements for all meetings, in house as well as others.
- Develop and maintain a database for mailing of newsletters, correspondence, etc.
- Ensure proper filing of all office correspondence and project documents.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have a minimum of two years of administrative experience. S/he should have a minimum of 10+2 or intermediate level degree. S/he must have excellent computer skills, including typing, word processing, and document formatting. S/he needs to have proven abilities in English, both oral and written. S/he should have demonstrated ability to learn and adapt to on the job demands.

14. Field-Based Finance Assistant (FA) 2

Duty Station: Dhangadhi, Bardia (and Mahendranagar)

Duration: 8 years

Responsibilities:

The Finance Assistant will be responsible for providing administrative support to the field-based staff and will report directly to the Project Manager. S/he will work with close coordination and backstopping from FO S/he will also ensure coordination consistency with the central office's financial accounting, record-keeping, reporting system, and other transactions.

Specific Responsibilities:

- The specific responsibilities of the FA will include the following:
- Set up a financial accounting, transactions and reporting system for the field office in accordance with co-funders' financial rules and regulations and consistency with central office.
- Work in close consultation and coordination with the FO in the central office to ensure consistent and coordinated methods and approaches between central and field offices in relevant project operations.
- Advise the PM on the budgetary implications of project management decisions.
- Ensure that all financial transactions are in compliance with the applicable UNDP rules and procedures;
- Assist central office in the preparation of financial/budgeting components of annual and quarterly work plans and other required reports.
- Assist in preparation of payment requests for submission to co-funders through the PM and PC.
- Facilitate audits of project accounts conducted by external auditors.
- Assist with the preparation of tender documents for subcontracts and procurement of goods and services as required.
- Maintain updated the accounting books and related documentation to monitor and control the project's field budget to prevent over-expenditures.
- Assist central office in preparation of needed budgets and financial reports, ensuring fiscal and financial accountability, to be submitted to the government and co-funders as required.
- Assist in processing field office correspondence, project documents, administrative and financial matters.
- Provide additional support as requested by the PM and as required.

Qualifications:

The candidate should have a degree in Business Administration and/or Accounting plus a minimum of three years experience in administering projects in the field. S/he must have

excellent computer skills, especially in spreadsheet manipulation and work planning skills and proven abilities in English writing. S/he should have demonstrated ability to learn and adapt to on the job demands.

15. Drivers (4)

Duty Station: Kathmandu (1) and in the districts (3)

Duration: 8 years

Annex 1.2: Workplan for Western Terai Landscape Complex Project

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Outcome 1: National policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex								
1.1 Institutionalize intersectoral planning and coordination for the WTLC in the central-level policy-making arena through the Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee in the MFSC and through the National Agrobiodiversity Committee in the MoAC.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
1.2 Work with MFSC and MoAC to put in place legislation for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity covering biological corridors/habitat networks across protected and productive areas in the WTLC	X	X	X	X	X	X		
1.3 Integrate biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation criteria in Nepal's Agriculture Perspective Plan.	X	X	X	X	X			
1.4 Reorient government agricultural subsidies and credit policies towards inclusion of cultivation/management of native varieties.	X	X	X	X	X			
1.5 Build policymakers' and central-level stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination.	X	X	X	X	X			
1.6 Reinforce policy framework for integrated landscape planning by incorporating the relevant lessons learned in Nepal's 11th Five Year Plan (year 4) and 12 th Five Year Plan (year 8).				X				X
1.7. Work on further policy changes as and if needed based on lessons learned during project implementation							X	X
Outcome 2: Institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex is established								
2.1 Amend and/or establish legislation to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in the WTLC.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.2 Strengthen mandates of district technical agencies (DFO, DADO, and DLO) in biodiversity conservation by integrating biodiversity conservation criteria in operational management plans.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.3 Build regional/district/village authorities and stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.4 Work with MFSC and Regional Directorate of Forests to establish intersectoral and interdistrict coordination mechanisms for integrated planning and management of biodiversity in the WTLC.	X	X	X	X	X	X		

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.5 Enhance the capacity of local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities, and VDCs) to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with social and economic development objectives in local plans and programs.	X	X	X	X	X			
2.6 Strengthen regional land review and distribution mechanisms to ensure long-term prevention of re-encroachment into areas previously occupied by squatters and encroachment into other forestlands of WTLC.	X	X	X	X	X			
2. Establish a framework for transboundary coordination and collaboration between Nepal and Indian government land agencies in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources.	X	X	X	X				
2.8 Establish a mechanism for on-going cross-project information sharing and learning among programs, including between protected areas and productive areas within WTLC and other relevant programs.	X							
2.9 Establish district-level trust funds under the management of DDCs in the WTLC to sustainably manage recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation interventions within the productive landscape of the WTLC.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.10 Complete and update baseline inventories (social, economic, biodiversity, including impact of conflict), mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices in WTLC.	X	X						
2.11 Carry out targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the WTLC.	X	X	X	X				
2.12 Develop and implement a coordinated monitoring and information management system to support landscape level management.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.13 Develop and implement landscape level plan to support integrated land use planning and management of biodiversity resources in WTLC.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.14 Formulate and implement habitat and species conservation plans for the WTLC.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.15 Formulate and pilot integrated management plan for Churia range, which integrates biodiversity conservation with watershed protection and landslide/flooding control.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2.16 Support for the implementation of all the above systems and plans							X	X

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Outcome 3: Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed								
3.1 Develop and implement training in participatory and scientific management of protected areas and buffer zones for protected areas staff and service providers (such as NGOs, women and community groups in WTLC.	X	X	X	X				
3.2 Enhance capacity of protected areas staff and bufferzone communities in anti-poaching planning and operations.	X	X	X	X				
3.3 Institutionalize bufferzone support units, internal support and communication structures between buffer zone groups and protected areas staff.	X	X						
3.4 Strengthen local community participation in conservation activities in protected areas and bufferzones, including prevention of illegal activities, maintenance of biodiversity hotspots, and rehabilitation of degraded habitats.	X	X	X	X				
3.5 Build infrastructure facilities to support effective management of protected areas, including improved communication systems between protected areas in WTLC and park patrolling facilities.	X	X	X	X	X			
3.6 Develop and implement plan for prevention of future re-encroachments and habitat restoration and management in RSWR.	X	X	X	X				
3.7 Establish revolving fund to cover recurrent costs in biodiversity conservation interventions in WTLC's protected areas.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
3.8 Develop and implement training in integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management for government field staff and service providers (NGOs, women and community groups).	X	X	X	X				
3.9 Enhance capacity of District Forest Office staff and community groups in anti-poaching planning and operations.	X	X	X	X				
3.10 Survey and demarcate government-managed forests and internal biodiversity hotspots/critical habitat linkages nested within these zones to facilitate enforcement and management of biodiversity resources.	X	X	X	X				
3.11 Develop and implement plan for prevention of future re-encroachment and management of areas from where squatters were evicted.	X	X	X	X				
3.12 Support to the implementation for the implementation of all the above plans and mechanisms							X	X
Outcome 4: Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods								

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.1 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for local grazing user groups in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices, including alternative fodder production, stall feeding, and breed improvement strategies.	X	X	X	X				
4.2 Provide targeted training to livestock extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of local men and women to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable livestock management practices.	X	X	X	X				
4.3 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for community forest user groups in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community forest management, including integration of biodiversity conservation criteria in Community Forest Operational Plans.	X	X	X	X				
4.4 Provide targeted training to DFO staff and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of locals men and women to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community forest management.	X	X	X	X				
4.5 Develop a cadre of local trainers/expertise for dissemination and replication of biodiversity-friendly and sustainable practices in livestock management and community forestry.				X	X	X		
4.6 Work with DADO, DFO, and DLO and service providers to promote best practices among user groups in preventing/mitigating crop/livestock depredation and human casualties by wildlife.	X	X	X	X				
4.7 Work with local authorities, extension staff, and service providers to mobilize high impact communities in Churia hills to implement measures in watershed protection and flood/landslide control.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.8 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for farmers groups in improving productivity and agrobiodiversity-centered agriculture.	X	X	X	X				
4.9 Provide targeted training to agriculture extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of local men and women to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in agrobiodiversity management.	X	X	X	X				
4.10 Provide and implement best practices for strengthening partnerships between formal and informal institutional and farming communities, multi-institutional and interdisciplinary teams, and rapport building with local communities.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.11 Promote participatory plant breeding (PPB) and participatory variety selection (seed of choice) in order to encourage farmers to select and maintain diversity that address local seed supply.	X	X	X	X				
4.12 Strengthen community seed networks and nodal farmers roles in searching new diversity, select, maintain and exchange the germplasm and knowledge with community.	X	X	X	X	X	X		

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES	Year							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.13 Enhance local management and decision making capacity of local institutions in managing and using agrobiodiversity for community benefits through information systems (ie, Community Biodiversity Registers).	X	X	X	X				
4.14 Develop decentralized small scale ex situ facilities at commodity level to preserve landraces that are endangered and under threat.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.15 Provide technical support for formation of viable community user groups (in particular, grazing user groups, community forest user groups and farmers groups) in bufferzone of Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and high-impact communities in productive areas (with particular focus on women and disadvantaged groups).	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.16 Strengthen the Bufferzone/community institutions within protected areas of WTLC through targeted training and technical inputs with particular focus on women and disadvantaged groups.	X	X						
4.17 Support local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities & VDCs) in developing and implementing ecotourism management plans and mainstreaming ecotourism planning into DDC and VDC planning process.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.18 Develop a social mobilization and training program for undertaking community-based ecotourism development.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.19 Develop and implement local strategies for alternative energy and fuel to reduce local pressures on biodiversity resources.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.20 Develop and implement integrated skills training and enterprise development programs (targeting women, disadvantaged groups, and fuelwood sellers, small farmers groups) which reduce pressure on biodiversity resources.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.21 Implement best practices in local capacity in capital generation and credit mechanisms to support livelihood improvements and productive investments for high impact communities in critical bottleneck areas of productive landscape.	X	X	X	X	X	X		
4.22 Formulate and implement strategies for on-going education and awareness raising among local stakeholders for biodiversity conservation, including conducting conservation awareness education in local schools and mobilizing support of local religious leaders and traditional/cultural organizations.	X	X	X	X				
4.23 Foster community ownership of biodiversity resources in landscape by linking community awareness building with information display devices in villages and land management units which identify responsible parties and conservation role within overall landscape.	X	X	X	X	X			
4.24 Support to the implementation for the implementation of all the above plans and mechanisms							X	X

Annex 1.3. Detailed UNDP and GEF Budget

Western Terai Landscape Complex Project (WTLCP),
NEP/02/G31
Proposed budget breakdown GEF Budget)

Duration: 2004 - 2011

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BL Code	Description	Executing	Amount in US \$	YEARS							
				2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
10.00 PERSONNEL											
11.01	International Consultants	UNOPS	60,000	20,000	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0
15.01	Evaluations (3)	UNOPS	120,000	0	40,000	0	0	40,000	0	0	40,000
17.00 National Professional Personnel											
17.01	Biodiversity Conservation Officer	MFSC	89,724	8,412	7,931	8,724	9,597	10,556	11,612	12,773	11,779
17.02	M & E Officer	MFSC	89,724	8,412	7,931	8,724	9,597	10,556	11,612	12,773	11,779
17.03	Communication Officer	MFSC	89,724	8,412	7,931	8,724	9,597	10,556	11,612	12,773	11,779
17.04	Finance Officer	MFSC	89,724	8,412	7,931	8,724	9,597	10,556	11,612	12,773	11,779
17.52	National Consultants	MFSC	74,675	12,875	10,300	10,300	10,300	6,180	4,635	4,120	3,090
19.00 Component Total			567,051	66,522	82,024	65,196	48,686	108,405	51,082	55,212	89,924
20.00 CONTRACTS											
21.01	Subcontracts	MFSC	1,359,600	154,500	267,800	257,500	236,900	216,300	175,100	51,500	0
29.00 Component Total			1,359,600	154,500	267,800	257,500	236,900	216,300	175,100	51,500	0

30.00 TRAINING										
32.51 Community Training	MFSC	478,950	51,500	56,650	56,650	56,650	56,650	56,650	51,500	41,200
32.52 In service Training	MFSC	185,400	25,750	20,600	20,600	20,600	20,600	20,600	20,600	10,300
32.53 Meetings & workshops	MFSC	103,000	15,450	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,300
39.00 Component Total		674,650	92,700	87,550	87,550	87,550	87,550	87,550	82,400	61,800
40.00 EQUIPMENT										
45.51 Expendable	MFSC	122,055	18,025	12,875	12,875	12,875	12,875	12,875	12,875	8,755
45.52 Non expendable	MFSC	373,478	143,994	0	51,500	0	0	33,990	0	0
45.53 Operation and Maintenance	MFSC	154,706	22,403	16,223	16,223	16,223	16,223	16,223	16,223	12,566
49.00 Component Total		465,818	184,422	29,098	80,598	29,098	29,098	63,088	29,098	21,321
50.00 MISCELLANEOUS										
52.01 Reports and publications, awareness materials	MFSC	197,160	25,750	25,750	25,750	25,750	25,750	25,750	20,600	22,060
59.00 Component Total		197,160	25,750	25,750	25,750	25,750	25,750	25,750	20,600	22060
71.01 Micro Capital grants- credit	MFSC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85.01 Exchange Differential	UNDP	48,000	7,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	5000
99.00 Budget Total		3,312,278	530,893	498,222	522,594	433,984	473,102	408,570	244,809	200,105

Project will start from 01 January 2004

Non-expendable includes vehicles 4, motorcycles 5, bicycle 20, desktop 10, laptop 10, printer 20, color printer 3, OHP 3, multimedia projector 2, photocopier 6, scanner 3, GIS upgrading, Office furniture 2 sets, phone facilities(email, fax) for 3 offices, slide projector 3, OH screen 4digital camera 3, TV sets and others 4

**Western Terai Landscape Complex Project
(WTLCP), NEP/02/030
Proposed budget breakdown (UNDP
TRAC Budget)**

Duration: 2004 - 2011

Budget		Executing	Amount in US \$	YEARS							
BL Code	Description			2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
10.00 PERSONNEL											
11.01	International Consultants	UNOPS	40,000		20,000			20,000			
15.51	Monitoring visits	UNDP	56,000	10,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	7,000	7,500	5000
15.52	Official Travel (incl. NPD's travel)	MFSC	93,000	18,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	9000
19.00 Component Total			189,000	28,500	37,500	17,500	17,500	37,500	18,000	18,500	14,000
20.00 CONTRACTS											
29.00 Component Total			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.00 TRAINING											
32.51	Other Training	MFSC	80,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10000
39.00 Component Total			80,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
40.00 EQUIPMENT											
49.00 Component Total			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50.00 MISCELLANEOUS											

53.51 Sundries & office running cost	MFSC	100,000	16,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	8500
53.52 Co Nex Management	UNDP	54,439	9,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	5939
59.00 Component Total		154,439	26,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	14,439
71.01 Micro Capital grants-credit	MFSC	1,290,000	0	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	250,000	0	0
85.01 Exchange Differential	UNDP	18,300	2,500	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2000
99.00 Budget Total		1,731,739	67,000	328,800	308,800	308,800	328,800	299,300	49,800	40,439

Annex 1.4. Details on the inputs from IPGRI, NARC and LiBird

In kind contribution from the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC)

Details	Working months (w/m)	Unit cost	USD (\$)
Personnel			
A. Pre-project proposal development contribution			
Inputs from the following specialists: Participatory Plant Breeding, Seed supply, Economics and policy, Fodder and pasture, Plant Genetic Resources Management, Molecular Biology, Agrobiodiversity policies and Livestock development	9	114.5	1,030
Sub-total			1,030
B. Project implementation contribution			
Project coordination inputs (w/m) as follows:			
National Agrobiodiversity Adviser (NABA)	24	123	2,952
Regional Agricultural Biodiversity Adviser (RABA)	40	117	4,680
Agrobiodiversity Specialist inputs (w/m) as follows:			
Participatory Plant Breeding (5), Seed supply and vegetables (5), Economics and policy (6), Fodder and pasture (4), Plant Genetic Resources Management (5), Molecular Biology (4), Livestock development (4), Participatory Plant Breeding (3), Horticulture (3), Crop Biology (4), Fodder and agroforestry (3), Animal Health (3)	53	169.5	7,459
Sub total			15,091
Total (A+B)			16,121
Training			
			0
Sub-total			0
Equipment/material			0
Biotechnology lab and gene bank facilities, and office utilities		24,976	20,879
Crop varieties and livestock breeds		13,000	13,000
Sub-total			33,879
GRAND TOTAL (USD)			50,000

In-kind contribution from LiBird

Details	Working months (w/m)	Unit cost	USD (\$)
Personnel			
Pre-project proposal development contribution (In kind)			
Inputs from the following specialists: Social seed network and seed system, Socio-economic aspects, Community participation and value addition, agroforestry and home gardens and PVS	5	499.60	2,498
Project orientation training & pre-project consultation travelling Kathmandu and Western Terai		2,200	2,200
Sub-total			4,698

Project Implementation Contribution			0
Agrobiodiversity Specialist inputs as follows:			
Social networks (4), Ecology / value addition (3), Public awareness (2), Livestock (2), Gender and equity (2)	13	792.5	10,302
Sub-total			10,302
GRAND TOTAL (USD)			15,000

In-kind contributions from IPGRI

IPGRI contribution has been instrumental to the GEF proposal preparation, bringing together national partners, and building capacity of in situ conservation critical research mass so that WTLCP could incorporate agrobiodiversity, which allowed the GEF brief to be jointly approved under OP 3, Forest Ecosystems and OP 13, Agrobiodiversity. IPGRI will continue to backstop technically the national partners of the project so that the quality outputs described in the GEF Brief and Project Document will be achieved.

Specifically, IPGRI contributes financial support for implementation of activities under Outcome 1 (National policy framework) through linking up the ongoing GRPI activities with WTLCP. IPGRI also plays a facilitating role in bringing together global knowledge, and complementary experts and stakeholders on agrobiodiversity management, and serve as a resource centre to provide technical guidance to on the agrobiodiversity activities of the project. WTLCP will replicate best practices in agrobiodiversity management from IPGRI's in situ conservation project in the WTLCP project sites.

Details	Working months	Unit cost (average)	USD (\$)
Specialist inputs (w/m) as follows:			
Global approaches to situ conservation methods and practices (12), Good practices of in situ, PPB and participatory approaches (12), Livelihoods, training, institutional policy issues (12), Genetic diversity studies (12), Genetic diversity and molecular characterization (12), Genetic diversity assessment (12), Social, gender and ethnobotanical contribution (12), Economic issues of agrobiodiversity (12), Agrobiodiversity policy (12), Legal issues (12)	120	4,766.60	571,992
Sub-total			571,992
Training: research generating good practices for the WTLCP project			
PhD-Genetic diversity studies of rice in nepal through DNA markers			35,000
PhD-Social and cultural factors affecting genetic diversity			20,000
PhD- Comparative value of crop varieties adapted to varying ecosystems			30,000
PhD- Economic and policy factors influencing rice genetic diversity			30,000
MSc-community seed studies in USA			4,000
Sub-total			119,000
Equipment			0
Sub-total			0

Travel			
IPGRI Asia Programme Office and HQ	8	8,000	64,000
Within Nepal	8	2,000	16,000
Sub-total			80,000
Miscellaneous			
Output 1 (Through Genetic resource policy initiative GRPI-2003-2006)			140,000
Output 4 (Through in situ conservation project-2003-2005)			170,008
Sub-total			310,008
GRAND TOTAL (USD)			1,081,000

Annex 1.5 Council Comments at the Approval

WORK PROGRAM: COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS
(Reference to GEF/C.20/3 October 14-15, 2002)

*Nepal: Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex
(UNDP; GEF: \$3.550 million; Total Project Costs: \$13.109 million)*

Comments from Germany:

Germany supports this project without any further comments.

Annex 1.6 Revised Incremental Cost Matrix

Note: Shaded area indicates the GEF Project “Alternative” to the Baseline.

Project Output	Cost (in millions US\$)				
	Benefit	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
		Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
1. National policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex	Total: US\$ 0	Total: US\$ 0	GEF: 58,426 Total: US\$ 58,426	MoA: 90,197 (in-kind) UNDP: 45,000 WWF-Nepal: 87,912 IPGRI: 540,000 (in-kind) NARC: 4,833 (in-kind) Li-BIRD: 500 (in-kind) Total: US\$ 768,442	
Domestic Benefits	Inadequate sectoral integration in conservation and development is resulting in overlaps, loss of synergies, and conflicting approaches.	NA	Policies/legal reforms which support biodiversity management in both protected and productive areas will help secure long-term health of vital ecological services and local use and option values of wild resources for local communities dependent on surrounding natural resource base. MoA support in revising agricultural policies to include agrobiodiversity conservation components will enhance sustainable agriculture development while improving livelihoods options and food security, particularly for poor farmers who are more dependent on local crop varieties.		
Global Benefits	Gaps in enabling policies and legislation for landscape management of biodiversity. Global environmental objectives are inadequately integrated into sector policies and regulatory framework.	NA	New policy prescriptions and policy/legal reforms will facilitate landscape management and create a foundation for sustaining globally significant biodiversity management over time. Integration of agrobiodiversity conservation components in agricultural policies will create enabling environment for <i>in situ</i> conservation of agricultural biodiversity.		
2. Institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex established	KMTNC: 480,000 Total: US\$ 480,000	DoF: 141,043 (in-kind) DDCs: 100,000 (in-kind) MoA: 90,197 (in-kind) Total: US\$ 331,240	GEF: 1,531,404 Total: US\$ 1,531,404	DNPWC: 113,593 (in-kind) UNDP: 529,833 SNV: 982,978 WWF-Nepal: 271,493 IPGRI: 102,000 (in-kind) NARC: 9,716 (in-kind) LI-BIRD: 1,000 (in-kind) Total: US\$ 2,010,613	

Project Output	Cost (in millions US\$)				
	Benefit	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
		Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
Domestic Benefits	<p>Weak intersectoral coordination and implementation in conservation and development.</p> <p>Inadequate tools to support intersectoral planning and inadequate understanding of interlinkages among conservation, resource use, and poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>Coordination and facilitative support from local authorities and Regional Department of Forests for integrated planning and implementation will enhance capacity in decentralized governance.</p> <p>Involvement of productive sector agencies in monitoring and formulation of planning tools will also enhance informed decision making for natural resource/land management.</p>	<p>Improved intersectoral coordination will optimize resources to attain multiple ecological, economic, and social objectives.</p> <p>Improved tools and information system for integrated planning will facilitate decision making over competing land use demands and ensure coherent management approach to conservation and sustainable development.</p>		
Global Benefits	<p>Weak institutional mechanisms for promoting integrated ecosystem management at landscape scale, and weak transboundary cooperation.</p> <p>Inadequate tools and knowledge base for integrated biodiversity conservation at the landscape level.</p>	<p>Involvement of local authorities and productive sector agencies in coordination, facilitative, and monitoring support and formulation of planning tools will enhance: institutional capacities and commitment to mainstreaming biodiversity/ agrobiodiversity conservation in local development and productive sector management; and adaptive management for long-term biodiversity management.</p>	<p>Institutional arrangements and participatory planning for integrated conservation and development will be strengthened from central to local levels. Systematic and strategic transboundary cooperation will be institutionalized.</p> <p>Adaptive management of global biodiversity values will be strengthened through improved tools for planning, information management, monitoring systems, and knowledge base of biodiversity indicators.</p> <p>DNPWC support in monitoring and information management and formulation of landscape-level planning tools will enhance institutional capacity and intersectoral coordination in biodiversity conservation.</p>		
3. Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed	<p>DoF: 847,354</p> <p>DNPWC: 873,905</p> <p>CARE: 400,000</p> <p>KMTNC: 1,600,000</p> <p>Total: US\$ 3,721,259</p>	<p>DoF: 191,338 (in-kind)</p> <p>UNDP: 116,354</p> <p>SNV: 568,843</p> <p>WWF-Nepal: 110,321</p> <p>Total: US\$ 986,856</p>	<p>GEF: 1,144,818</p> <p>Total: US\$ 1,144,818</p>	<p>DNPWC: 375,613 (in-kind)</p> <p>UNDP: 385,025</p> <p>SNV: 370,610</p> <p>WWF-Nepal: 481,793</p> <p>Total: US\$ 1,613,041</p>	

Project Output	Cost (in millions US\$)				
	Benefit	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
		Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
Domestic Benefit	<p>Protected area management and park-community relations are not adequately systematized and institutionalized, hence past gains are at risk of being lost with staff turnover.</p> <p>Inadequate know-how in sustainable forest management practices. Poor enforcement of regulations that control against forest encroachment.</p>	<p>Reorienting DFOs to biodiversity-friendly forest management will simultaneously improve sustainable forest management practices. Improved enforcement measures by DFOs against forest encroachment will secure sustainability of forest resources and vital ecological functions.</p>	<p>Protected area management will be strengthened and bufferzone structures will be institutionalized to ensure professional management capacity of and long-term local community support for protected areas.</p> <p>Local use and option values of wild biodiversity resources will be secured for future generations.</p>		
Global Benefit	<p>Inadequate scientific and participatory management of protected areas and bufferzones undermine long-term biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Weak integration of biodiversity conservation criteria in productive landscape, resulting in rapid forest degradation and fragmentation with accompanying adverse impacts on globally significant biodiversity.</p>	<p>Strengthened institutional capacities of DFOs in integrating biodiversity conservation with forest management and enforcement measures will enable maintenance of habitat networks of flagship species and associated globally significant biodiversity in productive landscape.</p>	<p>Scientific and participatory management of protected areas and bufferzones will be strengthened to enable adaptive management and secure long-term viability of biodiversity in protected areas.</p>		
4. Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods	<p>DDCs: 3,628,064</p> <p>MoA: 3,698,069</p> <p>Total: US\$ 7,326,133</p>	<p>DoF: 54,668 (in-kind)</p> <p>MoA: 721,574 (in-kind)</p> <p>DDCs: 584,315 (in-kind)</p> <p>UNDP: 355,527</p> <p>SNV: 549,450</p> <p>WWF-Nepal: 387,848</p> <p>Total : US\$ 2,653,382</p>	<p>GEF: 577,630</p> <p>Total: US\$ 577,630</p>	<p>DNPWC: 151,457 (in-kind)</p> <p>UNDP: 300,000</p> <p>WWF-Nepal: 212,023</p> <p>IPGRI : 439,000 (in-kind)</p> <p>NARC: 35,451 (in-kind)</p> <p>Li-BIRD: 13,500 (in-kind)</p> <p>Total: US\$ 1,151,431</p>	

Project Output	Benefit				Cost (in millions US\$)			
	Non-Incremental		Incremental		Non-Incremental		Incremental	
	Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing	Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
Domestic Benefit	<p>Inadequate local know-how and capacity to pursue sustainable, higher productivity production practices and improve low socioeconomic status.</p> <p>Genetic erosion of local crop diversity is reducing farming communities' ability to cope with environmental change and options for food and livelihoods.</p> <p>Inadequate local understanding of critical role of biodiversity conservation in sustainability of rural livelihoods.</p>	<p>Local communities will be empowered and equipped to manage their natural resource and land base more productively and sustainably and to undertake self-reliant development activities.</p> <p>Extension support will be strengthened to improve on-going technical support for sustainable management practices to local communities.</p>	<p>Enhanced local awareness of the benefits of agrobiodiversity use and conservation and local communities and institutions empowered to manage agrobiodiversity will improve food security and rural livelihood options.</p> <p>Enhanced conservation values will motivate local communities to manage natural resource base sustainably.</p>					
Global Benefits	<p>Extension support for community forestry and livestock practices do not adequately impart sustainable management practices nor biodiversity-friendly methods to local communities.</p> <p>Agriculture extension does not impart agrobiodiversity conservation and use to local farmers and has been predominantly focused on modern crop varieties. This has contributed to erosion of on-farm crop diversity.</p> <p>Local communities are overly dependent on natural forests for subsistence needs have weak biodiversity conservation values.</p>	<p>Local communities will practice alternative livelihoods and biodiversity-friendly production, thus reducing pressures on natural forest systems and biodiversity resources. Reoriented extension support to include biodiversity conservation criteria will enable on-going technical support for biodiversity-friendly practices.</p>	<p>Enhanced awareness and management of local crop diversity and agrobiodiversity methods among relevant stakeholders will safeguard the genepool of globally important agricultural species and contribute to maintenance of overall ecosystem health in the surrounding biodiversity-rich, natural landscape.</p> <p>Conservation-oriented mindsets will reorient local livelihoods to biodiversity-friendly practices and enhance long-term viability of biodiversity.</p>					
Project Totals		11,527,392	3,971,478	3,312,278	5,543,527			
PDF-B				237,400	44,150			
Grand Total		11,527,392	3,971,478	3,549,678	5,587,677			

Annex 1.7 Project Cost Breakdown

This Annex replaces Annex 2 P of the GEF Brief

Table 1: Project Cost Breakdown by Activities

Project Outputs/Activities	Estimated Cost (US\$)
Subtotal 1: Policy environment & legal framework	826,868
Subtotal 2: Institutional framework	3,873,257
Intersectoral and interagency mechanisms	463,010
Institutional capacity-building for integrated planning and management of biodiversity	1,773,395
Information and planning tools for landscape planning	1,636,852
Subtotal 3: Sustainable biodiversity management in government lands	3,744,715
Protected area management	1,906,799
Institutional strengthening of government-managed forests in productive sector	1,837,916
Subtotal 4: Sustainable livelihoods	4,382,443
Sustainable land/resource management to reduce pressures on wild biodiversity	955,340
Agrobiodiversity management	1,496,279
Diversified Livelihoods	859,841
Biodiversity conservation awareness and education	1,070,983
TOTAL	12,827,283

Table 2: Monitoring & Evaluation Budget Breakdown

M&E Activities	Estimated Cost (US\$)
Needs assessment for M & E	100,000
Train locals in participatory planning and monitoring	81,390
Periodic survey, analysis and review	77,686
Develop and implement coordinated strategy for structural and systematic monitoring	127,780
Formulate and strengthen tools for landscape level monitoring	100,800
Total	487,656

Annex 1.8 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan

1. The project has been designed to integrate M&E into the fabric of project implementation. M&E is a crucial part of the project activities and supports project's knowledge management and adaptive management approach. Project's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will develop a detailed **Monitoring & Evaluation Plan** the inception period. The Plan will elaborate on the arrangements and respective monitoring responsibilities of each entity. Monitoring activities will include annual review meetings with project staff, with the government agencies and stakeholders. During the meetings operations and field implementation will be reviewed and assessed to see whether new priorities require a shift in project implementation. The project is subject to GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation requirements.
2. Monitoring and evaluation should be interactive and mutually supportive activities. **Monitoring** is an ongoing activity that is conducted by the project management itself. It is a continuous process of collecting and analyzing information to measure the progress of a project toward expected results. Monitoring provides managers and participants with regular feedback that can help determine whether a project is progressing as planned. Formal **evaluations** are periodic assessments of project performance and impact. They are conducted externally, i.e. by independent individuals or institutions. Evaluations also document what lessons have been learned from experiences generated through project activities.
3. **Reporting** is the systematic and timely analysis of data generated through ongoing monitoring activities and provision of essential information. Therefore it is an integral part of the monitoring function. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation are management functions that could also be described as observing project progress (monitoring), documenting the observed information (reporting) and assessing on the basis of the above (evaluating).
4. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program has been included in WTLCP's overall design. A baseline on the level and extent of threats to biodiversity in each site has already been established during the PDF-B Phase. Indicators of success are included in the project's Results Framework and Logical Framework and will be utilized on a continuous basis. The indicators will be further reviewed at the end of the inception phase and improved on the basis of updated baseline data. During the first year of the project the baseline will be amended and updated to provide a solid basis for ongoing monitoring activities.
5. The Programme Coordinator will prepare and submit quarterly and annual progress reports to the PMC. The format of the report will include also independent views of the main stakeholders of a project on its relevance, performance and the likelihood of its success. Annual Progress Report will be discussed in annual Tripartite Review (TPR) meeting. Members of the Project Steering Committee will be all called to the TPR meeting.

6. External evaluations: During the project duration, three independent evaluations will be carried out. An Initial Evaluation will be conducted by the end of 2nd year of programme implementation (in month 22), a Mid-Term Review by the end of 5th year of programme (in month 58) and Final Evaluation on the 8th year of the programme (in month 90).
7. These independent evaluations of project performance will compare project progress against the indicators. Each evaluation of the project will document lessons learned, identify challenges, and provide recommendations to improve performance. Project performance will be measured in each of the three evaluations based on the quantitative and qualitative indicators to be amended / updated during the inception phase as part of the project's work to establish an information baseline.
8. The logical framework for this project sets out a range of impact/implementation indicators that will be used to gauge impact. Success and failure will be determined in part by monitoring relative changes in baseline conditions, addressing ecological, economic and social elements of landscape-scale conservation. An important part of the baseline data collection will be a review of the nature and extent of threats, as well as habitat size and condition, and population size of indicator species. Where possible, indicator species that are sensitive to habitat change and indicative of increased pressure will be identified and monitored.
9. **Initial evaluation:** This evaluation will assess progress in achieving threat reduction, identify any difficulties in project implementation and their causes, and recommend corrective courses of action. It will also seek to consolidate the lessons learned during the first two and a half years of the project and recommend the most successful for replication. Effective action to rectify any identified issues hindering implementation will be a requirement prior to determining whether implementation should proceed. The evaluation will need to pay particular attention to the management arrangements of the project as well as achievement of outputs related to policy and regulatory changes and institutional capacity building.
10. **Mid-Term Review and Final Evaluation:** The focus of these evaluations will be on the effectiveness of the overall project in attaining its objectives, and on describing and quantifying the overall impact of the project and of GEF's incremental investment in the project. Mid-Term Review will be particularly relevant in assessing the overall progress of the project, emerging impact (or lack of) and suggesting remedies and improvements to project design and implementation arrangements (if applicable).
11. All evaluations should also assess:
 - Relevance of the project original problem analysis (approach, objectives, modalities of implementation, etc.) with regard to the prevailing context;
 - Effectiveness of the approach used to produce these results;
 - Efficiency of project management, including the delivery of inputs in terms of quality, quantity and timeliness; and the monitoring system;

- Transfer of capacity to the district and local institutions;
- Views of the direct beneficiaries on the preliminary outcomes and on the consultative process taking place for the project.

Particular attention should be paid to assessing the following issues in the context of national execution: 1) capacity built within the supported institutions and their staff, and; 2) capacity built within the end-users including specific groups.

12. Sustainability of the results needs to be reviewed in light of the following considerations:
 - Commitment of the host government to the project targets, and
 - Involvement of the local organizations (participatory process)
 - Management and organizational factors
 - Co-funding actually leveraged for replication of best practices in other sites.
 - Human resources development
13. Respective evaluation teams should inspect the following documents, among others: the Project Document and GEF Brief; project files; technical reports; mission reports; monitoring visit reports; Annual Project Reports; TPR reports; PIRs; and other relevant documents; lessons learned round table discussion records and minutes; maps and databases developed under the project and being used in the sites. Based on the analysis of the documentation as well as on interviews with the project personnel, direct and indirect project beneficiaries and project stakeholders, the evaluation team is expected to provide a fair assessment of the project implementation and present their findings and recommendations in the report. Evaluation team will be requested to submit the following documents to UNDP and the national Executing Agency:
 - Project Evaluation Information Sheet (PEIS)
 - Evaluation report

Original Project Brief Approved by the GEF Council in October of 2002

SECTION 2

Project Number:	NEP/00/G41; NEP/99/030
Title:	Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex
Duration:	8 years
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Executing Agency:	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/ Nepal)
Requesting Country:	Nepal
GEF Focal Area:	Biodiversity
Programming Framework:	OP 3: Forest ecosystems; OP 13: Agrobiodiversity

SUMMARY:

This project is designed to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Nepal's Western Terai landscape by establishing effective management systems and building capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of the Western Terai landscape complex (WTLC). The project strategy is based on the premise that long-term viability of globally significant biodiversity hinges on the ability to manage an overall system of habitats in a wide ecological landscape that goes beyond the confines of protected areas. Protected areas remain critical elements in biodiversity management. Therefore, project interventions will strengthen fledgling protected area management systems towards scientific and participatory management to improve conservation management and effectively address root causes of threats to biodiversity conservation.

However, on their own, the protected areas are inadequate to ensure the long-term conservation of globally significant biodiversity. Therefore, another critical dimension of the project is to extend biodiversity conservation strategies into the surrounding productive landscape comprising national forests, agricultural land, riparian strips, and wetlands. Existing land/resource management institutions in the productive sector will be reoriented to integrate biodiversity management. The project will enable and incentivize local communities to reduce exploitative pressures on natural forests and biodiversity resources by: building their capacities for biodiversity-friendly and sustainable land/resource use practices; improving their livelihood development options; and sensitizing them to the practical benefits of biodiversity conservation. In addition, on-farm management of crop genetic diversity will be promoted among local farmers to create and increase opportunities for sustainable management of agrobiodiversity that reduce poverty and improve livelihoods of resource poor and marginal people.

At the same time, the project's landscape approach will reorient Nepal's policy and legal framework and institutional arrangements towards integrated ecosystem management to achieve multiple objectives in conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and poverty alleviation. Ultimately, the project aims to develop replicable landscape-level management models to safeguard the long-term biological wealth and vital ecological functions in Nepal.

COSTS AND FINANCING (US\$):

GEF: Project Brief:	\$3,312,278
Block-B Preparatory Funding	\$237,400
Sub-total GEF:	\$3,549,678

Co-financing:

His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/Nepal):

Department of Forests (DoF)	\$387,049
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)	\$640,663
District Development Committees for Bardia, Kanchanpur & Kailali Districts (DDCs)	\$684,315
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	\$901,968
UNDP	\$1,731,739
SNV	\$2,471,881
WWF-Nepal	\$1,551,390
IPGRI	\$1,081,000
Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)	\$50,000
Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	\$15,000

Block-B Preparatory Co-financing \$44,150

Sub-total co-financing: **\$9,559,155**

Total Project Cost (excluding Block B preparation cost) **\$12,827,282**

ASSOCIATED FINANCING (Baseline): Estimated at US\$ 11,527,392 over eight years.

GEF FOCAL POINT ENDORSEMENT:

Name: Madhav P. Ghimire, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Date: 2 August 2002

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CONTACT:

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Acronyms

APP	Agriculture Perspective Plan
BCP	Bardia Conservation Project
BICP	Bardia Integrated Conservation Project
BSC	Bardia sub-complex
BZ	Bufferzone
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community based organization
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
DADO	District Agriculture Development Officer
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Officer
DLO	District Livestock Office
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoF	Department of Forests
DSCWM	Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
HMG/Nepal	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
INGO	International Non-governmental organization
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
KMTNC	King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
KSC	Kailali sub-complex
KPSC	Kanchanpur sub-complex
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
LSGA	Local Self Governance Act
MFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development
MoPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
NABC	National Agrobiodiversity Committee
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPD	National Programme Director
PA	Protected Areas
PCP	Participatory Conservation Program
PISC	Project Implementation Sub-Committee
PMU	Project Management Unit
PDDP	Participatory District Development Program
PPP	Parks and People Program
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RBNP	Royal Bardia National Park
RCC	Regional Coordinating Committee

RDF	Regional Directorate of Forests
RSWR	Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve
RTC	Regional Training Center
SCDP	Sustainable Community Development Programme
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
TCC	Technical Coordination Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WTLC	Western Terai Landscape Complex

1. Country Ownership

1 a Country Eligibility

1. Nepal ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in August 1994 and is eligible for technical assistance from UNDP.

1 b Country Drivenness

2. The project's objectives, strategies, and activities are consistent with key national and sector development plans, policies, and strategies as outlined below in Table 1.

Table 1: Linkages Between Project and National/Sector Plans, Policies & Strategies

	Specific National/Sector Development Plan, Policy, or Strategy	Project's Consistency with National/Sector Development Plan, Policy, or Strategy
1	The draft <i>Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)</i> supports a landscape approach to conservation and sustainable use; it also supports agrobiodiversity conservation and use.	The project's outcomes include establishing an enabling policy environment and legal framework and institutional mechanisms for integrated landscape planning of biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) in the Western Terai landscape complex.
2	The <i>Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002)</i> adopted concept of long-term planning and emphasized poverty alleviation and decentralization. In natural resource and conservation sectors, it called for proper land use practices and protecting seasonal migratory corridors of wildlife in Terai.	The project promotes integrated planning at landscape level and activities in: sustainable land use practices, alternative income generation, and protection of seasonal migratory corridors of flagship wildlife species.
3	The <i>National Biodiversity Strategy</i> (endorsed by Cabinet on 9 August 2002) espouses a holistic, ecosystem approach to conservation and sustainable use, including agricultural biodiversity.	The project's landscape management approach will provide a vehicle for operationalizing ecosystem management on the ground by targeting both natural and surrounding productive landscapes and wild and agricultural biodiversity.
4	The <i>National Conservation Strategy (1988)</i> emphasizes importance of conservation of ecosystems of Siwaliks and Terai	The project focuses on the Western Terai Landscape Complex (WTLC) which includes the Churia/Siwalik range and foothills and the Terai ecosystems

1 c Endorsement

3. The project has been endorsed by the GEF Operational Focal Point in a letter dated 2 August 2002 – see Annex 2B.

2. Program & Policy Conformity

2 a Program Designation & Conformity

4. The project's focus on strengthening protected area management and integrating biodiversity conservation criteria with sustainable forest use and agricultural production in the surrounding productive landscape of Western Terai are consistent with the following objectives of Operational Program 3, Forest Ecosystems: 1) pursuing conservation through strengthening systems of conservation and focusing on tropical ecosystems in areas at risk; and 2) pursuing sustainable use by combining production, socio-economic, and biodiversity goals and utilizing a range of uses from strict protection through various forms of multiple use. The project will also contribute to the goals of OP13. Land degradation is also relevant to the project and will be mitigated through conservation and rehabilitation efforts to be piloted to safeguard the fragile Churia range/hills water catchment area in the WTLC.

2 b Project Design

2 b i. *Sector issues, root causes, threats, barriers, etc., affecting global environment*

Environmental Context:

5. The Western Terai Landscape Project focuses on conserving the rich biological diversity of the Western Terai landscape complex (WTLC) in the western region of Nepal (see Annex 2C for the location map). This area has been included in the list of WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions. WTLC occupies a land area of approximately 7,200 sq km and stretches from Royal Bardia National Park (RBNP) in the east to Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR) in the western edge of Nepal. **Large tracts of forest remain in the intervening productive landscape between RSWR and RBNP in spite of large-scale clearance of forests for agricultural development in the last three decades.**

6. The WTLC comprises two topographically distinct zones: the lowland Terai in the south (where altitude ranges from 100-300m), and the Churia hills in the north (the highest point of which is about 1800m). Approximately 60% of the WTLC is covered with tropical and sub-tropical forest, with the forests of the Churia Range remaining largely undisturbed. The Churia Range/Hills is the youngest component of the Himalayan chain and is particularly fragile and susceptible to erosion. It also harbors high biodiversity values, forms part of the habitat network of flagship species, and serves as a critical water catchment area for the lowland Terai and productive agricultural land for a population of over 1.3 million.

7. The WTLC is globally significant with regard to both its faunal and floral diversity. It is home to threatened wildlife species, including: tigers (*Panthera tigris*), rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), wild elephants (*Elephas maximus*), swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelli*), black buck (*Antelope cervicapra*), four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), hispid hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*), Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), lesser adjutant stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), lesser florican (*Sypheotides indica*), gharial crocodile (*Gavialis gangeticus*), and Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*). The tigers and elephants are categorized as flagship species for this landscape as they form an effective link between species-oriented management and management for biological diversity. RSWR has the highest density of tigers in the world and the largest

herd of swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelli*). In the RBNP and RSWR, there are respectively about 260 and 350 species of birds, out of which 20-25% are threatened.

8. It is estimated that the WTLC may have about 900 species of vascular plants, out of which 455 species have been recorded. The forest is dominated by commercially-valuable Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and Saj (*Terminalia alata*). Another important vegetation type found is extensive grasslands, particularly within RBNP and RSWR (*Imperata cylindrica* and *Heteropogon contortus*). Plant species which are at different levels of threat include: *Shorea robusta*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Pandanus nepalensis*, *Calamus acanthospathus*, *C. tenuis*, *Rauwolfia seprentina*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Acacia catechu*, *Aerides multifolia*, and *Ascocentrum ampullaceum*. Vegetation diversity of the Western Terai region is also reflected in its crop diversity, including local varieties of paddy, barley, and millet. There also is a wide variety in fruits, including over a dozen local varieties of mango. Locally adapted Tilaki, Kanakjeera and Shyamjeera are popular high quality rice unique to the area.

9. There are over 70 wetlands in this region, one of the most important of which, Ghodaghodi Tal, has been proposed by His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/Nepal) for inclusion in the Ramsar list. There are two major river systems within the WTLC: Karnali (one of the main tributaries of the Ganges) and Mahakali to the west. (See Annex 2D for further details on the biodiversity values in the WTLC and Annex 2E for further details on the programs in RBNP and RSWR).

Socio-economic Context:

10. The WTLC is situated in the mid-western and far western development regions of Nepal, which are characterized by high levels of poverty, low human development, deep gender disparity, and low gender empowerment. The human development index (HDI) for the mid-western and far western development regions are lowest among the five administrative regions in Nepal, achieving only 86% and 83% respectively of the national HDI of 0.47. These regions have traditionally been neglected and efforts have only recently been made to include them in the mainstream of the country's modernization process.

11. The WTLC covers three administrative districts of Nepal's western region, from east to west respectively: Bardia, Kailali, and Kanchanpur. These three districts are inhabited by over a million people (with a population size of 1,383,642 according to the 2001 census). Population growth rates in all three districts (with average annual growth rate of 3.5, based on 1991–2001 intercensal population years) far exceed the national average of 2.2 percent.

12. Agriculture and livestock production represent the main sources of livelihood, with more than 80% of the population in this region involved in this sector. Agriculture as practiced in the Western Terai, as in much of Nepal, remains primarily subsistence-oriented. The average landholding in the three districts of WTLC ranges from 1.4 to 1.8ha. A significant proportion of the population in Western Terai still lives below subsistence level and faces food scarcity even though there is food surplus in the region

as a whole. Resource-poor households are more dependent on traditional crops and landraces for food security, particularly in marginal growing conditions. Traditional crops and variety ensure access for farmers to a secure source of locally adapted seed as more than 96% farmers keep their own seed and/or buy or exchange with relative and neighbours in the community. Livestock is a major source of cash income for poorer households.

13. Migration to India constitutes the next important source of livelihood, particularly for communities in and around the Churia Hills. Wage labor is another important source of cash income. An estimated 5% of people depend on selling fuelwood for their livelihood.

14. Gender and ethnic disparities with regard to access to resources, benefits, and decision making power remain large in this region. This is reflected in the gender disparity in literacy, with female literacy standing at around 16% in Bardia and Kailali as compared to 42-45% male literacy. The Tharu, Raji, and Badi are indigenous ethnic groups that count among the most disadvantaged people in this region comprising a heterogeneous mix of ethnic/caste groups.

Policy & Legal Context:

15. Nepal has a well-established policy and legal framework supporting biodiversity conservation and community approaches to conservation and management of natural resources. Nepal's commitment to biodiversity conservation goes back to its enactment of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act in 1973 that provided a legal basis for the management of protected areas. With the support of UNDP-GEF, HMG/Nepal has also prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS). This plan reflects a shift in Nepal's biodiversity conservation management towards a more holistic, ecosystem-oriented approach to conservation and sustainable use, which this project will be instrumental in advancing. The emerging Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) is in the process of incorporating landscape approach to conservation and sustainable use as a new strategic and operational direction.

16. Nepal's strong tradition in promoting community-based management of natural resources and conservation is also reflected in its existing plans, policies and laws. The Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (1988) and Forest Act (1993) support community-based management of forests to meet local communities' basic needs. The importance for local communities adjoining protected areas to share benefits from the protected areas and to engage in sustainable natural resource management were also recognized and advanced through the Bufferzone Management Regulation (1996). The national interest in securing direct local benefits in conservation and sustainable development has been also reinforced by efforts towards decentralization of governance. Nepal has embarked on a far-reaching administrative decentralization programme as called for by the Local Self-Governance Act (LSGA) 1999.

17. At present, there are no overall policies and laws for the sustainable utilization and conservation of agrobiodiversity per se. The present policy on biodiversity is more

focused on forest genetic resources including wildlife than on agrobiodiversity. However, the National Planning Commission (NPC) recently formed a National Agrobiodiversity Committee (NABC) in 2000 under Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to identify policy issues, gaps and constraints for agrobiodiversity conservation and utilization.

Institutional Context:

18. Whereas the challenges of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development require integrated approaches within wide ecological landscapes, relevant government institutions remain organized along narrowly-defined sectoral lines. The Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation (MFSC) discharges its responsibilities in biodiversity conservation, forest management, and watershed management through three separate, constituent departments: the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Department of Forests (DoF), and Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM). The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) manages agriculture and livestock separately. The Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) is an autonomous government research institution with a national mandate in conservation and utilization of genetic resources for agriculture and food. These various government entities collectively exert strong influence and impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, but they still largely operate independently (even within the same Ministry) and with little ongoing collaborative planning and program implementation.

19. The National Planning Commission (NPC) was established to facilitate intersectoral coordination, particularly in the development of Nepal's five-year development plans. While NPC has a potentially critical function, in practice, its lack of human resources has limited its ability to effect integrated planning and implementation with regard to conservation and sustainable development.

20. At the local level, local administrative bodies, represented by District Development Committees (DDCs) and Village Development Districts (VDCs), have growing influence in conservation and sustainable development efforts, as a result of the systemic shift towards decentralization. These administrative entities include locally-elected officials, and under the LSGA 1999, will take on greater responsibilities in formulating and implementing plans to promote local socio-economic development, natural resource management, and conservation. In the process, they will be required to draw upon the technical expertise and support of the field-based counterparts of DNPWC, DoF, and MoA which include: parks staff, District Forest Offices (DFO), District Agriculture Development Offices (DADO), and District Livestock Offices (DLO). Building the capacity of these district line agencies to work in partnership with users groups (including farmers and community forest groups), community based organizations (CBOs), Clubs, and NGOs is a key element of the project implementation.

Threats Analysis:

21. The major threats to biodiversity in the Western Terai landscape are: a) agricultural encroachment and squatting in forestlands; b) high grazing pressures in the

forests; c) overexploitation of biological resources from forests; and d) the replacement of traditional crop varieties and landraces with modern cultivars. The first three threats have collectively led to degradation and fragmentation of biodiversity-rich forests and habitat loss in the Western Terai. In the districts of Bardia, Kailali, and Kanchanpur, the forest area has decreased by 12%, 15%, and 24% between the time periods of 1978/79 and 1990/91. It is projected that all the forest in Terai would be cleared in 70 years assuming the trend of an annual deforestation rate of 1.3% per year (during the period from 1978 to 1991) continues. Forest degradation and fragmentation in turn have contributed to the loss of habitat connectivity for the flagship species that inhabit the Western Terai region. Habitat fragmentation has the effect of reducing previously extensive mammal populations into genetically isolated sub-populations, many of which now risk falling below the threshold of population viability. The fourth agricultural-related practice is resulting in the genetic erosion of agricultural biodiversity in the Western Terai's agricultural landscape. Following is an analysis of the barriers and underlying causes of these threats to biodiversity in the WTLC (see also Annex 2H for a diagram of the project's threats and barriers/root causes analysis).

Agricultural Encroachment and Squatting in Forested Lands

22. Agricultural encroachment and squatting have been propelled by high in-migration into the Western Terai and declining productivity of the existing agricultural land. High in-migration has pushed up population growth and accelerated the process of conversion of government forestland for illegal human settlement and cultivation. Migrants come largely from poorer, neighboring hill districts. Forestlands, particularly those in the productive landscape, have become easy targets for migrant settlements due to the open access conditions of these lands and lax enforcement mechanisms. In addition, the Western Terai's land review and distribution mechanisms have not been effective in curbing the spread of illegal settlements at the regional level.

23. However, recent experience shows that where there is a combination of political will, sound leadership, and local community support, land review and distribution mechanisms can be applied effectively to relocate squatters and address land tenure needs of landless groups. Under a government resettlement and land compensation program, approximately 10,000 squatters were recently relocated from the Basanta Forest area -- an important dispersal corridor for wildlife, including tigers, elephants, and rhinoceros -- within the project's productive landscape. RSWR was also recently able to complete relocation of an entrenched squatter settlement which had for many years virtually divided the protected area into two separate east and west segments, under a separate government resettlement and land compensation program. These government-led resettlement programs involved participatory and consultative processes with local communities. The government has also contained the illegal settlements of landless, ex-"Kamaiyas" (freed bonded laborers) through its program of providing land targeted at this disadvantaged community. As a result of these various government initiatives, there are no longer illegal settlements in government forestlands in the targeted project sites. However, challenges remain in ensuring long-term prevention of future re-encroachment and encroachment into other forests in the WTLC.

24. Agricultural encroachment into government forests has also been driven by declining productivity of adjoining cultivated lands. This arises from agricultural practices that are rudimentary and, in the face of growing population pressures, inadequate in maintaining long-term soil fertility and crop productivity. The inappropriate farming methods are, in turn, a reflection of an agricultural extension system that has not effectively reoriented local farmers towards strategies and methods of sustainable and improved-productivity cultivation. Inadequate farm technology and infrastructure also represent a barrier in improving crop productivity. Only an estimated 47% of agricultural land in all three districts has irrigation facilities.

High Grazing Pressures in Forests

25. High livestock grazing pressures in forests, particularly in government-managed forests in the productive areas, arise from the open access conditions of the forests and high cattle population to available grazing land in the Western Terai. The open access conditions of the forests, as in the above case for squatting and agricultural encroachment, result from the forest regulatory and enforcement system, which have not adequately taken into account biodiversity conservation. The high cattle population is partly due to unregulated proliferation of cows, in particular “unproductive cows” (including female cows too old to produce milk or oxen too old to plough fields or pull carts). Cattle population control through culling and export of cattle in Nepal are illegal since it is a Hindu country. In addition, the high land demand for livestock feeding reflects livestock practices, which remain dependent on naturally available fodder. This in turn reflects a livestock extension system that has not effectively reoriented local community members towards improved and more resource-efficient livestock practices. The estimated population of domestic animals in the three districts (cattle, buffaloes, goats, and sheep) in 1996/97 was about 1.2 million. With a human population of over 1.3 million for all three districts in 2001, the ratio of livestock to humans is estimated at close to 1:1.

Overexploitation of Biological Resources from Forests

26. Overexploitation of forest resources in the WTLC arises primarily because of the open access conditions of the forests, local communities’ dependence on forest resources to meet their subsistence needs, and cash income from timber and wildlife poaching. A combination of the policy environment and regulatory and enforcement system at national and regional levels and forestry practices which do not adequately account for biodiversity conservation enable the ongoing exploitative practices to occur. Overexploitation of the forest also occurs because local communities are overly-dependent on this adjoining natural resource base to meet their daily household needs. This has led to the steady depletion of local forest resources to fulfill basic needs, in particular fuelwood, fodder, and construction materials.

27. In the District of Kanchanpur, it is estimated that about 30,000 m³ of wood (used for construction, etc) and 170,000 Mt of fuelwood are required as compared to the 15,000 m³ of wood and 8,300 Mt. of fuelwood supplied from the forests. Therefore, only 50% of wood demand and 5% of fuelwood can be met from the current supply in the forest. This has led to encroachment and unsustainable resource extraction practices in government-managed forests, including collection and sale of fuelwood from forests as a

source of income. Extensive forest blocks have standing mature trees but with barely any ground vegetation remaining, thus hindering regeneration of forest.

28. High demand for timber and wildlife products for commercial use, have also fueled illegal timber felling and wildlife poaching in forests of protected areas and government-managed forests in the productive landscape. These commercially valuable forest resources, particularly the commercially-valuable Sal trees, are easily accessible in the extensive tracts of Sal-dominated forest of the lowland Terai. Transboundary trade of these resources is also facilitated by the open border with adjacent India. It has been said that four to five Sal trees can fetch a Maruti car, valued at NRs 500,000 (about US\$6,464). These various forms of exploitative practices have led to the depletion of forest cover in the fragile Churia hills and foothills in the WTLC. This in turn has been attributed to increased flooding and landslides which have adversely impacted downstream villages and agricultural lands.

Replacement of Traditional Crops and Landraces with Modern Cultivars

29. Traditional crops and landraces are being replaced with modern crop varieties partly as a result of the promotion of modern varieties by agriculture extension services, along with associated production inputs, and linked incentive measures (including subsidies and credit schemes). This agricultural trend towards modern cultivars in turn arises from national policies that are narrowly focused on modern crop production systems. At the policy level, recognition of the benefits of agricultural biodiversity and agrobiodiversity management practices is relatively new, and they have not yet been mainstreamed into agricultural development policies and practices.

30. Loss of agricultural biodiversity is linked to loss of options to farmers to cope with change, and farming communities are increasingly vulnerable with regard to access to food and livelihoods. Genetic erosion is reported to be high in vegetables, crops, and fruits plants at both varietal and species level. There are many examples such as local vegetables, mango, citrus or aromatic high quality rice in Nepal whose genetic potential for quality are realized after being lost from the natural habitats. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute's (IPGRI) on-farm conservation project in Nepal (1997-2000) revealed that a large proportion of existing traditional crop cultivars (50-70%) falls into the endangered category and needs immediate collection and conservation for future use. Since Nepal has yet to develop a medium to long term ex situ conservation facility, *in situ* conservation of local crop diversity requires priority attention.

Barriers and Root Causes:

31. The major threats to biodiversity conservation in the WTLC can be attributed to the following barriers and root causes. The relationship between these barriers/root causes and threats described in paragraphs 21–30 above is shown diagrammatically in Annex 2H:

- *the current policy, regulatory, and enforcement systems of government-managed forests which have not adequately integrated biodiversity conservation, but to greater degree in the productive landscape*

- *land review and distribution mechanisms that have not effectively addressed long-term needs of landless and curbed illegal settlements in the Western Terai*
- *an agricultural extension system that has not effectively reoriented local farmers towards improved productivity and sustainable agricultural practices and agrobiodiversity management*
- *a livestock extension system that has not effectively reoriented locals towards improved, resource-efficient livestock management practices*
- *current forest management practices that do not take into account biodiversity conservation*
- *local livelihoods that are highly dependent on the forest resource base*
- *high demand for commercially-valuable timber and wildlife products*
- *agricultural development policies that are geared predominantly towards modern cultivars and associated production inputs.*

Sector Issues, Opportunities & Barriers:

32. Nepal has developed a strong foundation in community-based conservation, management of natural resources, and livelihoods development in the past few decades with regard to its legal and policy framework and on-ground, practical experience. This provides a critical platform upon which this project will build. People-centered programs in the bufferzones of protected areas and community forests in productive areas have been implemented throughout Nepal. Community based on-farm management of agricultural biodiversity has also been successfully implemented in three physiographic regions of Nepal. These programs have contributed to addressing key threats to biodiversity resources while improving socioeconomic development in localized areas, particularly in and around protected areas. They have also generated a valuable set of lessons and best practices for replication in other parts of the country.

33. Despite Nepal's important advances in conservation and sustainable development, the globally significant biodiversity in the Western Terai continues to be steadily eroded. Existing protected areas in the Western Terai are becoming islands in a sea of degrading national forests and agricultural land. However, the rich biological diversity within these protected reserves cannot survive in these enclaves since they have evolved as part of a wider, ecologically interconnected landscape. Major ecological challenges to securing the WTLC's long-term viability of biodiversity and vital ecological functions are: a) the protected areas are too small to meet the ecological requirements of a number of species, in particular the large mammals, such as tigers, rhinoceros, and elephants which have large area requirements; b) substantial areas of forest and other biodiversity-rich habitats occur outside the protected areas and within human-altered landscapes; and c) based on scientific evidence, isolation of these protected areas from other habitats is likely to lead to progressive loss of species over the long-run, known as "extinction debt," as the species richness "relaxes" to that commensurate with the size of the protected areas.

34. To effectively address the abovementioned challenges, this project proposes a holistic, landscape level approach to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

This is consistent with growing consensus in the wider conservation community that a paradigm shift in conservation management is required, from a site-based approach of protecting pockets of protected areas to a landscape approach, which takes a more holistic approach in maintaining ecological systems and components which support biological diversity. The project's proposed landscape approach to managing biodiversity represents a natural progression in Nepal's pioneering achievements in operationalizing bufferzones and community forests. It recognizes the ecological interdependence between protected areas and their surrounding productive landscapes and the need to broaden the scope of biodiversity management through maintenance of ecosystem health and sustainable agriculture. A landscape approach to biodiversity management will also enable maintenance of wildlife populations through dispersal and exchange of genes and inclusion of underrepresented biodiversity assets. The substantial areas of forests that are still present in the intervening productive landscape outside the protected areas in the WTLC provide an existing basis for such a landscape management approach. Moreover, restoration of habitats after the environment has been largely depleted would be a much more difficult undertaking. (See Annex 2G for details on the rationale for the proposed landscape approach to biodiversity management).

35. However, in the existing baseline situation, there are various barriers and gaps that need to be tackled to effectively implement a landscape approach to biodiversity management with regard to the land/resource management systems and institutional and community capacities. One barrier is the prevailing, conventional framework that segregates biodiversity conservation management from land/resource production and utilization by administrative jurisdictions and geographic boundaries. This is reflected in the policy and legal environment and institutional structures. As a result, wild and agricultural biodiversity objectives have not been adequately mainstreamed into productive sector policies and programs. There is also a lack of intersectoral coordination and programmatic integration from central to local levels to optimize social, economic, and biodiversity conservation objectives. This is further aggravated by the lack of updated or complete socioeconomic and biodiversity baseline information and lack of land/resource management plans to guide interagency planning and implementation in the Western Terai. Chronic human and financial resource constraints and low institutional capabilities plague both protected areas and productive sector management and weaken extension support to local communities. In addition, the prevalence of poverty, dependence of local communities on their natural resource base result in on-going pressures on natural forests and wild biodiversity resources. (See Annex 2F, Section III, for a more detailed analysis of the baseline situation and programs in the Western Terai).

36. This project will therefore focus its interventions on overcoming the abovementioned barriers and gaps while building upon past investments and lessons in conservation and sustainable management and livelihoods development. This will involve filling in gaps in policy and legal instruments to ensure an enabling environment for biodiversity management across both protected and productive sectors. The project will also strengthen integrated and intersectoral planning and implementation from central to local levels through existing institutional structures and mechanisms. A

coordinated approach to research and monitoring biodiversity and socio-economic indicators will be undertaken in the WTLC to support interagency planning and adaptive management. This will involve pooling the information, resources and expertise from the protected areas and partner institutions that have projects operating in the WTLC. Existing land/resource management institutions in the productive sector will be reoriented to integrate biodiversity management. Conservation management in protected areas will be enhanced through targeted capacity-building to improve strategic management and participatory approaches. In addition, the project will enable and incentivize local communities to reduce exploitative pressures on natural forests and biodiversity resources by: building their capacities for biodiversity-friendly and sustainable land/resource use practices; improving their livelihood development options; and sensitizing them to the practical benefits of biodiversity conservation. (See further details under Project Outcomes and Project Activities below).

2 b ii. Project logical framework

37. The project logical framework with details on project objectives, outputs, activities, performance indicators, risks and assumptions are described in Annex 2A.

2 b iii. Detailed description of goals, objectives, outputs, and related assumptions

Project Goal, Objectives & Strategy:

38. The overall project goal is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Nepal's Western Terai landscape. The immediate objective is to establish effective management systems and build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of Nepal's Western Terai landscape complex. A multisectoral and multistakeholder partnership will be developed in order to effectively address the long-term threats to biodiversity in the Western Terai landscape. The project's landscape approach requires greater attention to stakeholder interaction and collaboration, given the multiple land uses and greater diversity of stakeholders involved as compared to a traditional protected area-focused project. The project will build upon Nepal's rich experience in community-based conservation and natural resource (including agrobiodiversity) management. At the same time, it will reorient Nepal's policy and legal framework and institutional arrangements towards ecosystem management through the landscape-level approach to biodiversity management. Ultimately, the project seeks to establish a landscape-level management model for safeguarding Nepal's biological wealth and vital ecological functions in the long-term which may be replicable in other parts of the country (see paragraph 78 below for further details on how the project will facilitate replication of project approach and lessons).

Project Sites:

39. Within the WTLC, project interventions will occur in three sites, including two protected areas, RBNP and RSWR, their respective bufferzones, and priority areas in the intervening productive landscape that are critical for biodiversity conservation. The three project sites represent landscape sub-complexes: Bardia sub-complex (BSC), Kailali sub-complex (KSC), and Kanchanpur sub-complex (KPSC). They comprise critical

bottleneck areas for threatened wildlife (localities which are critical linkages in wildlife habitat and under heavy threats) and are rich in biodiversity values. The total land area is 3,466 sq km, about half of which falls within protected areas and their bufferzones and the other half in the productive landscape. Forests and agriculture/grasslands comprise 60% and 32% of the total land area respectively. The combined population of all three sub-complexes reaches slightly over half a million. (See Annex 2C for a map of the proposed project sites and Annex 2I for details of the project sites).

40. These priority biodiversity conservation sites have been identified based on the findings of two independent research teams contracted separately under the PDF-B and WWF's TAL project. The research teams' field studies found that there was no longer evidence of an active east-west wildlife migratory corridor connecting RSWR to RBNP, as had been earlier postulated in this project's concept paper. Instead, the active wildlife migratory routes now appear to have a more limited east-west range (within the three identified sub-complexes highlighted above) and also follow a north-south direction between forestlands and protected areas in cross-border, adjoining areas of Nepal and India. The researchers also identified secondary areas of biodiversity significance, which currently have lower biodiversity values due to encroachments and land conversion but which historically formed part of a continuous active east-west migratory route from RSWR to RBNP. These secondary areas are not critical to securing conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the WTLC and are therefore not included within the project sites. However, in a parallel process, project partners will seek funds to pursue ecological restoration of these historical wildlife corridor linkages.

Project Outcomes:

41. In order to achieve the project objectives, the project will undertake activities to produce four project outcomes:

- Outcome 1: The national policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex.
- Outcome 2: The institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex is established.
- Outcome 3: Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed.
- Outcome 4: Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods.

Assumptions, Risks & Performance Indicators:

42. The project logical framework in Annex 2A outlines the project's main assumptions, risks, and performance indicators related to the proposed project outputs and activities.

2 b iv. Brief description of proposed project activities

43. The following is a brief summary of proposed project activities and their linkage to project outcomes. (See Annex 2F, Section IV, for a more detailed explanation of project outputs and activities and Annex 2H for a diagram of the project's outcomes analysis).

Summary of Project Activities:

Outcome 1: The national policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex.

44. The project will help to create an enabling national policy environment and legal framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in WTLC primarily by: bolstering emerging and existing policies with landscape management and biodiversity conservation components; reorienting/establishing legislation to facilitate landscape management implementation; and building policymakers' support for landscape management. Towards this end, the project will reinforce the policy framework for integrated landscape planning by incorporating it as a cross-sectoral strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management in Nepal's upcoming Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). It will enable landscape management in the WTLC to be mainstreamed directly into the central-level policymaking arena through the MFSC's Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee, which will serve as a vehicle for intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC.

45. Agricultural development policies, including the overarching Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995) and agricultural subsidies and credit policies, will incorporate biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation criteria. Legislation will also be reoriented/established to legitimize the landscape-level biodiversity management approach in the WTLC through biological corridors/habitat networks that cover protected areas and biodiversity-rich areas in the productive landscape of WTLC. The project will also build support and understanding among central level policymakers and stakeholders for landscape management of biodiversity through targeted education, awareness-raising of relevant concepts, case studies, and research. In addition, channels will be established for regular information dissemination of project progress and findings

Outcome 2: The institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex is established.

46. The project will create an institutional framework to implement integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the WTLC by: strengthening the regional/district policy environment and regulatory framework for landscape management of biodiversity; building up institutional mechanisms for integrated planning and management through existing institutions; and providing the necessary information and planning tools to facilitate integrated planning and management. Project activities under the first component include: amending and/or establishing legislation to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in the WTLC; strengthening the mandates of district agencies (DFO, DADO, and DLO) in biodiversity conservation by integrating biodiversity conservation criteria in operational management plans; and building

regional/district/village authorities and stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination.

47. The project will work through existing institutions at the central, regional, and local levels to strengthen capacities and build up their mechanisms for intersectoral planning and coordination on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. At the central level, the project will work with MFSC's Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee (MLPRC) as a vehicle for intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC among relevant ministries and departments. At the regional level, the project will strengthen the capacity of the Regional Directorate of Forests (RDF) to facilitate and coordinate interdistrict and intersectoral planning within the WTLC. At the local level, the project will enhance the capacity of local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities, and VDCs) to: facilitate intersectoral and interinstitutional planning and implementation; and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with social and economic development objectives in local plans and programs. Other project activities that will be carried out to strengthen integrated planning and management of biodiversity in the WTLC include: building up a transboundary framework between Nepal and Indian government land agencies for coordination and collaboration in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources; establishing a mechanism for on-going cross-project information sharing and learning among programs within WTLC and other relevant programs; and establishing district-level trust funds under the management of the DDCs in the WTLC to sustainably manage recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation interventions within the productive landscape of the WTLC (see paragraph 69 for further details). To support project efforts in ensuring long-term viability of biodiversity management in the productive landscape, HMG/Nepal will take the lead in strengthening existing land review and distribution mechanisms and procedures to effectively prevent future re-encroachments in project sites and encroachments in other forestlands in the WTLC.

48. Project activities that will be undertaken to develop the necessary information and planning tools to facilitate integrated planning and management in the WTLC include: completing baseline inventories, mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices; carrying out targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use; developing and implementing a coordinated monitoring and information management system to support landscape level management; developing and implementing a landscape level plan to support integrated land use planning and management of biodiversity resources; formulating and implementing habitat and species conservation plans for the WTLC; and formulating and piloting an integrated management plan for the Churia range which integrates biodiversity conservation with watershed protection and landslide/flooding control.

Outcome 3: Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed.

49. The project will conserve biodiversity values in government-managed lands in the protected areas and forests of the productive landscape by: strengthening scientific and

participatory management of protected areas and bufferzones; and integrating biodiversity conservation in the management of productive forests. Project activities that will be undertaken under the first component include: developing and implementing training in participatory and scientific management of protected areas and buffer zones for protected areas staff and service providers in WTLC; enhancing the capacity of protected areas staff in anti-poaching planning and operations; institutionalizing bufferzone support units, internal support and communication structures between buffer zone groups and protected areas staff; strengthening local community participation in conservation activities in protected areas and bufferzones; building infrastructure facilities to support effective management of protected areas, including improved communication systems between protected areas in WTLC and park patrolling facilities; undertaking habitat restoration and management in the area of RSWR that until recently was occupied by squatters and measures to prevent future re-encroachment by squatters (including anti-poaching operations and proper boundary demarcations); and establishing a revolving fund to cover recurrent costs in biodiversity conservation interventions in WTLC's protected areas. Project activities that will be undertaken under the second component include: developing and implementing training in integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management for government field staff and service providers; undertaking habitat restoration and management in the area evacuated by squatters; and undertaking measures to prevent future re-encroachment, such as enhancing the capacity of DFO staff in anti-poaching planning and operations, and supporting surveying and demarcation of government-managed forests and internal biodiversity hotspots/critical habitat linkages.

Outcome 4: Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods.

50. The project will empower local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods that enable biodiversity conservation in the WTLC through: sustainable land and natural resource management practices that reduce pressures on wild biodiversity assets; agrobiodiversity-oriented management of agricultural lands to maintain traditional crops and landraces; strategies for diversified livelihoods; and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation values. Particular attention will be paid to target women and disadvantaged groups, including recently relocated squatters from RSWR and the Basanta forest. Activities in support of this outcome will benefit greatly from current and planned UNDP interventions in support of grass-roots capacity building, improved local governance, alternative livelihood provisions, and enterprise development (see paragraph 91 for details).

51. Project activities that will be undertaken under the first component include: developing and implementing training and pilot demonstrations for local grazing user groups in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices; enhancing the capacity of livestock extension and service providers to provide on-going technical support in sustainable livestock management practices; developing and implementing training and pilot demonstrations for community forest user groups in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community forest management; enhancing the capacity of DFO staff and service providers to provide on-going technical support in sustainable and

biodiversity-friendly community forest management to local communities; developing a cadre of local trainers to facilitate dissemination and replication of biodiversity-friendly and sustainable use practices in livestock management and community forestry; promoting best practices in mitigating crop/livestock depredation by wildlife to user groups; and mobilizing high impact communities in Churia hills to implement measures in watershed protection and flood/landslide control.

52. The project will replicate best practices in promoting and managing agrobiodiversity conservation and use in the project areas, based on the lessons of IPGRI's *in situ* conservation project (1997-2001) in Nepal (see Annex 2K for further details on this project). Project activities that will be undertaken to achieve agrobiodiversity-oriented management of agricultural lands to maintain traditional crops and landraces include: developing and implementing training and pilot demonstrations for farmers groups in improving productivity and agrobiodiversity-centered agriculture; enhancing capacity of agriculture extension and service providers to provide on-going technical support in agrobiodiversity management to local communities; providing and implementing best practices for strengthening partnerships between formal and informal institutional and farming communities; promoting participatory plant breeding (PPB) and participatory variety selection (seed of choice) in order to encourage farmers to select and maintain diversity that address local seed supply; strengthening community seed networks and nodal farmers roles; enhancing local management and decision making capacity of local institutions in managing and using agrobiodiversity for community benefits through information systems (ie, Community Biodiversity Registers); and developing decentralized small scale *ex situ* facilities at commodity level to preserve landraces that are under threat.

53. Project interventions will be carried out to diversify livelihoods and reduce dependence on forest resources, with particular efforts aimed at targeting women and disadvantaged groups (including recently relocated squatters from RSWR and Basanta forest). Project activities include: providing technical support for the formation of community user groups (in particular, grazing user groups, community forest user groups and farmers groups) in the RSWR and high-impact communities in productive areas; strengthening the bufferzone institutions of protected areas through targeted training and technical inputs; supporting local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities & VDCs) in developing and implementing ecotourism management plans and mainstreaming ecotourism planning into their planning process; developing a social mobilization and training program for undertaking community-based ecotourism development; developing and implementing local strategies for alternative energy, fuel, and fodder resources to reduce local pressures on biodiversity resources; developing and implementing integrated skills training and enterprise development programs which reduce pressure on biodiversity resources; and implementing best practices in local capacity in capital generation and credit mechanisms to support livelihood improvements and productive investments.

54. The project will undertake a strategic and sustainable approach to inculcating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use values and knowledge among local

stakeholders. Towards this end, the project will undertake an assessment of the level of conservation awareness of local stakeholders in bufferzone and productive areas. It will formulate and implement appropriate strategies for on-going education and awareness-raising among local stakeholders in bufferzone and productive areas. In addition, the project will foster community ownership of biodiversity resources in the landscape by linking awareness-raising with information display devices in villages and community forests which identify the responsible parties and conservation role of these land management units within the overall landscape.

2 b v. Global environmental benefits of project

55. The Western Terai region is home to globally significant biodiversity and fragile ecosystems (in particular, the Churia/Siwalik Hills). It is included in WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions. In this project, the global environmental benefits will be captured through the protection and sustainable use of the rich biodiversity in this ecoregion and diminishment of land degradation. Biodiversity-friendly management of the productive landscape will be introduced to combat wild land fragmentation and resultant biogenetic insularization. The project will contribute to enhancing global knowledge on when, where, and how *in situ* agrobiodiversity conservation on-farm can be successfully integrated in the productive landscape. The global community will benefit significantly from the protection of direct and indirect use values associated with biological diversity in primarily forest and agricultural lands, including improved food security, increased carbon storage values, watershed protection, and reduced land degradation. The project provides a vehicle for managing biodiversity at the scale of the larger ecological landscape (including protected and productive areas) and translating integrated ecosystem management into action.

2 b vi. Incremental Cost Estimation

56. The incremental costs to be financed by GEF amount to US\$ 3.3 million complemented by co-financing in the order of US\$ 9.5 million. The GEF Alternative therefore totals US\$12.8 million. The existing baseline has been conservatively estimated at approximately US\$ 11.5 million over the proposed eight years of the project. The total costs of the GEF Alternative and existing baseline amount to US\$24.3 million. The GEF investment represents almost 26% of the total costs of the GEF Alternative, and the remaining 74% will be contributed by multiple sources: HMG/Nepal, UNDP, SNV, WWF-Nepal, IPGRI, NARC, and LI-BIRD. The GEF resources have leveraged almost US\$3 for every US\$ 1 from the GEF. GEF resources will be targeted at activities consistent with GEF guidelines for incremental funding. This project was prepared at a total cost of US\$ 281,550 with the support of UNDP and SNV/NEDA.

57. The process for jointly estimating incremental cost with in-country project partners involved both one-on-one consultations with potential co-funders to determine their areas of priority and commitments as well as joint review by the PDF-B Steering Committee comprising co-funders and other relevant stakeholders. The incremental cost matrix (Table 2) below outlines the relationship between proposed project outputs and global and national environmental benefits and the associated incremental cost estimates. Costs incurred under the current programmatic baseline and the sustainable

development baseline are shown as non-incremental. The right side of the table (comprising last three columns) shows costs and benefits that are incremental to the sustainable development baseline. Within this category, GEF-supported costs are shown separately from other sources of incremental funding (See Annex 2F for the full, detailed incremental cost analysis).

TABLE 2: INCREMENTAL COST MATRIX (WITH PROPOSED OUTPUTS):

NOTE: SHADED AREA INDICATES THE GEF PROJECT “ALTERNATIVE” TO THE BASELINE.

Project Output Benefit	Cost (in millions US\$)			
	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
	Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
National policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex	Total: US\$ 0	Total: US\$ 0	GEF: 103,426 Total: US\$ 103,426	MoA: 90,197 (in-kind) WWF-Nepal: 87,912 IPGRI: 140,000 Total: US\$ 318,109
Domestic Benefits	Inadequate sectoral integration in conservation and development is resulting in overlaps, loss of synergies, and conflicting approaches.	NA	Policies/legal reforms which support biodiversity management in both protected and productive areas will help secure long-term health of vital ecological services and local use and option values of wild resources for local communities dependent on surrounding natural resource base. MoA support in revising agricultural policies to include agrobiodiversity conservation components will enhance sustainable agriculture development while improving livelihoods options and food security, particularly for poor farmers who are more dependent on local crop varieties.	
Global Benefits	Gaps in enabling policies and legislation for landscape management of biodiversity. Global environmental objectives are inadequately integrated into sector policies and regulatory framework.	NA	New policy prescriptions and policy/legal reforms will facilitate landscape management and create a foundation for sustaining globally significant biodiversity management over time. Integration of agrobiodiversity conservation components in agricultural policies will create enabling environment for <i>in situ</i> conservation of agricultural biodiversity.	

Project Output	Cost (in millions US\$)				
	Benefit	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
		Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
Institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex established	KMTNC: 480,000 Total: US\$ 480,000	DoF: 141,043 (in-kind) DDCs: 100,000 (in-kind) MoA: 90,197 (in-kind) Total: US\$ 331,240	GEF: 1,286,404 Total: US\$ 1,286,404	DNPWC: 113,593 (in-kind) UNDP: 774,833 SNV: 982,978 WWF-Nepal: 271,493 NARC: 15,000 (in-kind) LI-BIRD: 15,000 (in-kind) Total: US\$ 2,172,897	
Domestic Benefits	Weak intersectoral coordination and implementation in conservation and development. Inadequate tools to support intersectoral planning and inadequate understanding of interlinkages among conservation, resource use, and poverty alleviation.	Coordination and facilitative support from local authorities and Regional Department of Forests for integrated planning and implementation will enhance capacity in decentralized governance. Involvement of productive sector agencies in monitoring and formulation of planning tools will also enhance informed decision making for natural resource/land management.	Improved intersectoral coordination will optimize resources to attain multiple ecological, economic, and social objectives. Improved tools and information system for integrated planning will facilitate decision making over competing land use demands and ensure coherent management approach to conservation and sustainable development.		
Global Benefits	Weak institutional mechanisms for promoting integrated ecosystem management at landscape scale, and weak transboundary cooperation. Inadequate tools and knowledge base for integrated biodiversity conservation at the landscape level.	Involvement of local authorities and productive sector agencies in coordination, facilitative, and monitoring support and formulation of planning tools will enhance: institutional capacities and commitment to mainstreaming biodiversity/ agrobiodiversity conservation in local development and productive sector management; and adaptive management for long-term biodiversity management.	Institutional arrangements and participatory planning for integrated conservation and development will be strengthened from central to local levels. Systematic and strategic transboundary cooperation will be institutionalized. Adaptive management of global biodiversity values will be strengthened through improved tools for planning, information management, monitoring systems, and knowledge base of biodiversity indicators. DNPWC support in monitoring and information management and formulation of landscape-level planning tools will enhance institutional capacity and intersectoral coordination in biodiversity conservation.		

Project Output	Benefit				Cost (in millions US\$)			
	Benefit	Non-Incremental		Incremental		GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing	
		Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing			
Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed	DoF: 847,354 DNPWC: 873,905 CARE: 400,000 KMTNC: 1,600,000 Total: US\$ 3,721,259	DoF: 191,338 (in-kind) UNDP: 116,354 SNV: 568,843 WWF-Nepal: 110,321 Total: US\$ 986,856	GEF: 1,044,818 Total: US\$ 1,044,818	DNPWC: 375,613 (in-kind) UNDP: 485,025 SNV: 370,610 WWF-Nepal: 481,793 Total: US\$ 1,713,041				
Domestic Benefit	<p>Protected area management and park-community relations are not adequately systematized and institutionalized, hence past gains are at risk of being lost with staff turnover.</p> <p>Inadequate know-how in sustainable forest management practices. Poor enforcement of regulations that control against forest encroachment.</p>	<p>Reorienting DFOs to biodiversity-friendly forest management will simultaneously improve sustainable forest management practices. Improved enforcement measures by DFOs against forest encroachment will secure sustainability of forest resources and vital ecological functions.</p>	<p>Protected area management will be strengthened and bufferzone structures will be institutionalized to ensure professional management capacity of and long-term local community support for protected areas.</p> <p>Local use and option values of wild biodiversity resources will be secured for future generations.</p>					
Global Benefit	<p>Inadequate scientific and participatory management of protected areas and bufferzones undermine long-term biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Weak integration of biodiversity conservation criteria in productive landscape, resulting in rapid forest degradation and fragmentation with accompanying adverse impacts on globally significant biodiversity.</p>	<p>Strengthened institutional capacities of DFOs in integrating biodiversity conservation with forest management and enforcement measures will enable maintenance of habitat networks of flagship species and associated globally significant biodiversity in productive landscape.</p>	<p>Scientific and participatory management of protected areas and bufferzones will be strengthened to enable adaptive management and secure long-term viability of biodiversity in protected areas.</p>					

Project Output Benefit	Cost (in millions US\$)			
	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
	Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods	DDCs: 3,628,064 MoA: 3,698,069 Total: US\$ 7,326,133	DoF: 54,668 (in-kind) MoA: 721,574 (in-kind) DDCs: 584,315 (in-kind) UNDP: 355,527 SNV: 549,451 WWF-Nepal: 387,847 Total : US\$ 2,653,382	GEF: 877,630 Total: US\$ 877,630	DNPWC: 151,457 (in-kind) WWF-Nepal:212,023 IPGRI : 591,000 (in-kind) 350,000 NARC: 35,000 (in-kind) Total: US\$ 1,339,480
Domestic Benefit	Inadequate local know-how and capacity to pursue sustainable, higher productivity production practices and improve low socioeconomic status. Genetic erosion of local crop diversity is reducing farming communities' ability to cope with environmental change and options for food and livelihoods. Inadequate local understanding of critical role of biodiversity conservation in sustainability of rural livelihoods.	Local communities will be empowered and equipped to manage their natural resource and land base more productively and sustainably and to undertake self-reliant development activities. Extension support will be strengthened to improve on-going technical support for sustainable management practices to local communities.	Enhanced local awareness of the benefits of agrobiodiversity use and conservation and local communities and institutions empowered to manage agrobiodiversity will improve food security and rural livelihood options. Enhanced conservation values will motivate local communities to manage natural resource base sustainably.	
Global Benefits	Extension support for community forestry and livestock practices do not adequately impart sustainable management practices nor biodiversity-friendly methods to local communities. Agriculture extension does not impart agrobiodiversity conservation and use to local farmers and has been predominantly focused on modern crop varieties. This has contributed to erosion of on-farm crop diversity. Local communities are overly dependent on natural forests for subsistence needs have weak biodiversity conservation values.	Local communities will practice alternative livelihoods and biodiversity-friendly production, thus reducing pressures on natural forest systems and biodiversity resources. Reoriented extension support to include biodiversity conservation criteria will enable on-going technical support for biodiversity-friendly practices.	Enhanced awareness and management of local crop diversity and agrobiodiversity methods among relevant stakeholders will safeguard the genepool of globally important agricultural species and contribute to maintenance of overall ecosystem health in the surrounding biodiversity-rich, natural landscape. Conservation-oriented mindsets will reorient local livelihoods to biodiversity-friendly practices and enhance long-term viability of biodiversity.	

Project Output	Cost (in millions US\$)				
	Benefit	Non-Incremental		Incremental	
		Baseline	Sustainable Development Baseline Co-financing	GEF Financing	Incremental Co-financing
Project Totals		11,527,392	3,971,478	3,312,278	5,543,527
PDF-B				237,400	44,150
Grand Total		11,527,392	3,971,478	3,549,678	5,587,677

2 c Sustainability (including financial sustainability)

Institutional Sustainability:

58. The sustainability of the project's coordinating mechanisms for multisectoral planning and implementation, from local to central levels, will be integral to achieving the project's objectives for long-term biodiversity conservation in the WTLC. This requires an approach where the project management unit assumes a facilitating role from early on in the project and the existing institutions with the appropriate mandate assume an active management role during project implementation. To ensure continuity of cross-sectoral planning and coordination for WTLC beyond the project, MFSC will be requested to develop an operational plan for the institutionalization process, in consultation with project stakeholders.

59. A vital dimension to institutional sustainability involves retention of organization and human capacities in performing critical functions in adaptive management of the WTLC. The project will ensure that the necessary skills and capacity are properly transferred to the replacement institution and staff members at a sufficiently early stage during project implementation. At the same time, from the outset, the project management team will be established as an integral entity working within the MFSC, the focal lead institution, rather than as a separate institution, to ensure full ownership by MFSC and to facilitate eventual transition within its institutional structure.

Economic and financial sustainability:

60. Based on the PPP experience, self-reliant local institutions (user groups and associated structures) with sound programming and management capacities and strong functional linkages with park authorities serve as an effective platform for mobilizing resources for conservation and development. In the Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP), located further east in Nepal's Terai, bufferzone communities have recently gone to the extent of contributing directly back to the park for its maintenance. This reflects the bufferzone communities' recognition that their improving socio-economic status over the years has been directly tied to the conservation management of RCNP. Bufferzone communities have a direct share in the visitor revenues generated in adjoining protected areas. This project will learn from PPP's experience in providing support for the formation and self-sustenance of user groups and associated structures and ensuring their strong linkages with line agencies and CBOs in protected and productive areas. The project will also learn from the UNDP-GEF project on tiger/rhinoceros conservation around Royal Chitwan National Park, particularly given similar physiographic and socioeconomic conditions, with regard to: formation of user groups, alternative livelihoods development targeting women and disadvantaged groups, and microcredit schemes.

61. Project interventions have been designed to take into account financial sustainability. Many of the project activities, particularly those proposed to address policy and institutional barriers and gaps, involve low or no recurrent costs. Once the enabling policy environment and legal and institutional frameworks are put in place as a result of the project, the Nepal government will internalize the associated costs of maintaining these arrangements in the long-term. The multistakeholder partnership

mechanism, initiated in the PDF-B and to be carried forward in project implementation, will also serve as an important network for mobilizing additional external resources for conservation and sustainable development in the WTLC beyond the project timeframe. The project will be able to capitalize upon member organizations' respective networks and experiences in securing resources. In addition, activities in the project's protected and productive areas have been designed to contribute to financial sustainability as outlined below.

Financial Sustainability Plan for Protected Areas

62. The project aims to secure the financial sustainability of conservation and sustainable use interventions in the WTLC protected areas by: working with existing protected area agencies to enhance their capacities in protected area management; institutionalizing project-inspired training modules; involving local communities more effectively in conservation-related activities; and establishing local mechanisms to raise and manage additional financing to cover the anticipated funding gap in maintaining certain project-inspired conservation interventions. Project activities aimed at enhancing protected area management will be undertaken through the existing parks agencies of RBNP and RSWR and their personnel. The project will therefore benefit from the reoriented baseline contributions arising from the direct engagement of government agencies' personnel and facilities. At the same time, this will help ensure continuity of the project's capacity-building efforts of these existing institutions and personnel beyond the project timeframe.

63. The project will lower the recurrent costs of training new staff of protected area agencies and service providers by linking up with existing training institutions, such as the DANIDA-supported Regional Training Center (RTC), in designing training modules that can be incorporated into their training curriculum. This will facilitate continuity of training beyond the project timeframe. The project also aims to lower the costs of undertaking conservation and sustainable use activities in protected areas and bufferzones by more effectively involving bufferzone community members in various conservation-related activities. This would include prevention of illegal activities (such as through anti-poaching operations), maintenance of biodiversity hotspots, and restoration activities. The in-kind contributions of labor by local communities in these activities and their enhanced cooperation against engaging in exploitative activities will contribute in lowering financial costs of maintaining biodiversity in the protected areas.

64. The project will also develop local mechanisms to raise and manage conservation fees to cover the anticipated funding gap in covering recurrent costs of project-related interventions in protected areas. This will involve assessing and piloting feasible options for raising additional financing, including levying fees for use of facilities, new fees on top of existing park fees or increasing existing park fees. Existing local modalities for fund collection and management will be studied, including possible involvement of an authorized conservation NGO in managing a conservation fund for protected area management, such as in the case of KMTNC's management of the anti-poaching fund for Royal Chitwan National Park. This proposed initiative of enhancing generation of conservation revenues locally is timely, given DNPWC's current interest in undertaking

an overall study on conservation finances. In addition, a recent GEF-managed study to “Improve Financial Arrangements for the Sustainability of Biodiversity Resources” found that Nepal’s protected area fee system was undervalued and did not reflect management costs of the parks or willingness to pay for entry and use of the parks’ assets. The project will be able to benefit from this recent GEF-managed study, particularly from the Nepal case study on the UNDP-GEF project, “Landscape-scale Conservation of Endangered Tiger and Rhinoceros Populations in and around Chitwan National Park.” The findings of this study, once finalized, will inform the design and management of the proposed funding mechanisms. (See Annex 2L for further details of establishing the proposed fund mechanisms to cover recurrent costs of project-related interventions, including proposed milestones for establishing these mechanisms).

Financial Sustainability Plan for Productive Areas

65. The project aims to secure the financial sustainability of conservation and sustainable use interventions in the project’s productive landscape by: working with existing productive sector line agencies to mainstream biodiversity conservation criteria in their operations; institutionalizing project-inspired training modules; developing a cadre of local trainers in sustainable use practices; putting in place alternative livelihoods support mechanisms (including savings and credit schemes); and establishing local mechanisms to raise and manage funds which cover the recurrent costs of conservation and sustainable use activities in the productive landscape. The project will work with existing productive sector agencies and personnel to mainstream biodiversity conservation criteria in their regular operations. In the process, the project will benefit from the reoriented baseline contributions arising from the direct engagement of government personnel and facilities. At the same time, this will enable government agencies in the productive sector to gradually internalize the costs associated with integrating biodiversity criteria into their operations.

66. The project will also lower the recurrent costs of training of productive sector staff and service providers by working in collaboration with existing training institutions, such as the RTC to develop and institutionalize project-inspired training modules in biodiversity-friendly methodologies and practices. In addition, the project will lower the costs of training local community members in biodiversity-friendly and sustainable use practices by developing a cadre of local trainers. These trainers will then be able to render technical services to other community members (on a low-cost or free basis) in the application of biodiversity-friendly and sustainable methodologies in community forestry and livestock management and the application of agrobiodiversity management in farming.

67. By putting in place alternative livelihoods support mechanisms, the project will enable local communities to diversify their income sources, finance conservation-friendly activities, and reduce their dependence on forest resources. This includes skills training and capacity-building in small enterprises development. The project will also build upon the experience of PPP and UNDP-GEF tiger/rhinoceros project with regard to local community capital generation and mobilization (local savings and credit schemes) and locally-managed trust funds. These local financial arrangements enable local

entrepreneurship, particularly among the marginalized and poor, in alternative income generation and livelihoods that have direct or indirect conservation benefits. This is critical to sustained reduction in local poverty and dependence on forests. Local savings and credit mechanisms have already been widely established in the RBNP and RSWR bufferzones as a result of PPP. Complementary trust funds have also been established to enable more capital-intensive investments for conservation and community development, such as installation of biogas plants. This project will ensure that these community mechanisms are properly institutionalized to achieve self-governing capacity. At the same time, the project will ensure the effective transfer of best practices of such financial mechanisms to local communities, in particular, disadvantaged groups, in the productive landscape, which have generally lacked such forms of support.

68. The project will also enhance local capacity for community-based ecotourism as a way to increase communities' economic interest in protecting wildlife while tapping into another potential source of income and employment opportunities for local communities. This will involve improving local institutions' capacity for ecotourism planning, management, and collaboration with private sector operators, government agencies, and NGOs. However, ecotourism development will be a minor component in the project's array of activities aimed at improving alternative and diversified livelihoods for local communities.

69. Finally, the project will develop local mechanisms to raise and manage conservation fees to cover the anticipated funding gap in covering recurrent costs of project-related interventions in the productive landscape, as in the case of protected areas. The project will study the feasibility of various measures for generating conservation financing in productive areas include levying fees on: future timber royalties from government-managed forests; and tourism operators who organize excursions to ecotourism sites in the productive landscape. HMG/Nepal and donors (such as SNV and DFID) are in the process of developing and piloting different models of sustainable forest management (including commercial production) in the government-managed forests of the lowland Terai. The project will also consider existing local modalities of fund collection and management, such as the existing Local Development Fund (LDF) modality established under HMG/UNDP's Participatory District Development Program (PDDP) whereby DDCs collect and manage such funds. (See Annex 2L for further details of establishing the proposed fund mechanisms to cover recurrent costs of project-related interventions).

Social sustainability:

70. The project has been designed for social sustainability from the outset through its participatory project development process and community-based orientation. This has involved broadbased and extensive stakeholder consultations and involvement in the development of the project's logical framework. This participatory approach will be further built into the project execution through: the design of multistakeholder mechanisms, from central to local levels, to ensure ongoing stakeholder involvement in decision making over project interventions; and direct involvement of stakeholders in

project activities. (See sub-section 2ei. below for further details on stakeholders' participation). Effective communication mechanisms will also be developed to ensure regular information dissemination and feedback channels between stakeholder representatives in project-related structures and their broader stakeholder communities. At the local level, the project will focus on nurturing user groups and working with them as the main entry points for project's conservation and compatible development activities.

Project Risks:

71. Project risks have been considered and adaptive management strategies incorporated into the project design to mitigate these risks. See Annex 2M for a summary of the project risks and proposed abatement measures.

2 d Replicability

72. The project is designed to facilitate: replicability of best practices from other programs/projects in terms of project interventions and activities within priority areas for biodiversity conservation in the WTLC; replicability of project interventions in areas of non-priority/secondary areas of biodiversity importance in the WTLC; and replicability of the landscape management approach and lessons to other parts of Nepal. Following is an outline of the plan and process for undertaking these forms of replication:

Replication of Best Practices within Project Sites

73. The project's multi-stakeholder partnership approach and institutional mechanisms for integrated planning enable the project to learn and adapt best practices from among its various partner institutions. At project inception, best practices from relevant past and on-going projects will be identified for the proposed project's interventions. Relevant project interventions which have been undertaken in other projects and have an accumulated body of experience include: formation of and technical support for user groups; reorienting local communities to sustainable land/resource use practices; capacity-building in agrobiodiversity management and conservation; conservation awareness-raising and education; and promoting alternative livelihoods development. Best practices will be drawn from experiences of projects such as UNDP/HMG's Parks and People Program, CARE-Nepal's Bufferzone Development Project, UNDP-supported Capacity 21 program, WWF-Bardia Integrated Conservation Project (BICP), KMTNC-Bardia Conservation Project (BCP), and IPGRI's in-situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity. In addition, best practices will be drawn from community forestry projects supported by various donors across Nepal's physiographic regions. Based on these lessons, project staff will develop a detailed operational plan for implementation of project interventions. In addition, the project will facilitate on-going learning and adaptation of new and successful methodologies in conservation and sustainable use practices and livelihoods development through a built-in mechanism for cross-project learning (elaborated in further detail under paragraphs 82 and 83).

74. At project inception, project staff will organize dialogues among local authorities and relevant stakeholders of targeted project sites to decide on initial pilot sub-sites and phasing of remaining sub-sites for scaling up of project interventions. A plan will be

developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders for monitoring the process and impact of project interventions in these pilot sub-sites, evaluating and adapting intervention strategies and methods, scaling up interventions, and replicating interventions in the remaining sub-sites. In addition, a communications and information dissemination strategy will be developed to ensure that relevant stakeholders are regularly updated and informed about project implementation progress and are actively involved in adaptive management processes for the project.

Replication of Project Interventions Outside WTLC Project Sites

75. The project is also designed to facilitate replicability of project interventions in adjacent areas of non-priority/secondary areas of biodiversity importance in the WTLC by project partners and/or other prospective donors under a separate program/project. Since these secondary areas fall within the same administrative districts as the project sites, the same DFO staff members who will be trained under this project for monitoring of biodiversity indicators in project sites can also apply similar protocols and methods in these secondary areas. This will allow basic monitoring of biodiversity indicators in these secondary areas to occur in parallel with this project at no additional cost but with potential additional benefits in future of enabling re-establishment of historical ecological linkages in the landscape.

76. The formation of local trainers from among farmers groups, grazing groups, and community forestry groups in the priority areas in biodiversity-friendly and sustainable use practices could also potentially serve as a means for knowledge transfer to counterparts in the secondary areas. In addition, the identification and documentation of best practices and guidelines for biodiversity-friendly and sustainable management practices of agricultural lands, livestock and grazing lands, and community forests, which will be undertaken as part of the process of formation of local trainers, will facilitate knowledge transfer beyond the project sites.

77. MFSC's Chief of the Foreign Aid Coordination Division will undertake responsibility for follow-up and mobilization of resources for replication of interventions in these secondary areas outside the project sites. This will be facilitated by his: direct involvement in the project as National Project Director (NPD), authority within MFSC to ensure parallel monitoring of these secondary areas by DFO staff, on-going relationship with project co-funders, and access to a wider network of prospective donors outside the project. The project's systematic monitoring and evaluation process, including the annual Tripartite Review Meetings, will enable the NPD to simultaneously review the need for and feasibility of replicating project interventions in these secondary areas.

78. The project will facilitate replicability of its landscape approach to biodiversity management in other parts of Nepal under separately funded programs/projects through: its various initiatives to create an enabling policy environment and legal framework for landscape planning; and strengthened institutions and institutional mechanisms for integrated and intersectoral planning. This model will have broad possibilities of replication in other ecologically significant landscapes of Nepal, such as the Eastern Himalayas (which is also included in WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions). In addition, as

part of the project's strategy to build central-level policymakers' and stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity (Activity 1.6 of the project logframe), the project will organize periodic conferences, workshops, and other relevant fora that will include key players from the wider conservation and development community. This will help to disseminate lessons and stimulate interest in applying the landscape management approach to other biodiversity-rich areas in Nepal beyond the WTLC.

2 e Stakeholder Involvement

79. The project aims at generating a strong sense of commitment to biodiversity conservation and ownership over the management of biodiversity resources amongst a broad base of stakeholders. Broad-based stakeholder consultation and participation have therefore been integral to the project design process. A multistakeholder Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established at the start of the PDF-B to provide overall guidance throughout the project development process. The PSC comprised representatives from different government sectors, donor agencies, I/NGOs, and academia. At the early stage of the PDF-B process, two 5-day stakeholder workshops were also conducted in the WTLC to involve local stakeholders in developing the project logical framework. A stakeholder workshop was also held in Kathmandu involving policymakers, donors, I/NGOs. In addition, independent researchers conducted individual and focus group interviews among the local communities in gathering baseline information and developing their recommendations for project interventions. At the final stage of the PDF-B, project staff members returned to the project area to update/brief local community members (who had been involved in the early stakeholder workshops) on the preliminary project strategy and interventions and to solicit their feedback on these proposals. Subsequently, the draft project brief was endorsed by the PSC and presented to a wider audience of stakeholders at a national workshop held in Kathmandu.

80. The participatory process engendered under the PDF-B will continue under the WTLC project. Stakeholder participation will occur at two levels: the project decision making process; and implementation of project-related interventions. At the first level, broad stakeholder representation will be secured in the proposed project-related decision making structures at the central, regional/landscape, and sub-complex/local levels (see Annex 2N for further details on the project implementation arrangements). At the second level, stakeholders will be involved in different aspects of project implementation according to comparative advantages/areas of expertise and needs. (See Annex 2O for a summary of the main stakeholder groups' roles in implementation of the project).

2 f Monitoring & Evaluation

Lessons learned

81. The lessons learned from other similar projects in Nepal, in particular, the Parks and People Program (PPP), earlier UNDP-GEF supported projects in Nepal, and the IPGRI *in situ* conservation project have been incorporated into the design of this project. The following table lists some of the main lessons:

Table 3: Lessons Incorporated into Project Design

Lessons Learned	Design Feature
<i>The timeframe of 6 years for PPP was inadequate in consolidating systems and mechanisms established for self-sustainability and replicability.</i>	<i>This project has been designed for 8-years to allow sufficient time for a consolidation and institutionalization phase.</i>
<i>Training of protected area staff has tended to be haphazard and ad hoc. There is a need for comprehensive training needs assessment and measures to institutionalize training.</i>	<i>Training needs assessments have been built into the project for protected area staff, productive sector staff, and service providers in project sites. Some specific training topics have been identified. However, the final training needs list will be subject to this assessment at the beginning of project implementation. The project will also undertake measures to institutionalize training through existing institutions and the provision of on-going funds for training through the proposed trust fund mechanisms.</i>
<i>Project management staff and key partners of project committees need relevant skills and knowledge for effective project implementation.</i>	<i>Training needs assessment and relevant training will be provided to project management staff and committee members at the start of the project.</i>
<i>The use of community empowerment and mobilization principles to identify and pursue alternative income generating activities according to local needs have generated promising results in promoting self-reliance and reducing dependency on protected area resources.</i>	<i>Community empowerment and mobilization principles will continue to be employed in determining the specific alternative income generating activities and related skills training support in the project sites. This is to foster better community ownership of and involvement in project interventions.</i>
<i>Institutionalization of community capital generation and mobilization (such as savings and credit mechanisms) is required to secure their long-term sustainability.</i>	<i>Options for institutionalizing community capital will be assessed and tested in the course of the project for those mechanisms that have been established in the bufferzones. Best practices and lessons from this process will be applied to productive areas where such mechanisms will be newly established through the project.</i>

Lessons Learned	Design Feature
<i>The absence of a well-formulated conservation education and awareness strategy has been a major weakness in effective assimilation of conservation values. Early information dissemination of the project objectives and its pro-poor and community-oriented strategies also need to be undertaken to avoid potential misunderstandings and fears regarding expanded restrictions of access to forest resources which may result in accelerated forest clearance.</i>	<i>A strategic and better targeted approach to conservation education and awareness will be undertaken, including an assessment of the level of conservation awareness of local stakeholders in bufferzone and productive areas. Strategies for institutionalizing on-going education and awareness will also be adopted. The project will initiate accurate information dissemination on the project early in the project, capitalizing on the existing channels and contacts developed in the course of the PDF-B.</i>
<i>The impacts of project interventions in bufferzones on surrounding biodiversity conservation have not been well understood due to inadequately designed linkages to monitoring and evaluation scheme.</i>	<i>The project will pay particular attention to the design of an effective monitoring and evaluation scheme which links project interventions to both socio-economic and ecological parameters.</i>
<i>Parks and bufferzone information management, applied research, and monitoring remain weakly developed.</i>	<i>The project will invest in ensuring appropriate coordination among major partners in the WTLC and strengthening institutional capacities for applied research, monitoring and information management of the targeted landscape (including protected areas, bufferzones, and select productive areas).</i>
<i>Interaction and linkages among different planning tiers and stakeholders are important in fostering camaraderie, which in turn fosters better stakeholder collaboration.</i>	<i>The project will promote such interaction and linkages through its multistakeholder mechanisms from central to local levels and organized fora to allow for interaction between different planning/implementation tiers and stakeholders.</i>
<i>Women and disadvantaged groups have tended not to benefit as equitably from projects/programs.</i>	<i>The level of priority accorded to ensuring involvement and project benefits to women and disadvantaged groups will be explicitly built into the indicators of project performance.</i>
<i>Project in-built short and split-post graduate training linked to project outputs are effective ways of attracting good staff and managing staff turnover due to political instability and ensuring quality outputs in agrobiodiversity interventions.</i>	<i>The project will link with IAAS, Rampur and other Agricultural University to promote postgraduate courses on the critical areas of agrobiodiversity management identified by the project activities.</i>

82. The project is also designed to promote ongoing learning and adaptive management during project implementation through a systematized process of cross-project learning among relevant partners operating within the WTLC and relevant entities outside the WTLC. This will involve identifying common thematic areas of project interventions and networking relevant projects around these themes. The project will promote results-oriented project networking by ensuring, at project inception, that relevant projects jointly develop a plan and process for regular information sharing and communication on project methodologies and impacts. This is intended to contribute towards effective coordination and collaboration across multiple stakeholders, programs, and projects in working towards common conservation and sustainable development objectives within the WTLC.

83. Cross-project learning linkages with other projects/programs operating outside of the WTLC, including the earlier implemented UNDP/GEF-supported Tiger-Rhinoceros Corridor Project and SNV's pilot sustainable forest management projects, will also be undertaken since lessons from such projects would be helpful and carry potential replicability to the WTLC. In addition, this project will establish linkages with IPGRI's *in situ* conservation project sites, which will serve as learning centers for farmers/communities in agrobiodiversity conservation and use. The Project Management Unit and UNDP will ensure effective documentation of all processes undertaken, lessons learnt and successful initiatives. Information on successful experiences will be disseminated through networking arrangements from central to local levels to strengthen their support and ownership of the project initiatives. Information on successful experiences will be disseminated to other similar areas in Nepal as well as to the general public and donors.

Monitoring and evaluation:

84. The total indicative cost of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component of the project is about US\$380,000 (see Annex 2P for a breakdown of the M&E costs). The project incorporates monitoring of biodiversity and socioeconomic indicators as an integral activity to track the performance and impact of project interventions and as a basis for adaptive management. This will be done in coordination and collaboration with other partner institutions, such as WWF, who has already established permanent sampling plots in the Western Terai region. Comprehensive socioeconomic and biodiversity baselines will be established at the initial stage of the project. Periodic surveys on ecological and socioeconomic parameters will be undertaken subsequently to ascertain ecological, social, and economic trends. The project will ensure these ecological and socio-economic parameters are closely linked to project interventions. Major project impact and implementation indicators to gauge the performance of project interventions have been developed (see Annex 2A for indicators of project objectives, outputs, and activities in the logical framework matrix).

85. An important aspect of the monitoring scheme for the project will be the development and implementation of complementary community-based monitoring schemes of biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) and socio-economic indicators in community-managed areas, including community forests, agricultural land, and grazing land. This is intended to promote participatory management of biodiversity resources for both conservation and sustainable use purposes. Relevant training and technical inputs will be provided to members of user groups in collection and analysis of information (including wildlife sighting, canopy cover, regeneration, etc...) and application for adaptive management strategies. The project will also invest in building up the capacity of MFSC to undertake the coordinating role for overall landscape research, monitoring, and analysis during the project to ensure these critical functions are institutionalized after project termination.

86. Project evaluation will conform to UNDP and GEF requirements and procedures. The Executing Agent and, in particular, the Project Management, will ensure regular monitoring of progress, using detailed indicators for field level monitoring covering both quantitative and qualitative information, and provide project reports to the UNDP. Quarterly and annual review of progress made will be done with the participation of relevant stakeholders. The Executing Agent will prepare and submit to UNDP the Annual Progress Report (APR) for discussion at annual Tripartite Review Meetings, with the involvement of major partners. A GEF Project Implementation Review will be completed annually for each year that the project is under implementation. The project will be subject to independent mid-term review, as per GEF guidelines. Technical review meetings will also be organized as required.

3. Financing

3 a i Financing plan

87. Table 4 below provides a summary of the project costing and financing by project output. HMG/Nepal will contribute a combined estimated total of US\$ 2.6 million in reoriented baseline co-funding for the GEF Alternative, through its various line agencies and district authorities. The reoriented baseline co-funding comprises a combination of: support in the review and revision of agricultural policies to integrate agrobiodiversity conservation criteria; coordination and facilitative support from line agencies and district authorities in integrated and intersectoral planning and implementation; personnel support from line agencies (particularly, protected area agencies) in monitoring, information management, and development of planning tools; reorientation of forestry operations and extension support to community forest user groups in biodiversity-friendly and sustainable use practices; reorientation of protected area management towards strategic and participatory management approaches and biodiversity conservation at the landscape level; reorientation of livestock and agricultural extension support towards biodiversity-friendly and sustainable livestock practices and agrobiodiversity conservation respectively; reinforcement of enforcement operations in protected areas and forests in the productive landscape; and technical support to local communities for sustainable livelihoods development which reduce pressures and dependency on natural forests and biodiversity resources.

88. A more detailed costing by project activities is provided in Annex 2P. A financial plan with timing of disbursements is not applicable as this is not a phased project. The timing of disbursements will be determined at the project implementation phase.

Table 4: Proposed Project Budget and Financing Scheme

	Project Outputs	Co-Financing (US\$)							Total (US\$)	
		GEF	HMG/ Nepal	UNDP	SNV	WWF	IPGRI	NARC		LI- BIRD
1	National policy environment & legal framework	103,426	90,197	-	-	87,912	140,000	-	-	421,535
2	Institutional framework	1,286,404	444,833	774,833	982,978	271,493		15,000	15,000	3,790,541
3	Sustainably managed government lands	1,044,818	566,951	601,379	939,453	592,114	-		-	3,744,714
4	Sustainable livelihoods	877,630	1,512,014	355,527	549,451	599,871	941,000	35,000	-	4,870,492
	Total	3,312,278	2,613,995	1,731,739	2,471,881	1,551,390	1,081,000	50,000	15,000	12,827,282

89. See Annex 2Q for supporting documentation demonstrating commitments of co-financiers.

3 b i. Estimate cost effectiveness

90. This project has been designed to be cost-effective in the following ways:

- Interventions related to institutional capacity-building are consciously designed to be undertaken with existing institutional structures and mechanisms. The project seeks to strengthen existing institutions and interrelationships among critical institutions rather than establishing entirely new institutions. Hence, it is proposed that MFSC undertake responsibility for continuity of landscape level coordination and management after project termination. In addition, existing institutional mechanisms, such as the district planning process, will be utilized to promote integrated conservation and development planning, in particular with regard to integration of biodiversity conservation in the local development agenda.

- Interventions will adopt tried-and-tested models, including: the PPP model of social mobilization and creation of self-governing people's organizations for socioeconomic development and conservation; existing local trust fund modalities for managing recurrent costs of conservation and sustainable use activities; and best practices from IPGRI's *in situ* conservation project for agrobiodiversity management. In addition, lessons from other relevant projects have been incorporated into the project design, as highlighted above in Table 3 under Section 2f i.

4. Institutional Coordination & Support

4 a i. Describe how the proposed project is located within the IA's core programme

Link to UNDP CCF for Nepal (2002-2006):

91. This project will contribute to achieving UNDP's Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) for Nepal, particularly with regard to its objectives of assisting Nepal in "conserving and regenerating its environmental assets, enabling the poor to utilize those assets in order to enhance their incomes and well-being." Existing programmes and projects implemented by UNDP in Nepal will also contribute very significantly to meeting the goal of this proposal. Such programmes and projects include:

a) Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation - TRPAP (NEP/99/013)

This programme will, *inter alia*: "... pilot demonstrations at different unique sites utilising tourism potential as an entry point for poverty alleviation. In piloting activities, the focus will be on disadvantaged, oppressed and discriminated sections of Nepal's rural women and men, lower castes and ethnic minorities, who live below poverty line. ... The pilot projects will demonstrate unique tourism models for sustainable tourism development in Nepal. ... Backed by appropriate policy, the government and autonomous institutions can replicate these models for other potential sites in Nepal." Both the policy environment emerging through this programme and the replicable models will facilitate the development of ecotourism in and around the project sites as an alternative livelihood and source of financial sustainability.

b) Sustainable Community Development Programme - SCDP (NEP/99/019)

This programme, which is working in Kailali, among other locations, is "*assist[ing] the government of Nepal in building capacities of local communities and local government, and in adopting the local and national policies necessary to ensure sustainable community development which integrates effective, gender sensitive poverty alleviation strategies with sound watershed management. ... Towards this end, SCDP, in partnership with local government bodies (District Development Committees, DDCs and Village Development Committees, VDCs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs), strives to develop an integrated, multi-sectoral approach that takes into account social development, economic development and environmental management perspectives.*" Since the social and financial sustainability of the current proposal envisages the development of an integrated, multi-sectoral approach that takes into account social development, economic development and environmental management perspectives, it will benefit from outputs of the SCDP.

c) Rural Energy Development Programme - REDP (NEP/95/016)

This programme has been highly successful in providing access to affordable alternative energy for poor in the remote areas. This has led to economic growth of the programme villages as well as environment is protected. It has been found that all the stakeholders have taken ownership of the programme. Lessons learned from this programme will contribute to overcoming the threat of over-exploitation of forest resources for fuelwood.

d) Parks and People Programme - PPP (NEP/94/001)

The main objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the local communities and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), to jointly manage seven national parks and their buffer zones, and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people living in the adjoining Village Development Committees to ensure active support to biodiversity conservation. The project supports the Government in reformulating/revising park management legal framework and operational manuals, etc to effectively implement people based conservation policy and regulations. The positive experiences from the PP have informed the design of the current proposal, and will facilitate implementation of socio-economic improvement in the project sites.

e) Sericulture for Rural Development - SRDP (NEP/97/015)

This project “... aims to assist His Majesty’s Government of Nepal in accomplishing its goal of poverty alleviation, rural employment generation and sustainable livelihoods in Nepal. ... This Programme is a unique poverty alleviation programme and has demonstrated tremendous potentiality for a vital linkage of environment protection and poverty alleviation. ... Considering the effectiveness of NGO/CBO approach of providing technical backstopping, the Department of Agriculture has adopted the modality for extension of technical services to farmers. This is a very important decision and step taken by the government.” Sericulture is one possible alternative livelihood in the project sites, but the model of NGO/CBO support can be applied to other alternative livelihood options too.

f) Micro Enterprise Development Programme - MEDEP (NEP/97/013)

The programme has been designed to deliver integrated package of services including entrepreneurship development, skill training, marketing support, appropriate technology and micro-credit in developing enterprises and creating additional job opportunities in the rural areas. The main goal of this programme is to reduce poverty in rural areas through the development of micro-entrepreneurs with 70% women participation from low-income families and the creation of a micro-enterprise service delivery mechanism that will enable low-income families to achieve sustainable livelihoods based on local demand. MEDEP is premised on creating horizontal linkages and networking among the local agencies concerned with delivery of different above mentioned components of MEDEP as well as building sustainable partnerships among the governmental organizations, local governmental units, private sectors, non-governmental organizations and communities. The experiences gained through MEDEP will support improved livelihoods in the project sites.

g) Mainstreaming Gender Equity Programme - MGEP (NEP/97/005)

A series of capacity building workshops from the national to the grass roots level have been carried out to raise awareness for the implementation and monitoring of CEDAW. All UNDP assisted programmes have developed gender sensitive indicators for mainstreaming gender at all phases of the life cycle of the programmes. Since the current proposal recognizes the issue of gender inequality, the MGEP will provide guidance in identifying solutions.

h) Local Governance Programme - LGP (NEP/95/021)

This project operates in Bardiya, and "*... strengthens and supports efforts of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal to enhance the better governance, better management of the sustainable local development and impact on poverty alleviation. This programme has been launched in 30 districts of the country for enhancing the capabilities of the District Development Committees (DDCs), Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Community Organizations (COs) of the grass roots level.*" The project will therefore contribute directly to meeting the goal of the current proposal.

i) Participatory District Development Programme - PDDP (NEP/95/008)

This project operates in both Kanchanpur and Kailali, and "*aims at [inter alia] piloting the successful model of social mobilisation for the socio-economic development of the villages and developing self-governing people's organisations at the grassroots level.*" As for the previous projects, this will contribute directly to meeting the goal of the current proposal.

Complementarity with other UNDP/GEF Projects:

92. This proposed project occurs within a broader framework of previous and current UNDP-GEF assistance in Nepal. It builds upon the GEF pilot phase biodiversity projects in Nepal, in particular the formulation of the NBS and the national capacity enhancement component, initiated in 1994. This project meets the priority of the NBS for an integrated ecosystem management approach to conservation, which it will operationalize through its landscape management of the WTLC. The earlier national capacity enhancement component supported enhancement of the training center in RBNP, which will serve as a useful facility for project-related trainings. In addition, important lessons have been gained from the early national capacity building project, such as the importance of undertaking a training needs assessment before formulating training programs.

93. This project is also complementary to the smaller-scale UNDP-GEF project on landscape-scale conservation of endangered tiger and rhinoceros populations in and around Royal Chitwan National Park. This latter project will serve as an important demonstration project of a community-based approach to biological corridor protection. The present project goes beyond local community measures by: strengthening the planning, monitoring, and information management tools for landscape management; investing in capacity building of productive sector agencies and service providers; strengthening strategic transboundary relations; and strengthening institutional

mechanisms at multiple planning and implementation tiers for integrated planning and implementation of conservation and sustainable development.

4 b i. Consultation, Coordination and Collaboration between IAs

94. The World Bank-GEF was extensively consulted during the project's concept stage, and during the PDF-B stage, World Bank-GEF's proposed national biodiversity trust fund was also taken into consideration.

5. Response to Reviews

5 a Council

No Council comments were received at pipeline entry

5 b Convention Secretariat

To be added

5 c GEF Secretariat

See Annex 2R.

5 d Other IAs and relevant EAs

To be added

5 e STAP

No comments were received from STAP at pipeline entry.

5 f Review by expert from STAP Roster

See Annex 2 S.

List of Annexes

Required:

- Annex 2A: LogFrame Matrix
- Annex 2F: Incremental Cost Analysis
- Annex 2R: Response to GEFSEC and Council comments at work program inclusion
- Annex 2Si: STAP review
- Annex 2Sii: Response to STAP review

Optional:

- Annex 2B: Endorsement Letter
- Annex 2C: Maps of Western Terai Landscape Complex Location, Proposed Project Sites, and Prioritization of Productive Sites for Project Intervention
- Annex 2D: Biodiversity Description of the Western Terai Landscape Complex
- Annex 2E: Description of Programs in Royal Bardia National Park and Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve
- Annex 2G: Rationale for Landscape Approach to Biodiversity Management in the Western Terai Region
- Annex 2H: Diagrams of Project's Threats/Root Causes and Outcomes Analysis
- Annex 2I: Description of Project Sites
- Annex 2K: Lessons from IPGRI's *In Situ* Conservation Project
- Annex 2L: Financial Mechanisms to Manage Project Recurrent Costs
- Annex 2M: Project Risks and Proposed Abatement Measures
- Annex 2N: Project Implementation Arrangements
- Annex 2O: Stakeholder Participation Plan
- Annex 2P: Detailed Project Costing by Activities
- Annex 2Q: Letters by Co-Funders
- Annex 2T: References

Annex 2A: Logical Framework Matrix for the Western Terai Landscape Project

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
<p>Development Objective: To ensure the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Nepal's Western Terai landscape.</p>			
<p>Immediate Objective: To establish effective management systems and build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of Nepal's Western Terai landscape complex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Vegetation cover across the targeted landscape area remains at least 90% of present by Year 4 - Proportion of total vegetation cover in blocks>500ha remains at least 80% of present by Year 4 - Presence of multiple connections of continuous forests maintained across landscape complex by Year 4 - Population of flagship species (tigers and elephants) in both protected areas and productive areas of project sites maintained or increased by Year 4 - 75% existing landraces identified in project sites maintained by Year 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measurements by satellite imagery & field ground-truthing results at beginning and end of project - GIS maps of land use - Field records <p>Environmental monitoring studies and sampling surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Communities are willing to adapt their land-use practices in order to facilitate biodiversity conservation - No significant increase in environmental threats (global warming, wildfires, etc) - Nepal maintains political and economic stability -Sufficient and high-quality human resources can be mobilised in order to implement the project
<p>Outcome 1: The national policy environment and legal framework enable integrated landscape planning in the Western Terai Landscape Complex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial level mechanism for intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC functioning by Year 2 - Legislation in place for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity covering biological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal documents, gazettes, and notifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Political support for policy and regulatory change will be forthcoming -Institutions willing to carry out policy and regulatory reform

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<p>corridors/habitat networks in the WTLC by Year 6</p> <p>- Agrobiodiversity conservation components incorporated into Agriculture Perspective Plan by Year 5</p>		
<p>Outcome 2: The institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex is established</p>	<p>- An operational plan for institutionalization of landscape management prepared by MFSC by end of Year 4</p> <p>- Institutionalized coordination mechanisms for landscape planning and management functional by Year 6</p> <p>- Biodiversity conservation criteria integrated into the DFO operational forest management plans (OFMPs) in project districts and under implementation by Year 6</p> <p>- Agrobiodiversity conservation components incorporated into the District Agricultural Office plans in project sites and under implementation by Year 6</p> <p>- Areas previously occupied by squatters in RSWR and Basanta forest remain unencroached and other forestlands in project sites remain unaffected by Year 4</p>	<p>- Government documents</p> <p>- Project technical progress and monitoring reports</p> <p>- Management plans</p> <p>- Project technical progress and monitoring reports</p> <p>- DAO plans</p> <p>- Field records and verification</p>	<p>- HMG/Nepal remains committed to landscape approach to biodiversity conservation</p> <p>-The geographic spread of the targeted landscape complex will not impede effective co-ordination of conservation efforts</p> <p>-Institutional rigidities to cross-sector collaboration can be overcome</p> <p>-Local political and community are supportive and committed to resolving illegal settlements in productive landscape</p> <p>- Government has minimum infrastructure and human resource capacity to support centralized information management</p>

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>District level trust funds to manage recurrent costs of project-related interventions in productive landscape established by Year 6</i> - Biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation programs incorporated into district level periodic plans by Year 5 - Key core areas and corridors for biodiversity conservation identified and mapped in project's protected areas and productive landscape by Year 4 - Landscape level management plan prepared for WTLC by Year 6 - Integrated Churia management plan under implementation in 80% of project area VDCs in Churia range/foothills by Year 6 - Standardized monitoring protocols developed and under implementation in project sites by Year 3 - <i>A centralized monitoring and information management system for landscape planning and management in place and managed by a government</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Legal documents - Periodic DDC plans (5-year plans) - Official maps - Official management plans - Project technical progress and monitoring reports 	

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<i>department by Year 6</i>		
<p>Outcome 3: Biodiversity assets in government-managed lands are conserved and sustainably managed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RBNP and RSWR staff applying participatory and scientific protected area and bufferzone management tools by Year 4 - Training modules in participatory and scientific management incorporated into existing training institution's curriculum by Year 6 - DFO staff in WTLC districts applying biodiversity-friendly and sustainable forest management practices by Year 4 - Training modules in biodiversity-friendly, sustainable land/resource use offered by existing training institution as regular program by Year 6 - At least 3 demonstration sites in government-managed forests of productive landscape under biodiversity-friendly activities by Year 4 - At least 50% of user groups in WTLC's protected area bufferzones actively involved in conservation-related activities by Year 4 - Cases of poaching and killing of endangered species declined at least 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training curricula and programs - Project technical progress report - User groups' records - Parks and DFO records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government staff, service providers, and local community leadership remain committed to biodiversity conservation - Existing training institution and HMG/Nepal support incorporation of new training modules

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<p>10% and 20% in government-managed forests of productive landscape and protected areas respectively by Year 4; decline increased to 20% and 40% in government-managed forests and protected areas respectively by project end</p> <p>- Trust fund to manage recurrent costs of biodiversity management in protected areas established by Year 6</p>	<p>-Legal documents</p>	
<p>Outcome 4: Local communities are empowered to practice sustainable, biodiversity-friendly natural resource and land use management and pursue diversified livelihoods</p>	<p>- Biodiversity-friendly livestock management demonstrated by 2-3 grazing user groups in both protected area bufferzones and productive landscape by Year 4</p> <p>- Biodiversity-friendly community forest management demonstrated by 2-3 community forest user groups in both protected area bufferzones and productive landscape by Year 4</p> <p>- On-farm agrobiodiversity conservation and use demonstrated by 2-3 farmers groups in both protected area bufferzones and productive landscape by Year 4</p> <p>- At least one project-promoted biodiversity-friendly practice adopted by 30% of both grazing user groups and community forest user groups in project sites by Year 4</p>	<p>- Project technical progress report and monitoring studies</p> <p>- User groups' records</p>	<p>- Communities support and collaborate with the project</p> <p>-Impact of population growth within sites remains manageable</p> <p>-Partner agencies will continue to provide supporting investments for sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>-Audience is receptive to conservation awareness</p> <p>-Education and media institutions willing to collaborate with project education and awareness activities</p> <p>- VDCs/DDCs are committed to create community level databases on biodiversity and communities receive benefits from the exercise</p>

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	<p>At least one project-promoted good practice in on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation adopted by 30% of farmers' groups in project sites by Year 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community biodiversity registers (CBR) developed and maintained by at least 10% of VDCs in project area by Year 4 - Biodiversity conservation components incorporated into 30% of community forest operational plans and under implementation in project sites by Year 4 - The proportion of households using alternative fuels or more efficient cooking facilities increased by 10% of baseline by Year 4 - Biodiversity conservation education imparted in 30% of schools in project area by Year 4 - As a result of the project's alternative livelihoods development activities, per capita income of local communities improved by at least 10% by Year 4 - Women and members of disadvantaged groups represented in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field records and verification of community biodiversity registers - User groups' records and CFOPs - Project technical progress and monitoring reports - Field records and verification - School curricula - Socioeconomic surveys and monitoring studies - User groups' records - Field records and verification 	

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
	50% membership of user groups by Year 4 - Number of both women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups increased by 10% by Year 4		
Outcome 1: Enabling National Policy Environment and Legal Framework for Integrated Landscape Management of Biodiversity in WTLC			
Activities			
1.1 Reinforce the policy framework for integrated landscape planning by incorporating it as a cross-sectoral strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management in Nepal's Tenth Five Year Plan. 1.2 Institutionalize intersectoral planning and coordination for the Western Terai Landscape Complex (WTLC) in the central-level policy-making arena through the Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee in the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC). 1.3 Work with MFSC to put in place legislation for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity covering biological corridors/habitat networks across protected and productive areas in the WTLC 1.4 Integrate biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation criteria in Nepal's Agriculture Perspective Plan. 1.5 Reorient government agricultural subsidies and credit policies towards inclusion of cultivation/management of native varieties. 1.6 Build policymakers' and central-level stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination.			
Outcome 2: Institutional Framework for Integrated Landscape Management of Biodiversity in the Western Terai Landscape Complex			
Activities			
<i>Component 1: Enabling Regional/District Policy Environment and Regulatory Framework for Landscape Management of Biodiversity</i> 2.1 Amend and/or establish legislation to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in the WTLC. 2.2 Strengthen the mandates of district technical agencies (District Forest Office, District Agriculture Office, and District Livestock Office) in biodiversity conservation by integrating biodiversity conservation criteria in operational management plans. 2.3 Build regional/district/village authorities and stakeholders' support for landscape management of biodiversity through education, awareness-raising, and information dissemination. <i>Component 2: Institutional Mechanisms and Capacities for Integrated Planning and Management of Biodiversity in Targeted Landscape</i> 2.4 Work with MFSC and Regional Directorate of Forests to establish intersectoral and interdistrict coordination mechanisms for integrated planning and management of biodiversity in the WTLC. 2.5 Enhance the capacity of local authorities (District Development Committees, Municipalities, and Village Development Committees) to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use with social and economic development objectives in local plans and programs.			

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
<p>2.6 Strengthen regional land review and distribution mechanisms to ensure long-term prevention of re-encroachment into areas previously occupied by squatters and encroachment into other forestlands of WTLC.</p> <p>2.7 Establish a framework for transboundary coordination and collaboration between Nepal and Indian government land agencies (including parks and forestry agencies) in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources.</p> <p>2.8 Establish a mechanism for on-going cross-project information sharing and learning among programs, including between protected areas and productive areas within WTLC and other relevant programs.</p> <p>2.9 Establish district-level trust funds under the management of the District Development Committees in the WTLC to sustainably manage recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation interventions within the productive landscape of the WTLC.</p> <p><i>Component 3: Information and Planning Tools to Facilitate Landscape Management of Biodiversity</i></p> <p>2.10 Complete baseline inventories, mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices in WTLC.</p> <p>2.11 Carry out targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the WTLC.</p> <p>2.12 Develop and implement a coordinated monitoring and information management system to support landscape level management.</p> <p>2.13 Develop and implement landscape level plan to support integrated land use planning and management of biodiversity resources in WTLC.</p> <p>2.14 Formulate and implement habitat and species conservation plans for the WTLC.</p> <p>2.15 Formulate and pilot integrated management plan for Churia range which integrates biodiversity conservation with watershed protection and landslide/flooding control.</p>			
Outcome 3: Biodiversity Sustainably Managed and Conserved in Government-Managed Lands			
Activities			
<p><i>Component 1: Strengthened Management of Protected Areas</i></p> <p>3.1 Develop and implement training in participatory and scientific management of protected areas and buffer zones for protected areas staff and service providers in WTLC.</p> <p>3.2 Enhance capacity of protected areas staff in anti-poaching planning and operations.</p> <p>3.3 Institutionalize bufferzone support units, internal support and communication structures between buffer zone groups and protected areas staff.</p> <p>3.4 Strengthen local community participation in conservation activities in protected areas and bufferzones, including prevention of illegal activities (poaching, timber-felling, and forest fires), maintenance of biodiversity hotspots, and rehabilitation of degraded habitats.</p> <p>3.5 Build infrastructure facilities to support effective management of protected areas, including improved communication systems between protected areas in WTLC and park patrolling facilities.</p> <p>3.6 Develop and implement plan for prevention of future re-encroachments and habitat restoration and management in RSWR.</p> <p>3.7 Establish revolving fund to cover recurrent costs in biodiversity conservation interventions in WTLC's protected areas.</p> <p><i>Component 2: Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Government- Managed Forests</i></p> <p>3.8 Develop and implement training in integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management for government field staff and service providers.</p>			

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
<p>3.9 Enhance capacity of District Forest Office staff in anti-poaching planning and operations.</p> <p>3.10 Survey and demarcate government-managed forests and internal biodiversity hotspots/critical habitat linkages nested within these zones to facilitate enforcement and management of biodiversity resources.</p> <p>3.11 Develop and implement plan for prevention of future re-encroachment and management of areas evacuated of squatters.</p>			
<p>Outcome 4: Local Communities Empowered to Practice Sustainable, Biodiversity-Friendly Natural Resource and Land Use Management and Pursue Diversified Livelihoods</p>			
<p>Activities</p>			
<p><i>Component 1: Sustainable Community Management of Land and Natural Resources to Reduce Pressures on Wild Biodiversity Assets</i></p>			
<p>4.1 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for local grazing user groups in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices, including alternative fodder production, stall feeding, and breed improvement strategies.</p> <p>4.2 Provide targeted training to livestock extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of locals to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable livestock management practices.</p> <p>4.3 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for community forest user groups in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community forest management, including integration of biodiversity conservation criteria in Community Forest Operational Plans.</p> <p>4.4 Provide targeted training to DFO staff and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of locals to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly community forest management.</p> <p>4.5 Develop a cadre of local trainers/expertise for dissemination and replication of biodiversity-friendly and sustainable practices in livestock management and community forestry.</p> <p>4.6 Work with DADO, DFO, and DLO and service providers to promote best practices among user groups in preventing/mitigating crop/livestock depredation and human casualties by wildlife.</p> <p>4.7 Work with local authorities, extension staff, and service providers to mobilize high impact communities in Churia hills to implement measures in watershed protection and flood/landslide control.</p>			
<p><i>Component 2: Agrobiodiversity-Oriented Community Management of Agricultural Lands to Maintain Traditional Crops and Landraces</i></p>			
<p>4.8 Develop and implement training and pilot demonstrations for farmers groups in improving productivity and agrobiodiversity-centered agriculture.</p> <p>4.9 Provide targeted training to agriculture extension and service providers and involve them directly in developing and implementing training of locals to strengthen on-going technical support to local communities in agrobiodiversity management.</p> <p>4.10 Provide and implement best practices for strengthening partnerships between formal and informal institutional and farming communities, multi-institutional and interdisciplinary teams, and rapport building with local communities.</p> <p>4.11. Promote participatory plant breeding (PPB) and participatory variety selection (seed of choice) in order to encourage farmers to select and maintain diversity that address local seed supply</p> <p>4.12 Strengthen community seed networks and nodal farmers roles in searching new diversity, select, maintain and exchange the germplasm and knowledge with community.</p> <p>4.13 Enhance local management and decision making capacity of local institutions in managing and using agrobiodiversity for community benefits through information systems (ie, Community Biodiversity Registers).</p>			

Objectives/Outputs	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
4.14 Develop decentralized small scale ex situ facilities at commodity level to preserve landraces that are endangered and under threat.			
<i>Component 3: Local Communities Empowered to Pursue Diversified Livelihoods that Reduce Pressures on Wild Biodiversity Assets</i>			
4.15 Provide technical support for formation of viable community user groups (in particular, grazing user groups, community forest user groups and farmers groups) in bufferzone of Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and high-impact communities in productive areas (with particular focus on women and disadvantaged groups).			
4.16 Strengthen the Bufferzone/community institutions within protected areas of WTLC through targeted training and technical inputs.			
4.17 Support local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities & VDCs) in developing and implementing ecotourism management plans and mainstreaming ecotourism planning into DDC and VDC planning process.			
4.18 Develop a social mobilization and training program for undertaking community-based ecotourism development.			
4.19 Develop and implement local strategies for alternative energy and fuel to reduce local pressures on biodiversity resources.			
4.20 Develop and implement integrated skills training and enterprise development programs (targeting women, disadvantaged groups, and fuelwood sellers, small farmers groups) which reduce pressure on biodiversity resources.			
4.21 Implement best practices in local capacity in capital generation and credit mechanisms to support livelihood improvements and productive investments for high impact communities in critical bottleneck areas of productive landscape.			
<i>Component 4: Biodiversity Conservation Values and Practices Mainstreamed Among Local Communities</i>			
4.22 Formulate and implement strategies for on-going education and awareness raising among local stakeholders for biodiversity conservation, including conducting conservation awareness education in local schools and mobilizing support of local religious leaders and traditional/cultural organizations.			
4.23 Foster community ownership of biodiversity resources in landscape by linking community awareness building with information display devices in villages and land management units which identify responsible parties and conservation role within overall landscape.			

Annex 2F: Incremental Cost Analysis

I. Broad Development Objectives:

1. Poverty alleviation remains a primary development objective of the Government of Nepal, as reflected in Nepal's Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002). About 42% of Nepal's population – about 9 million people – still live in poverty, particularly in the rural areas. The human development indices for the mid-western and far western development regions (which include the project sites) are lowest among the five administrative regions in Nepal, achieving only 86% and 83% respectively of the national HDI of 0.47. These regions have traditionally been neglected and only recently have efforts been made to include them in the mainstream of the country's modernization process.

2. At the same time, Nepal is committed to protecting the global environment, having ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in August 1994. Nepal's commitment to biodiversity conservation goes back to its enactment of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1973), which led to Nepal's system of protected areas. Nepal has also developed considerable experience in the past few decades in community-based conservation and the management of natural resources.

3. In recent years, however, policy makers have recognized that existing approaches to conservation and natural resource management have not been adequately integrated to ensure long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. In addition, it has become clear that protected reserves by themselves are too small to secure the long-term viability of biodiversity and vital ecological functions. There has been an emerging consensus that an integrated and holistic approach to conservation and sustainable development at a landscape level is required.

II. Global Environmental Benefits

4. The Western Terai region is home to globally significant biodiversity and fragile ecosystems (in particular, the Churia/Siwalik Hills). It is included in WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions. In this project, the global environmental benefits will be captured through the protection and sustainable use of the rich biodiversity in this ecoregion and diminishment of land degradation. Biodiversity-friendly management of the productive landscape will be introduced to combat wild land fragmentation and resultant biogenetic insularization. The project provides a vehicle for managing biodiversity at the scale of the larger ecological landscape (including protected and productive areas) and translating integrated ecosystem management (espoused by the government in recent policies including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Ninth Five Year Plan) into action.

III. Baseline:

5. The principle threats to biodiversity conservation in the Western Terai Landscape Complex (WTLC) are: a) agricultural encroachment and squatting in forestlands; b) high grazing pressures in the forests; c) overexploitation of biological resources from forests; and d) the replacement of traditional crop varieties and landraces with modern cultivars. The barriers and underlying causes for these threats to biodiversity relate to: a) the current policy, regulatory, and enforcement systems of government-managed forests which have not adequately integrated biodiversity conservation; b) lax land resettlement and compensation mechanisms in the Western Terai; c) agricultural development policies that are geared predominantly towards modern cultivars and associated production systems; d) agriculture and livestock extension systems that have not effectively reoriented locals to improved and sustainable practices; e) forest management practices that do not adequately take into account biodiversity conservation; f) local livelihoods that are highly dependent on the forest resource base; and g) high demand for commercially-valuable timber and wildlife products.

6. While substantial areas of high quality habitat remain in the WTLC, the major threat to many flagship species (i.e., tigers and elephants) is the loss of habitat connectivity, primarily as a result of forest degradation and fragmentation inflicted by the abovementioned threats. Nepal's protected areas in the low-lying Terai area are too small by themselves to maintain viable populations of large, threatened mammal species. Habitat fragmentation has the effect of reducing previously extensive populations into genetically isolated sub-populations, many of which fall below the threshold of population viability. Aside from biodiversity depletion, the forest degradation and fragmentation are also closely linked to loss of forest carbon sinks, and degradation of land in the fragile upstream catchments of the Churia Hills. Loss of agricultural biodiversity is also occurring alongside the decline in wild biodiversity as a result of changing agricultural practices. This translates into a loss of options to farmers to cope with environmental change and diminishes their food security. In the default scenario, in the absence of the project, government actions would be limited to focusing on regulating environmental management in protected areas and adjoining buffer zones, without further venturing to implement strategic biodiversity management at the larger landscape level. This would result in continuing depletion of wild biodiversity, genetic erosion of crop diversity, and diminishment of vital ecological functions, which would threaten the sustainability of rural livelihoods.

7. The programmatic baseline is described below and a breakdown of cost aggregates is provided in the incremental cost matrix (See Table 2 under Section 2 bv. of the project brief).

Legal, policy, and institutional framework:

8. Various threads of an enabling legal and policy environment for managing biodiversity at a landscape level are in place in Nepal. Innovative policies and legislation have empowered local communities to manage forests and enabled communities adjoining protected areas to benefit from conservation. The Master Plan for the Forestry

Sector (1988) and Forest Act 1993 established community-managed forests and empowered local communities to manage forests on public land to meet their basic needs. The Bufferzone Management Act and Regulations (1993 and 1996 respectively) mandated an integrated conservation and development approach to protected area management, recognizing both the threats to and potential benefits from conservation posed by adjoining communities. Innovative measures included the required benefit sharing of 30-50% of park revenues with bufferzone communities.

9. The government has also initiated efforts in the legislative and policy fronts to decentralize decision making over land and natural resource management. This is part of a broader systemic shift towards decentralization of authority from central to district levels, as called for in the LSGA (1999). Although decentralization in conservation and natural resource management have not been fully operationalized, this project will benefit from UNDP's groundwork in relevant capacity building of local authorities under its Participatory District Development Program (PDDP) and Local Governance Program (LGP). The PDDP has been implemented in Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts whereas the LGP has been implemented in Bardia District within the WTLC since the mid-1990s. It has been building up local administrative capacity to undertake more effective strategic and participatory planning and implementation required under decentralization.

Opportunities for Conservation Financing in Productive Landscape

10. A critical opportunity that has emerged with decentralization is the potential to create new mechanisms for generating fees for conservation and natural resource management. LSGA authorizes local bodies to levy taxes and fees, including those related to use of natural resources for commercial purpose. There are current efforts to implement sustainable forest management regimes with commercial forest production components in the Western Terai region. This presents an opportunity in future for levying conservation fees on commercial forest enterprises to support conservation interventions critical to sustain forest production. This is a potential source for long-term financing of conservation interventions in the productive landscape, as described in further detail in Annex 2L. If properly developed, new mechanisms of user fees could generate additional funds for conservation, supplementing the chronic financial shortages at central level and reducing dependence on limited donor assistance. In addition, under HMG/UNDP's PDDP, LGP, and SCDP, district level trust fund mechanisms have already been established which provide the means for sustainably managing locally-generated fees. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative, the project will capitalize on these existing district level trust fund mechanisms (including the existing technical capacity and legal framework) to secure sustainable financing for biodiversity management interventions undertaken within the productive landscape (see under Output 2 in paragraph 65 below). At the same time, the project will undertake feasibility studies for tapping potential sources of long-term conservation financing to capitalize these funds.

Paradigm Shift to Ecosystem Management and Landscape Planning

11. The policy shift from conservation of pockets of protected wild land to an ecosystem management has been gaining momentum, as reflected in the emerging NBS.

HMG/Nepal has decided to take the next step to reinforce its commitment to ecosystem management by incorporating landscape level management, a vehicle to translate ecosystem management on the ground, into the upcoming Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). This policy initiative is included as part of the GEF Alternative (see under Output 1, paragraph 58 below) since efforts under the PDF-B phase of this project were instrumental in bringing about this policy decision.

12. However, legislative gaps remain, particularly with regard to interdistrict and intersectoral land use planning and management of biological corridors/habitat networks across protected and productive landscapes. Such enabling legislation would be critical to ensure long-term, integrated planning and sustainable management of biodiversity at the landscape level. Although Nepal's Ninth Five-Year Plan calls for overall land use planning to guide land development, the regulatory framework for this remains at an incipient stage. There is a further need to put in place underpinning legislation to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning. This will enable holistic and rational planning and management of land at regional and local levels for multiple requirements. In addition, there is a need for formal recognition of wildlife biological corridors or habitat networks cutting across both protected and productive areas. This would help ensure sustainable biodiversity management is integrated across different sectoral and administrative boundaries. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative, legislation will be reoriented/established to enable intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in WTLC and ensure formal recognition of biological corridors/habitat networks (see under Output 2 paragraph 60, and Output 1 paragraph 58 respectively below).

Integrating Biodiversity Objectives into Productive Sector

13. Currently, the forestry and agricultural sectors do not adequately integrate biodiversity conservation objectives. Forest sector management policies are predominantly focused on forest utilization to meet short-term, local community needs. Agricultural development policies similarly are narrowly utilitarian-oriented in areas of crop production and livestock management. This is reflected in the gap in mandates of field agency staff, including DFO, DADO, and DLO staff with regard to management for conservation objectives. As a result, field staff are not trained in practical methodologies for integrating biodiversity conservation on the ground. In addition, extension support to local communities does not adequately communicate and disseminate information on biodiversity-friendly and sustainable agricultural, livestock, and forestry practices. It is also reflected in the ineffectual enforcement of forest regulations that are intended to maintain and protect government-managed forest resources. An important step towards reorienting productive sector staff towards holistic, ecosystem management would be to ensure that respective operational management plans which guide their field work incorporate explicit biodiversity criteria. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 2, paragraph 60 below), biodiversity conservation criteria will be incorporated into operational management plans of productive sector staff (DFO, DADO, and DLO).

14. In addition, there are no overall agricultural policies and laws for the sustainable utilization and conservation of agrobiodiversity per se. Existing economic and

agricultural development policies of HMG/Nepal, in particular the Ninth Economic Development and the 20-years (1996-2016) Agricultural Perspective Plan (APP), focus exclusively on production of a few major crops and well-researched uniform modern cultivars of crops in favorable pockets with intensive input use and a package approach. Current seed regulatory framework and market forces have also acted as disincentives for farmers to grow native crops/animals and landraces/breeds on-farm.

15. NPC has recently formed a National Agrobiodiversity Committee (NABC) under MoA to identify policy issues, gaps and constraints for agrobiodiversity conservation and utilization. The Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), an autonomous government research institution with a national mandate of conservation and utilization of genetic resources for agriculture, has also been established. NARC has a policy of working in partnership with NGO partners in the field of agricultural biodiversity and participatory plant breeding. These are incipient efforts in mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in Nepal's agricultural policy and institutional system. There is the further need to ensure that influential agricultural policy instruments, including credit and subsidies policies, are revised to integrate agrobiodiversity objectives. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 1, paragraph 58 below), the project will review and revise key agricultural policies to explicitly include wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation criteria.

Institutional Mechanisms for Integrated Planning and Management

16. A major barrier to effective landscape management is weak intersectoral coordination and programmatic integration from central to local levels to optimize economic, social, and environmental objectives. The main government entities for protected areas (Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation), forestry (Department of Forests) and agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture) still largely operate independently and with little ongoing collaborative planning and program implementation. The field-based counterparts of these land and resource management agencies also work largely independently of the local authorities. As a result, conservation and sustainable resource use objectives have frequently not been fully understood and integrated into the overall socioeconomic development plans of local administrative bodies.

17. However, there are existing institutions and institutional mechanisms from central to local levels which could serve as platforms upon which intersectoral coordination and planning for biodiversity management could be strengthened. At the central level, the MFSC convenes a biannual Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee, where NPC and other government sectors are represented, which provides the opportunity for intersectoral policy issues to be deliberated. This Committee has been identified as an appropriate channel for mainstreaming the landscape approach into national policies since biodiversity-rich ecosystems are generally found on land under MFSC's jurisdiction, either in the protected areas under DNPWC or the government-managed forests in the productive areas under DoF. At the regional level, the Regional Directorate of Forests (MFSC's regional representative), has the mandate to coordinate planning and implementation among district-level agencies under MFSC from the various

districts in the region. The RDF has been identified as the appropriate regional entity to facilitate and coordinate interdistrict and intersectoral planning. At the district and village levels, the local administrative authorities, represented by the DDCs and VDCs respectively, have been identified as the appropriate channels for facilitating and coordinating intersectoral and interinstitutional planning and implementation. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 2, paragraph 61 below), the project will: strengthen the capacities of these existing institutions for intersectoral planning and coordination; and reorient their mechanisms to support integrated landscape planning in the WTLC.

Encroachment in Forestlands

18. Illegal settlements have, until recently, occupied biodiversity-rich forestlands in the WTLC project sites, particularly in the government-managed forests of the productive landscape. However, under a government resettlement and land compensation program (with no involvement from the project's PDF-B), approximately 10,000 squatters were recently relocated from the Basanta Forest area -- an important dispersal corridor for wildlife, including tigers, elephants, and rhinoceros -- within the project's productive landscape. RSWR was also recently able to complete relocation of an entrenched squatter settlement under a separate government resettlement and land compensation program. The government has also contained the illegal settlements of landless, ex-“Kamaiyas” (freed bonded laborers) through its program of providing land targeted at this disadvantaged community. As a result of these various government initiatives, there are no longer illegal settlements in government forestlands in the targeted project sites. These experiences demonstrate that where there is a combination of political will, sound leadership, and local community support, existing land review and distribution mechanisms can be applied effectively to relocate squatters.

19. However, these land review and distribution mechanisms have not been effectively applied on a consistent basis to curb illegal settlements in the region as a whole. In some cases, entrenchment of illegal settlements in the Western Terai region has occurred due to the failure of land review mechanisms to be activated to address these cases in a timely manner; in other cases, settlements have been able to secure regularization. This has arisen partly from support of opportunistic local politicians who capitalize on illegal settlements as part of their vote-bank in exchange for favors to entrench them. Where there has been sufficient political will to activate formal reviews of illegal settlements and relocation schemes have been undertaken, the criteria for land compensation have not always effectively targeted and secured the needs of the genuine landless; this has contributed to emergence of professional land dealers and professional squatters who profit from organized squatting.

20. To ensure long-term prevention of future re-encroachment and encroachment into other forests in the WTLC, underlying weaknesses in Western Terai's land review and distribution mechanisms need to be rectified. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 2, paragraph 62 below), HMG/Nepal will take the lead in strengthening existing land review and distribution mechanisms and procedures to effectively prevent future re-encroachments in project sites and encroachments in other forestlands in the Western Terai region. In addition, project interventions will be undertaken to improve

enforcement and livelihoods needs of relocated squatters (see under Output 4, paragraph 79 below).

Transboundary Cooperation to Strengthen Landscape Management of Biodiversity

21. Initial efforts towards transboundary cooperation between protected areas agencies of Nepal and India along the southern border of Nepal's Western Terai region also represent an opportunity for improving landscape management of biodiversity. This is in view of the existing forest linkages in the WTLC with adjoining forests and nature reserves in India that are integral to wildlife habitat networks for flagship species, such as tigers and rhinoceros. These transboundary habitat networks or biological corridors are increasingly threatened from illegal timber felling and wildlife poaching, fueled by commercial transboundary trading. Several transboundary meetings between Western Terai park staff and their Indian parks counterparts have already taken place, with active support from WWF. The Indian parks have a more developed information system on poachers in both India and Nepal, which is a useful resource for park managers on both sides of the border. Thus far, only a few meetings have been undertaken. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 2, paragraph 66 below), the project will build upon this important groundwork to establish a transboundary framework for coordination and collaboration in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources; this will contribute towards long-term and strategic transboundary management of biodiversity in the Western Terai region.

Information Baseline

22. Currently, weak intersectoral coordination and planning in biodiversity management has been aggravated by the lack of updated or complete baseline information on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources in the WTLC, particularly in the productive landscape. There is also a lack of land use and conservation management plans to guide interagency planning, decision-making, and programmatic implementation. However, as a result of this project's PDF-B and the recently launched WWF-Terai Arc Landscape (WWF-TAL) project, the groundwork for gathering relevant baseline information of WTLC has been established. WWF-TAL, in particular, has played a critical role in establishing the foundation for scientific management of the WTLC, including: collection of key biodiversity information, including identification of biodiversity hotspots and critical bottlenecks in the habitat requirements of flagship species in wider landscape; establishment of permanent plots for long-term monitoring of biodiversity; and development of a comprehensive conservation plan. Some research and wildlife monitoring have been undertaken in the protected areas (RBNP and RSWR) with support from NGOs and external donors, including KMTNC, WWF, and NORAD.

23. Nonetheless, to enable effective adaptive management of the WTLC, remaining gaps in the baseline information need to be filled, including: completion of inventories of flora and fauna in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of WTLC, assessing the amount and distribution of agricultural biodiversity on-farm, and documenting processes and local knowledge for maintaining on-farm agrobiodiversity and wild biodiversity. In addition, there is a need for better coordination and collaboration in research and monitoring of socioeconomic and biodiversity indicators in the WTLC to optimize scarce resources and

expertise and avoid duplication among projects working in this area. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 2, paragraphs 67 to 70 below), a coordinated approach to monitoring and information management of the WTLC will be developed, building upon the work of WWF-TAL and this project's PDF-B phase. The project will also support completion of baseline inventories, mapping, and documentation and targeted research to fill in knowledge gaps required to assist in long-term management of biodiversity resources in the WTLC. In addition, the project will improve planning and decision-making tools, including development of a landscape level plan, to support effective, long-term management of the biodiversity assets in the WTLC.

24. In the default situation, it is likely that policy level initiatives towards landscape level conservation of biodiversity would remain on paper and would not be fully operationalized. There would be insufficient baseline funding to take the further necessary measures of institutionalizing intersectoral planning, programming, and implementation, undertaking the capacity building, and further reforming legal, policy, and regulatory instruments necessary to ensure that landscape level management of biodiversity could be effectively operationalized.

Protected areas management in Western Terai:

25. The basic infrastructure and institutional capacity for managing biodiversity conservation have been established in the WTLC with the creation and operation of two protected areas -- Royal Bardia National Park (RBNP) and Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR) -- under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). RBNP has the most developed infrastructure and institutional capacity out of the two protected areas in the WTLC. HMG/Nepal's further commitment to conservation in the Western Terai is also demonstrated in its deployment of the Royal Nepal Army to bolster enforcement inside the Terai park boundaries.

26. Key barriers to long-term biodiversity conservation in these protected areas include: lack of strategic management and deployment of resources combined with weak knowledge base of biodiversity assets; low financial inputs to sustain on-going conservation management activities; and weak involvement of adjoining local communities in supporting conservation of the protected areas. These are elaborated in further detail below along with an assessment of the measures required to overcome these barriers.

Strategic Management of Protected Areas

27. Some important groundwork has been laid, particularly in RBNP to build up the strategic management capacity for protected areas. A five-year management plan for RBNP was recently approved by MFSC, which provides the opportunity to undertake more strategic management planning and implementation. A GIS system was also recently installed to improve park management. Several initiatives in species and habitat management (including species reintroductions and habitat rehabilitation) have also been undertaken.

28. While these are important advances in enhancing protected area management, there remain capacity and knowledge gaps in implementation of conservation management. Due to resource constraints, RBNP's management plan has not been implemented and park staff have not yet been trained in the GIS system. In addition, RSWR's capacity for conservation management lags significantly behind that of RBNP, even though it is a critical core area for biodiversity conservation in the WTLC and carries the distinction of possessing the highest density of tigers in the world and world's largest population of swamp deer. RSWR has not developed a management plan and its information management system is underdeveloped. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 3, paragraph 72 below), targeted capacity-building of parks staff will be undertaken to strengthen scientific and technical management of the protected areas and bufferzones. In addition, as part of the GEF Alternative, WWF will spearhead capacity-building of protected area staff and local community members in anti-poaching operations (which includes prevention of wildlife poaching, timber felling, and other exploitative practices) until they are self-sustaining operations.

29. An important opportunity that has recently arisen to improve biodiversity conservation management in RSWR is the successful relocation of an entrenched squatter community which had occupied prime wildlife habitat area, particularly for swamp deer, tiger, and rhinoceros. For many years, the illegal settlement had delayed the formulation and implementation of conservation management activities and hindered management operations in RSWR. However, final relocation of and land compensation for the remaining over 7,154 squatters was recently completed under a government-led resettlement and land compensation program, which involved a participatory and consultative process with local communities. To ensure long-term viability of wildlife habitat in this area, follow-up measures are required, including addressing the livelihood development needs of relocated squatters and improving enforcement to prevent re-encroachment, and rehabilitation of this area. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative, measures to prevent re-encroachment will be undertaken, including providing alternative livelihoods to relocated squatters (see under Output 4, paragraphs 85 to 87 below) and mobilization of anti-poaching operations in this area (see under Output 3, paragraph 76 below). At the same time, the project will undertake wildlife habitat restoration in this degraded portion of RSWR (see under Output 3, paragraph 76 below).

Long-Term Funding of Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas

30. The chronically low financial support for RBNP and RSWR weakens long-term improvements in conservation management. However, financial support from the central

government is unlikely to improve significantly in the foreseeable future due to the current government priorities in addressing the development gap in rural areas. In this context, it is important for park management to pursue other strategies for raising financing to sustain conservation interventions. RBNP has experimented on an informal basis to charge fees for use of its training facilities by outside groups. With targeted efforts, utilization of its facilities could be improved and revenue generated from user fees. The relatively “under-discovered” status of these protected areas and growing visitorship in these protected areas provide opportunities for improved conservation financing in future. Based on available tourism records in RBNP and RSWR, foreign tourism grew over 300% and 200% respectively from 1997 to 2001. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 3, paragraph 75 below), the project will study various options and pilot feasible options for raising financing in protected areas to cover recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation interventions in these core conservation areas and cross-cutting landscape management interventions (such as monitoring and information management). As part of this financing plan, the project will establish a revolving fund mechanism in the WTLC protected areas to manage these recurrent conservation payments.

Participatory Management of Protected Areas

31. The project recognizes that protected areas cannot be over-reliant on a strategy of conservation financing through tourism to ensure sustainable biodiversity conservation. More importantly, for long-term viability of biodiversity in WTLC, it is critical for protected areas to secure local community support and participation in reducing pressures on biodiversity resources in protected areas. Until fairly recently, park-people relations were highly conflictive in the Western Terai due to the conventional, insular approach of managing these protected areas as wildlife sanctuaries divorced from adjoining poor communities who depend on the natural resource base for their subsistence needs. However, in recent years, various donor/NGO supported programs have been undertaken with an integrated conservation and development approach to protected areas and their adjoining bufferzone communities. These include: UNDP’s Parks and People Program (PPP)/Participatory Conservation Program (PCP), UNDP-supported Capacity 21 program, WWF-Bardia Integrated Conservation Project (BICP), WWF-TAL project, KMTNC-Bardia Conservation Project (BCP), KMTNC-Save the Tiger Fund, and CARE Nepal’s Bufferzone Development Project (BZDP). These programs have helped to reduce park-people conflicts and develop the groundwork for more cooperative relations between protected areas and adjoining bufferzone communities.

32. In particular, PPP (which started in 1995 and terminated at end 2001) has contributed to developing local institutions and institutional mechanisms for participatory decision-making and management of protected areas and bufferzones. This included the formation of user groups and user committees in the bufferzone as local entry points for socioeconomic development and conservation. In RBNP’s bufferzone, an overall Bufferzone Development Council (BZDC) has been established under leadership of the Chief Warden and involvement of local community leaders. These bufferzone

institutions are critical in facilitating benefit-sharing of conservation (from park entry fees) with local communities. They also serve as important channels for protected area management to promote sustainable livelihood practices of local communities, organize local participation for conservation activities, and thereby reduce pressures on the protected areas.

33. However, these institutions have only recently been set up in RBNP's bufferzone, and they remain operationally immature. In the case of RSWR, these institutions have not yet been fully established. In addition, the additional protected area staff capacity (bufferzone support units) required to provide technical support to these institutions have not yet been institutionalized. Challenges remain in institutionalizing these collaborative institutional mechanisms and more effectively involving local communities in conservation activities in the protected areas. This is particularly critical in the face of inadequate human resource capacity of protected areas and on-going, local pressures on protected area. As part of the GEF Alternative (see under Output 3, paragraph 73 below), UNDP/HMGN launched in May 2002 the Participatory Conservation Program (a follow-up phase to PPP) to consolidate these bufferzone institutions and operations fully in the bufferzones of RBNP and RSWR (and in five other protected areas in the Terai and in the mountains). These additional efforts will ensure that local institutions in the bufferzones and institutional mechanisms between parks and local communities, including participatory decision-making and communication structures, achieve self-sustaining operation. This will be critical to securing long-term participatory management of protected areas.

34. In the default scenario, the protected areas would continue at low levels of professional capacity and enforcement capability. Baseline funding is insufficient for substantial improvements in the scientific and participatory management of the protected areas. Conservation related activities would remain inadequate in ensuring long-term conservation of biodiversity. Under such circumstances, it is difficult to imagine an effective system for long-term biodiversity conservation being developed for the protected areas alone, much less within a wider landscape with linkages to productive areas beyond the buffer zones.

Forest management in productive landscape:

35. The productive land that spans the area between RSWR and RBNP comprises mainly national forests -- predominantly government-managed forests and pockets of community-managed forests -- and private agricultural landholdings. The level of technical, financial, and institutional resources channelled for conservation and sustainable development have generally favored protected areas and their bufferzones in the WTLC as compared to the intervening forestlands in the productive landscape. In the district of Kanchanpur, RSWR has a contingent of 250 army personnel for its 10,000 ha area whereas the DFO has a staff size of 35 personnel to manage 57,000 ha of forestland in the remaining part of the district.

Integrating Biodiversity Criteria in Productive Forest Management Operations

36. While MFSC has supported biodiversity conservation through protected areas management, it has not adequately mainstreamed biodiversity conservation in its forest sector management and programs. This is manifested in DoF and its field-based offices, the DFOs, which have traditionally adopted a “tree-based,” utilitarian approach to forest management, with emphasis on timber, fuelwood, and other forest products to meet local community needs, rather than an ecosystem management approach. DFO staff possess low technical skills with regard to biodiversity-friendly, silvicultural practices.

37. However, there is the potential to improve biodiversity conservation management of government-managed forests in the productive landscape through existing training programs, such as the Regional Training Center (RTC). The latter was established under HMG Nepal/DANIDA’s Natural Resource Management Sector Assistance Program (NARMSAP). Training is directed mainly towards DFO staff, members of Community Forest User Groups (CFUG)s, and service providers (NGOs/CBOs) in capacity building for watershed and forest management. Although the curriculum is currently focused primarily on sustainable forest utilization, DANIDA has indicated interest in incorporating biodiversity conservation in its training program. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 3, paragraph 77 below), the project will work jointly with the RTC in developing and institutionalizing targeted training of DFO staff in integrating biodiversity conservation in forest management.

38. The groundwork for reorienting productive forest management to include biodiversity management has also been recently initiated by the WWF-supported TAL project. The latter project, launched in June 2000, is working directly with DFO staff in Kailali District to enhance their capacity to incorporate biodiversity conservation in forest management operations. Activities under the TAL project are considered incremental in this project, based on the UNDP-WWF Memorandum of Understanding to work as full partners in developing and implementing HMG/Nepal’s overall program for landscape level biodiversity conservation in the WTLC. Therefore, TAL-funded activities will be reoriented to be complementary and synergistic with interventions in the broader context of GEF Alternative. The TAL project forms part of WWF’s broader vision to establish an ecoregional conservation strategy stretching from Parsa in Nepal to Corbett National Park in India. This project operates within the same-targeted landscape complex, with the addition of Banke district to the east of Bardia. Given resource constraints, TAL project interventions have thus far been limited to a few of the critical areas identified, particularly in the Kailali district.

39. Recently, several opportunities have also arisen to reorient forest sector programs and management more effectively to include biodiversity conservation. There has been growing interest in developing a sustainable forest management regime in the Western Terai that would include components of: commercial forest production to better tap the high commercial value of the Sal forests in the lowland Terai for broader national development objectives; and integration of biodiversity conservation practices. Various donor-supported (including SNV and DFID) programs have recently been developed to pilot different models of sustainable forest management in the government-managed

forests of the lowland Terai. Although not directly within the proposed project area, these pilot projects are likely to carry important lessons and may be replicable in the government-managed forestlands in the WTLC. SNV's important role as co-funder and partner in this proposed project will facilitate cross-project learning and potential future replication of best forest management practices in the WTLC. Under the GEF Alternative, a mechanism for cross-project information sharing and learning will be established among partner institutions (see under Output 2, paragraph 63). This is intended to serve as a vehicle to facilitate replication of best practices and adaptive management during the course of the project.

Enhancement of Enforcement Capacity and Management

40. Chronic lack of DFO staff and resources have been critical barriers to effective enforcement of government forests. The absence of surveyed and physically demarcated boundaries of government-managed forests reflects the current, low level of investment in safeguarding this resource base. These forests have therefore become easily accessible and vulnerable to destructive practices such as squatting, agricultural encroachment, uncontrolled grazing, and unsustainable exploitation of its biological resources. The TAL project has played a catalytic role in addressing encroachment problems in the Basanta-Dudhuwa corridor, which has now been cleared of squatters/encroachment by the DFO (Kailali) with the support of political parties and with the active participation of local community. However, to prevent re-encroachment and ensure long-term biodiversity benefits, follow-up measures will be critical in addressing livelihood development needs of relocated squatters, improving enforcement, and undertaking rehabilitation of this area.

41. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative, support will be provided to address the livelihoods needs of adjoining local communities (see under Output 4), including relocated squatters, as incentives against re-encroachment. The project will, through partnership with the TAL project, also develop the capacity of DFO staff and local community members in anti-poaching operations to improve enforcement of these areas. In addition, systematic survey and proper demarcation of government-managed forests, including biodiversity hotspots nested within these forests, will be undertaken.

Local Natural Resource/Land Use Practices in Productive Landscape and Bufferzones

42. Local communities and the lands they manage/utilize represent the main sources of pressure on biodiversity resources in the WTLC and are therefore critical to the overall landscape conservation strategy. Locally-managed lands in the WTLC are predominately in the productive landscape but also occur in the bufferzone areas of RBNP and RSWR. These lands include: community forests and grazing lands (owned by the State but managed/utilized by local community members to meet subsistence/household economy needs), and agricultural lands. The prevalence of poverty, dependence of local communities on their natural resource base, and limited know-how in sustainable

land/resource practices have led to the degradation of these locally-managed lands and exploitative pressures on neighboring natural forests and wild biodiversity resources.

Livestock Management

43. Although livestock represents a critical component of the household economy in WTLC, extension services and programs for livestock management, particularly in the productive landscape, have been very limited. The District Livestock Office (DLO), the government extension support for livestock management (within the Ministry of Agriculture) has limited human resources and skills capacity in servicing the large community needs. Limited knowledge of alternative livestock feeding practices (such as stall feeding and alternative fodder production), sustainable grazing practices, improved breeding practices, and veterinary care have led to a large population of unproductive cattle encroaching onto forestland for grazing due to the limited and degraded grazing lands. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 4, paragraph 80 below), the project will support training and technical inputs to improve local knowledge and practices in sustainable livestock management, thereby reducing pressures on forest resources.

Community Forestry

44. Various community-managed forests have already been established in the WTLC. Community forests however, like government-managed forests, tend to be narrowly focused in meeting the basic needs of local user groups. DFO staff and service providers provide technical extension support to CFUGs, including development of Community Forest Operational Plans, which require approval by DFOs to enable community forest operations to proceed. Currently, biodiversity management criteria are not incorporated into these operational plans. Training provided to CFUGs through such institutions as RTC are also primarily focused on proper utilization of community forest resources and have not adequately integrated biodiversity management practices. Under the GEF Alternative, the project will work with DFOs and service providers to integrate biodiversity conservation criteria in the Community Forest Operational Plans. In addition, the project will work jointly with the RTC in developing and institutionalizing targeted training of DFO staff, service providers, and CFUGs in integrating biodiversity conservation in community forest management. (See under Output 4, paragraph 81 below), the project will support training and technical inputs to improve local knowledge.

45. The degradation of forests in the fragile Churia range, largely within productive forestlands, has emerged as a common priority concern among local communities. This concern has intensified in recent years with worsening seasonal flooding damages experienced by downstream communities. Kanchanpur DDC has formed the Churia Hills Environmental Awareness Program, which targets conservation awareness at people who have been encroaching into forests and who illegally poach resources from Churia forests. A 1.5 km belt of community forest has also been established along the Churia Hills across half of the district with efforts to mobilize users' groups to maintain the forests in the watershed. Thus far, efforts to stem damaging resource and land practices in the Churia range and foothills have been localized and sporadic; therefore, the threats to this unique and particularly fragile watershed area in the WTLC still have not been adequately addressed. Under the GEF Alternative, the threats to the Churia watershed will be addressed through a combination of a management plan for the Churia range (see

under Output 2, paragraph 70 below) and concerted mobilization of local authorities, government field agencies, and local communities to undertake watershed protection and flood/landslide control measures (see under Output 4, paragraph 81 below).

Agricultural Practices

46. Agricultural practices in the WTLC remain rudimentary and inadequate in meeting the increased food demands of the growing population. Agriculture extension support from DADO has been limited in area coverage and tends to target farmers with better access to roads and farming facilities. In addition, DADO has tended to focus almost exclusively on improving agricultural productivity based on increased inputs and high-yield crop varieties. Agricultural research, extension, subsidies, support services (inputs, credit, marketing etc.) and education systems all are directed primarily towards modern varieties. As a result, agricultural biodiversity is steadily declining. However, resource-poor as against resource-endowed households are more dependent on landraces for food security in marginal environments. It is estimated that more than 95% of farmers also still depend upon an informal seed supply system, and access to locally adapted genetic resources is still a primary production constraint.

47. In order to effectively integrate agrobiodiversity conservation and use in the agricultural practices in WTLC, best practices can be drawn from IPGRI's Nepal country component of the global project "Strengthening the scientific basis of *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity on-farm." This project (1997-2000) focused on conserving traditional crops, vegetables, fruit crops, and livestock considered important for livelihoods. Project sites were located in the three main physiographic regions of Nepal: the lowland Terai, mid-Hills, and high mountain regions. The project has contributed substantially to enhancing knowledge on when, where, and how *in situ* conservation on-farm can be successful. Under the GEF Alternative, best practices from IPGRI's project will be replicated in the WTLC. A variety of measures will be taken to enhance local communities' capacities in agrobiodiversity conservation and management as a means to maintain crop diversity within the WTLC while simultaneously improving livelihood options and food security of local communities. (See under Output 4, paragraphs 83 and 84 below).

Livelihoods Development

48. The groundwork for working with local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods and reduce pressures on wildlands and resources has been laid by a variety of donor/NGO-supported programs in recent years. These include the integrated conservation and development programs highlighted above in paragraph 31. These initiatives have so far remained localized and primarily targeted at bufferzone communities adjoining protected areas, due to institutional and financial constraints. Communities outside of these bufferzones, within the productive landscape, have received significantly less support. A common challenge that these various projects have also encountered is in enabling women and disadvantaged groups, who are socially

marginalized, to benefit equitably from such projects/programs. Yet, in rural Nepali communities, women are responsible for a major proportion of the income-generating activities and tending to household subsistence needs through gathering of fuelwood and fodder. In addition, within the WTLC, a number of local villagers depend on selling fuelwood for their livelihoods. The environmental impacts of such activities are significant in determining the success of the project. Under the GEF Alternative, the project will promote the pooling of resources and strategic partnerships among institutions and stakeholders through its multi-tiered institutional mechanisms for integrated planning and cross-project information sharing and learning (under Output 2) to expand localized efforts and achieve the scale of impact required at the landscape level. Under the GEF Alternative (under Output 4), the project will ensure inclusion of a targeted approach in empowering women and disadvantaged groups to pursue diversified livelihoods that reduce pressures on natural forest resources. The project will also focus livelihood investments particularly in those currently underserved and high impact communities in bottleneck areas of the WTLC.

49. PPP/PCP and CARE-Nepal's BZDP, in particular, have contributed to building local community institutions (user groups) in the WTLC, particularly in bufferzones, which serve as critical vehicles for social mobilization and organization in a wide array of socioeconomic development and conservation activities. Among the various types of user groups, there are functional user groups in areas of community forestry, grazing, and farming activities which serve as the key entry points at the local level in improving land/resource management and conservation. However, this local institutional infrastructure is underdeveloped in productive areas, which represents a barrier to effective social organization and mobilization for conservation, sustainable use, and livelihoods development. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 4, paragraph 85 below), the project will therefore extend support for formation of these community institutions in high impact areas of the productive landscape, replicating best practices from the bufferzones. In addition, as part of the GEF Alternative, PCP will take the lead in ensuring that community institutions in the bufferzones are placed on sustainable footing through additional technical inputs and targeted training.

50. *Many of the integrated conservation and development programs have also supported local bufferzone communities in pursuing diversified livelihoods to reduce pressures on forest resources, including alternative energy, alternative income generating activities, and community capital generation and credit schemes. Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 4, paragraph 87 below), the project will scale up these alternative livelihoods activities in those currently underserved and high impact communities in bottleneck areas of the WTLC, drawing upon best practices from these other projects which have been undertaken primarily in the bufferzones*

51. *There has also been growing interest among local authorities to promote ecotourism as a way to improve local livelihoods while improving incentives for nature conservation. Kailali DDC has started an eco-tourism related program in the biodiversity-rich wetland, Ghodaghodi Tal, with the assistance of IUCN. In Bardia DDC, a committee headed by the Chief District Officer has been formed to plan and*

implement management of a blackbuck habitat in the Khairapur area. Private ecotourism operators have also expressed interest in bringing tourists to certain locations outside of protected areas which provide good wildlife viewing, such as south of RBNP at the confluence of the Karnali and other adjoining rivers. (See Annex 2D for a list of potential ecotourism sites in the WTLC's productive landscape). Under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 4, paragraph 86 below), various measures will be undertaken to enhance the long-term capacity of local authorities and communities to plan for and implement ecotourism development. However, the project will take a measured approach to ecotourism development, which will not be overly emphasized as a vehicle for improving local livelihoods in the WTLC.

52. *One of the barriers to sustainable livelihoods is the prevailing low level of conservation awareness and understanding of the interrelationships between biodiversity with sustainability of natural resource and land use systems and human health. In recent years, the conservation awareness of bufferzone communities around RBNP and RSWR has improved as a result of awareness-raising and education efforts by the various integrated conservation and development programs. However, within the broader WTLC, and particularly, within the productive areas, conservation awareness remains very low. This contributes to perpetuation of exploitative practices in natural forests. In the long run, in the absence of effective assimilation of conservation values, project-promoted activities will not be sustainable after project duration. Therefore, under the GEF Alternative (see under Output 4, paragraphs 88 and 89 below), a critical component of the project will be the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation values and practices among local communities in the productive landscape.*

53. In the default scenario, livestock, forestry, and agricultural management would likely continue to emphasize productivity of natural resources and services without adequate consideration of their impacts on the wider ecosystem and biodiversity. Despite policy level recognition of the need for better intersectoral linkages, it is unlikely these would be developed in practice due to chronic shortages in financial, human, and technical resources. The existing donor/NGO-supported projects and local authorities would also unlikely have sufficient funds or the strategic mandate to initiate and sustain intersectoral and multistakeholder collaboration to expand localized efforts and achieve strategic impact at the landscape level. Under such circumstances, the social, economic and demographic pressures will continue to erode biological diversity and fragment ecosystems in the landscape

IV. GEF Alternative

54. The project strategy is based on the premise that long-term viability of globally significant biodiversity hinges on the long-term ability to manage an overall system of habitats in a landscape comprising multiple uses, including: protected areas, national forests, agricultural land, riparian strips, and wetlands. This in turn will require that biodiversity management approaches be integrated across sectors. Despite the probable benefits, and growing consensus within the scientific community of its justification, there

is little practical experience of landscape level management of biodiversity in Nepal. The GEF Alternative aims at removing institutional and technical barriers to landscape management and building up the necessary human and institutional capacities and structures in integrated planning and management of biodiversity resources.

55. The overall project goal is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in Nepal's Western Terai landscape. The immediate objective is to establish effective management systems and build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of Nepal's Western Terai landscape complex. The project will be designed to demonstrate appropriate and sustainable biodiversity conservation within a wider ecological landscape characterized by a mosaic of different land uses. Upon completion of the project, there will be a reorientation of narrowly construed sectoral approaches towards ecosystem management. This will advance efforts towards more effective intersectoral and multistakeholder coordination and synergy in biodiversity conservation, land and resource management, and poverty alleviation. There will also be improved on-ground management of biodiversity-rich areas, including protected areas and forests in the productive landscape which form part of critical wildlife habitat networks/biological corridors. In addition, high impact local communities will be reoriented towards sustainable land and resource use practices and diversified livelihoods to reduce pressures on natural forests and wild biodiversity resources.

56 To achieve these overall objectives, the project proposes to complement the existing baseline scenario with a co-financed sustainable baseline component and GEF- and co-financed incremental component generating global environmental benefits. The sustainable development baseline activities enable stakeholders to develop alternative livelihoods, and to strengthen and re-orient socioeconomic development activities to integrative approaches which include biodiversity conservation. GEF- and co-funded incremental activities will focus on the conservation of globally significant diversity that supports long-term productivity and provides other environmental benefits to the global community outside of Nepal.

57. Following is a description of the proposed activities the project will undertake to produce the proposed four outcomes/outputs. (See also Annex 2A for the project's logical framework). These activities represent the additional interventions that have been jointly identified by project partners and stakeholders as necessary to fill in the existing gaps in the programmatic baseline (as highlighted in the above section III). Several activities, which are highlighted explicitly below, are deliberate extensions or developments of past/on-going projects spearheaded by specific project partners. They are included as part of the GEF Alternative instead of the GEF Baseline because project partners are consciously developing and implementing these activities in collaboration with this project for mutual synergies and overall broader programmatic impacts.

Output 1: Enabling national policy environment and legal framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in WTLC (GEF funding: US\$103,426; Co-funding: US\$318,109)

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58. The project will help to create an enabling national policy environment and legal framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in WTLC primarily by: bolstering emerging and existing policies with landscape management and biodiversity conservation components; reorienting/establishing legislation to facilitate landscape management implementation; and building policymakers' support for landscape management. Towards this end, HMG/Nepal will reinforce the policy framework for integrated landscape planning by incorporating it as a cross-sectoral strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management in Nepal's upcoming Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). This represents a further step in its endorsement of ecosystem management, as reflected in the NBS. The project will also work with HMG/Nepal to enable landscape management in the WTLC to be mainstreamed directly into the central-level policymaking arena through the MFSC's Ministerial Level Progress Review Committee, which will serve as a vehicle for intersectoral planning and coordination for WTLC. Agricultural development policies, including the overarching Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995) and agricultural subsidies and credit policies, will incorporate biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) conservation criteria. Legislation will also be reoriented/established to legitimize the landscape-level biodiversity management approach in the WTLC through biological corridors/habitat networks that cover protected areas and biodiversity-rich areas in the productive landscape of WTLC. This may involve revising existing legislation or developing new legislation, as appropriate. The project will also build support and understanding among central level policymakers and stakeholders for landscape management of biodiversity through targeted education, awareness-raising of relevant concepts, case studies, and research. In addition, channels will be established for regular information dissemination of project progress and findings.

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Output 2: Institutional framework for integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the WTLC (GEF funding: US\$1,286,404; Co-funding: US\$2,504,137)

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59. The project will create an institutional framework to implement integrated landscape management of biodiversity in the WTLC by: strengthening the regional/district policy environment and regulatory framework for landscape management of biodiversity; building up institutional mechanisms for integrated planning and management through existing institutions; and providing the necessary information and planning tools to facilitate integrated planning and management. Following is a summary of the project activities that will be undertaken to support these key components of an institutional framework.

Enabling Regional/District Policy Environment and Regulatory Framework for Landscape Management of Biodiversity

60. Legislation will be reoriented/established to facilitate intersectoral and interdistrict land use planning in WTLC. This will provide a critical framework to enable strategic and long-term planning of multiple land use and development requirements in the WTLC. The project will work with central level agencies (in particular, MFSC, DoF, and MoA) and their counterparts in field-based, district land and resource management agencies (in particular, DFO, DAO, and DLO) and relevant central level agencies to strengthen biodiversity conservation in the mandates of these field-based agencies. This will include providing technical inputs to integrate biodiversity conservation criteria in operational management plans. The project will also build support for landscape management among relevant stakeholders at the regional, district, and local levels through targeted education, awareness-raising of relevant concepts, case studies, and research. In addition, channels will be established for regular information dissemination of project progress and findings.

Institutional Mechanisms and Capacities for Integrated Planning and Management of Biodiversity in Targeted Landscape

61. The project will also work through existing institutions to strengthen their capacities and build up their mechanisms for integrated planning and management. It will work with the MFSC and its Regional Directorate of Forests (RDF) to establish intersectoral and interdistrict coordination mechanisms for integrated planning of biodiversity in the WTLC at central and regional levels. At the district and village levels, the project will work with local authorities (DDCs, Municipalities, and VDCs) to integrate biodiversity conservation more effectively into their village and district level planning and decision-making processes. Existing institutional mechanisms, such as the annual district development planning process, will serve as platforms in which to operationalize integrated planning and implementation on the ground. To achieve this, the project will improve the capacity and skills of local authorities to facilitate intersectoral coordination, and plan and program for integrated conservation and development.

62. Vertical linkages between different planning and implementation tiers will also be formed to ensure that relevant local and landscape-level experiences arising from the project can inform the policymaking process; and vice versa, emerging and new policies/legislation/regulations can be effectively incorporated at landscape and local levels. The project will provide training to stakeholders involved in the institutional mechanisms, such as joint decision-making and conflict resolution processes, to ensure effective decision-making and implementation processes. During project implementation, intersectoral and interagency coordination mechanisms for landscape management will be institutionalized.

63. To support project efforts in ensuring long-term viability of biodiversity management in the productive landscape, HMG/Nepal will take the lead in strengthening existing land review and distribution mechanisms and procedures to effectively prevent future re-encroachments in project sites and encroachments in other forestlands in the

WTLC. This will involve improving intersectoral/interagency coordination and response measures and measures to curb the abuse of influence by local politicians and professional squatters. The RDF, who will also be chairing the project's Regional Coordination Committee, will play a catalytic role in ensuring coordinated actions and follow-up among government authorities and local stakeholders in this regard.

64. In addition, the institutional framework for integrated planning will serve as a vehicle to implement a systematic process for cross-project information sharing and learning among partner institutions operating within the WTLC, as well other relevant entities outside the WTLC. This will provide the opportunity to share project experiences on the effectiveness of various strategies and tools employed to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Such a cross-project learning mechanism is anticipated to build individual projects' as well as collective capacities in managing biodiversity at the landscape level and facilitate replication of best practices and models.

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65. In addition, the project will work with DDCs to establish district-level trust funds to sustainably manage recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation (including biodiversity management skills training, enforcement, and awareness building) within the productive areas of the WTLC. It is estimated that US\$34,000 will be required to cover annual recurrent costs of sustainable management of biodiversity in the productive areas. To secure long-term sustainable financing to cover this annual funding gap, the project will assess various options for raising conservation fees in the productive landscape. This includes the possibility of levying a conservation fee on timber royalties arising from future commercial forest enterprises, prototypes of which are being piloted by various donors, such as SNV and DFID in the Terai region. However, to cover the funding gap in the short to medium term (up to 5 years after project end), the project will mobilize approximately US\$ 500,000 from local authorities, I/NGOs, and other donors for the trust funds during the project period.

66. The project will further strengthen the basis for landscape management of biodiversity by building a transboundary framework for coordination and collaboration in deterring transboundary poaching and illegal trade of biological resources. This will involve Nepali and Indian government land agencies managing adjoining land areas which form part of the WTLC's wildlife biological corridors/habitat networks.

Information and Planning Tools to Facilitate Landscape Management of Biodiversity

67. The project will develop practicable planning tools, applied research, monitoring and an information management system to support effective landscape management. The necessary infrastructure and tools for effective landscape level monitoring, analysis, and information management will also be supported.

68. The project will complete baseline inventories, mapping, and documentation on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity resources and practices in the WTLC to enable adaptive management strategies. This includes comprehensive mapping and inventories of flora and fauna in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Baseline information will also be gathered on the amount and distribution of agricultural biodiversity on farm and

processes that maintain this diversity and local knowledge of and practices in biodiversity conservation. Targeted research will also be undertaken to fill in knowledge gaps critical for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the WTLC, including: flora and fauna of global significance and economic/medicinal value; effects of different land uses and disturbance processes on flora and fauna in biodiversity hotspots; and the ecology of critical ecosystems within the landscape, such as wetlands and river systems. In addition, targeted research will be undertaken on socio-cultural knowledge and practices relevant to wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and use, including local/indigenous knowledge in biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and management. Market studies will also be undertaken to identify and assess the feasibility of potential markets (including in local crop varieties promoted through agrobiodiversity management) and measures to improve realization of monetary returns from local produce/products.

69. The project will also work with MFSC to develop and implement a coordinated strategy for monitoring and a centralized information management system to facilitate landscape management. This will require working with partner institutions within the targeted landscape to: identify needs and priorities, develop common protocols in monitoring and information exchange, capitalize on and share existing infrastructure, such as RBNP's GIS system and WWF's established permanent plots, and build the capacity of MFSC as focal institution to undertake the coordinating role for overall landscape research, monitoring, and analysis. DFO staff members will be trained to undertake periodic monitoring. The monitoring system will also include development and implementation of complementary community-based monitoring schemes of biodiversity (including agrobiodiversity) and socio-economic indicators in community-managed areas, including community forests, agricultural land, and grazing land. This is intended to promote participatory management of biodiversity resources for both conservation and sustainable use purposes. Relevant training and technical inputs will be provided to members of user groups in collection and analysis of information and application for adaptive management strategies.

70. Various tools will also be developed to facilitate planning and implementation. The project will work through the intersectoral and interdistrict coordination mechanism to develop a landscape management plan that includes management zoning and provisions for conservation requirements to facilitate integrated land use planning in the WTLC. The process of developing such a plan will require a participatory approach to ensure long-term and broad-based ownership for such a plan. Local communities will be mobilized to develop site-level management plans that will feed into and inform this overall landscape plan. This overarching management plan will therefore incorporate and reflect management priorities at the district, village, and site levels. Such a process will serve as a critical platform for enhancing local communities' understanding of and values for integrating biodiversity conservation with land/natural resource management. The project will work with protected areas staff to formulate and implement habitat and species conservation plans in collaboration with DFOs and other relevant partner institutions in the landscape. The project will work with DFOs and DSCWM in formulating and implementing an integrated management plan for the Churia range,

which integrates biodiversity conservation with watershed protection, targeting critical bottleneck areas of the WTLC.

Output 3: Biodiversity Sustainably Managed and Conserved in Government-Managed Lands (GEF funding: US\$1,044,818: Co-funding: US\$2,699,897)

71. The project will conserve biodiversity values in government-managed lands in the protected areas and forests of the productive landscape by: strengthening scientific and participatory management of protected areas and bufferzones; and integrating biodiversity conservation in the management of productive forests. Following is a summary of the project activities that will be undertaken to support these key components of for biodiversity conservation in government-managed lands.

Strengthened Management of Protected Areas

72. The project will develop and implement targeted training in scientific and participatory management capacity of RBNP and RSWR. An initial, comprehensive, training needs assessment of protected area staff and service providers will be done to build in a strategic, long-term approach to capacity building. Based on preliminary assessment, capacity building priorities include: strategic management planning and implementation; applied research and monitoring; technical skills training related to habitat and wildlife management; and technical extension support capabilities to assist bufferzone user groups to incorporate biodiversity conservation criteria into community forest, agriculture, and grazing practices. To institutionalize training of staff in RBNP and RSWR, the project will collaborate with existing training institutions, such as HMG Nepal/DANIDA's Regional Training Center (RTC) program, to incorporate project-tested training modules into their training curriculum. This would help to meet the future training needs of new staff members of the parks and service providers. In addition, in partnership with WWF, the project will undertake capacity-building of protected areas in anti-poaching planning and operations. This will involve training protected area staff and local villagers in anti-poaching techniques and ensuring operations are put on self-sustaining footing.

73. In partnership with UNDP's PCP, the project will consolidate and strengthen institutional mechanisms between parks and bufferzone communities that PPP had initiated in RSWR and RBNP to achieve self-sustaining operation. This includes operationalizing the Buffer Zone Support Units (BZSU), conceived under PPP as technical support units within parks management to manage park-bufferzone collaboration. At the same time, communication structures will be institutionalized between bufferzone groups and parks staff. These measures will establish the requisite institutional support and infrastructure for improving local communities' participation in the park management decision-making process to ensure their concerns and needs are taken into consideration. Through the BZSUs, park capacity will also be enhanced to more effectively mobilize local user groups in conservation activities in protected areas and areas of biodiversity value in bufferzones, including prevention of illegal activities (poaching, timber-felling, and forest fires), maintenance of biodiversity hotspots, and rehabilitation of degraded habitats.

74. The project will improve supporting physical infrastructure in the protected areas and bufferzones that are critical to ensure long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable use within the WTLC. The weak physical infrastructure of RSWR, in particular, will be revamped, including enforcement facilities. The communication network and information management infrastructure will also be improved to ensure effective information sharing and collaboration between RBNP and RSWR and among parks and other partner institutions.

75. The project will support the WTLC protected areas in establishing a revolving fund to cover recurrent costs of biodiversity conservation interventions in the protected areas in the long-term. This will involve assessing and piloting feasible options for raising additional funding. Potential opportunities include: levying a Landscape Conservation fee on top of the existing park entry fee (the latter is relatively low at NRs 650 or about US\$8.40) and hotel/lodge concession fees; and improving utilization of RBNP's training facilities and charging user fees. An information campaign will be conducted targeting affected groups (such as tourists), which will be designed to clarify the rationale for conservation-related fees and promote support for such fees.

76. The project will also work with RSWR staff to restore the wildlife habitat area that was, until recently, occupied and consequently degraded by an entrenched illegal settlement and prevent future encroachments through proper boundary demarcations and strengthened parks enforcement, including mobilization of anti-poaching operations in this area. These measures are critical in ensuring the long-term viability of wildlife habitat covering RSWR.

- ***Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Government-Managed Forests***

77. This project will adopt a strategic approach of targeting interventions in the productive forests in biodiversity hotspots and critical bottlenecks in habitat networks/biological corridors. The project will work in partnership with WWF-TAL to complement and build upon their efforts in capacity-building of DFO staff and service providers, through training and demonstrations, to incorporate biodiversity conservation with sustainable forest management in critical areas of biodiversity significance in the productive landscape. Comprehensive training needs assessment will be undertaken and an operational plan developed for implementing and sustaining training. Targeted training will be developed and implemented in biodiversity-friendly silvicultural methods. The project will also work with existing training institutions, such as the RTC, to incorporate piloted and tested training modules into their curricula to build training continuity beyond the project timeframe.

78. In partnership with WWF-TAL, the project will also enhance DFO staff capacity in planning and implementing anti-poaching operations. The project will undertake measures to prevent re-encroachment and management of areas evacuated of squatters. This will include supporting: the survey and proper demarcations of government-managed forests, including internal biodiversity hotspots, to strengthen the DFO capacity

to enforce forest regulations and manage biodiversity assets; and habitat restoration to ensure long-term viability of these areas as part of the landscape's biological corridor/habitat network.

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- **Output 4: Local Communities Empowered to Practice Sustainable, Biodiversity-Friendly Natural Resource and Land Use Management and Pursue Diversified Livelihoods** (GEF funding: US\$877,630; Co-funding: US\$3,992,862)
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79. The project will empower local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods that enable biodiversity conservation in the WTLC through: sustainable land and natural resource management practices that reduce pressures on wild biodiversity assets; agrobiodiversity-oriented management of agricultural lands to maintain traditional crops and landraces; strategies for diversified livelihoods; and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation values. Particular attention will be given to designing interventions that will effectively involve and benefit women and disadvantaged groups (including recently relocated squatters from RSWR and Basanta forest), given the importance of their roles in sustainable biodiversity management and the common difficulties in ensuring they receive equitable benefits from projects. In addition, the project will target those particularly underserved and high impact communities on critical habitat bottlenecks and biodiversity-rich areas in productive forests. Following is a summary of the project activities that will be undertaken to support these key components for sustainable livelihoods.

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- ***Sustainable Community Management of Land and Natural Resources to Reduce Pressures on Wild Biodiversity Assets***

80. The project will work with DLO and service providers to improve the capacity of local communities (through grazing user groups) in sustainable livestock management and grazing practices. This will include providing skills training and establishing pilot demonstrations in: alternative livestock feeding practices that are less dependent on wild forest resources, such as stall feeding and alternative fodder production; improved grazing land management; and breed improvement strategies. The project will provide targeted training to DLO and service providers and directly involve them in developing and implementing training modules for grazing user group members to build continuity of technical extension support after project termination. Given the chronic human resource constraints of extension support services, a cadre of local trainers from among the grazing user group members will also be formed to support dissemination and replication of improved livestock practices to other community members.

81. The project will similarly work with DFO and service providers to improve the capacity of community forest user groups (CFUGs) in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly forest management methods through skills training and pilot demonstrations. At the same time, the project will provide targeted training to DFO and service providers and directly involve them in developing and implementing training modules for CFUGs to build continuity of technical extension support after project termination. The project will also work with the DFOs to ensure biodiversity conservation criteria are integrated in community forest operational plans, the prerequisite plans CFUGs prepare and for which

approval is required from the relevant DFO. In addition, the project will collaborate with existing training institutions, such as RTC, which provide training to DFO staff, service providers, and CFUG members in community forestry techniques, to institutionalize tried-and-tested training modules in biodiversity-friendly community forest management in their curriculum. A cadre of local trainers from among the CFUG members will also be trained to facilitate information dissemination and replication of good forest management practices, given the common problem of manpower constraints among DFO staff. In addition, the project will work with DFO staff in mobilizing local community members in implementing measures for watershed protection and flood/landslide control in forestlands of the Churia hills section.

82. The project will also work with DADO, DLO, and DFO and service providers to promote best practices among farmers and grazing groups in preventing/mitigating crop and livestock depredation and human casualties by wildlife. At the same time, through these extension services, the project will create awareness of the benefits of wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity to sustainability of their land/resources and livelihoods. This will be critical in gaining long-term support from local communities in protecting wildlife and discouraging damaging and retaliatory practices on wildlife.

Agrobiodiversity-Oriented Community Management of Agricultural Lands to Maintain Traditional Crops and Landraces

83. The project will replicate best practices in promoting and managing agrobiodiversity conservation and use in the project areas, based on the lessons of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute's (IPGRI) *in situ* conservation project (1997-2001) in Nepal. This is anticipated to simultaneously contribute to maintenance of agricultural biodiversity as well as increase local options for rural livelihood development. The project will work with DADO and service providers in developing and implementing training modules and demonstrations for farming communities in agrobiodiversity use and management. In the process, the project will provide targeted training to DADO and service providers to build continuity of technical extension support. At the same time, farmers' capacities to select and maintain crop diversity will be enhanced through implementation of participatory plant breeding (PPB) activities. Existing community seed networks will be strengthened to further enhance farmers' access to materials and capacity to search, select, maintain, and exchange plant genetic resources, and thereby maintain local crop diversity. Nodal farmers will be identified and trained to form a cadre of local trainers in agrobiodiversity use and conservation. The project will also strengthen partnerships among formal and informal institutions and farming communities to enhance information sharing, learning, and collaboration in agrobiodiversity management practices. For example, partnerships will be fostered between farmers and formal breeding sectors and government agencies and NGOs/CBOs. In addition, the project will combine studies (as highlighted in paragraph 68) on the potential to create new markets for local crop varieties with strengthening partnerships between farmers and marketers to improve options for livelihood developments.

84. The project will pilot the establishment of decentralized, small-scale *ex situ* facilities to preserve threatened landraces. The project will also work with local

communities to develop and maintain Community Biodiversity Registers (CBRs) that record inventories of local crop diversity and associated local knowledge. This participatory tool can simultaneously create awareness and sense of community ownership of biodiversity, enhance information and access to genetic materials on local crop diversity, develop options of adding benefits to support biodiversity-based livelihoods, and build local capacity to monitor local crop biodiversity in situ.

Local Communities Empowered to Pursue Diversified Livelihoods that Reduce Pressures on Wild Biodiversity Assets

85. The project will empower local communities to pursue diversified livelihoods, thereby becoming less dependent on forest resources. Particular attention will be given to ensure inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups (including recently relocated squatters from RSWR) in project activities. The project will target those particularly underserved and high impact communities on critical habitat bottlenecks and biodiversity-rich areas in productive forests. The project will replicate best practices from PPP's grassroots empowerment model, based on the formation of local community institutions for social mobilization, in areas where such local institutions have not yet been established. This includes the formation of women's groups to enable women's leadership development and active participation in socio-economic development and conservation activities. In partnership with PCP, the project will also ensure comprehensive establishment of user groups and related institutions in RSWR's proposed bufferzone, to enable HMG/Nepal to formally gazette this bufferzone. Through targeted training and technical inputs, the project will also ensure these community institutions that have been recently established in the bufferzone of RBNP and proposed bufferzone of RSWR are fully operational and capable of being self-sustaining.

86. The project will assist local authorities in developing and implementing ecotourism management plans and integrating ecotourism planning into their planning processes. In addition, the project will work with local authorities and user groups to mobilize local communities for community-based ecotourism development. This would include improving ecotourism infrastructure and developing and implementing training packages for tourism related skills. The intention is to improve overall opportunities for alternative livelihoods while creating tangible incentives for conservation among local communities.

87. The project will ensure a broad-based approach is taken in improving rural livelihoods, in which ecotourism development will be a minor component. The project will promote other alternative livelihood strategies to reduce pressure on biodiversity resources. This would involve developing and implementing locally-appropriate strategies for alternative energy and fuel which could include promoting agroforestry practices and woodlots in disturbed areas and facilitating access to biogas technology. The project will also improve alternative income generating opportunities through skills training and enterprise development programs. As highlighted in above paragraph 68, studies on livelihoods options will be undertaken; this will help to identify and assess the feasibility of potential markets and measures to improve realization of monetary returns from local produce/products. A needs assessment will also be undertaken, which will

include consideration to match feasible options for economic activities with skills and requirements of women and disadvantaged groups. Based on the needs assessment, appropriate skills training and enterprise development programs will be designed and conducted to provide alternative livelihoods to local communities and decrease their dependency on forest resources. In addition, based on PPP's past experience, the project will encourage user groups themselves to identify and plan for those specific skills training and enterprise development programs to be developed, to ensure maximum community participation and long-term ownership to these programs. The project will also work with user groups in implementing best practices in establishing and institutionalizing savings and credit schemes to enable financing of alternative livelihood activities, including the creation of microenterprises.

Biodiversity Conservation Values and Practices Mainstreamed Among Local Communities

88. The project will formulate and implement strategies for on-going education and awareness-raising among local stakeholders in bufferzone and productive areas to ensure sustained local community support for biodiversity conservation. This will involve undertaking an assessment of the level of conservation awareness of local stakeholders in bufferzone and productive areas. At the same time, learning from past experience, the project will seek to initiate information dissemination and awareness-raising at an early stage of the project on the implications of the landscape project in order to secure support and avoid misunderstandings and misguided reactions, such as accelerated forest clearance.

89. The project will work with extension support services, local authorities, and service providers (CBOs/NGOs) to sensitize communities to the interrelationships of biodiversity with sustainability of natural resources, human health, and sustainable livelihoods. Given the high priority accorded to protection of the Churia watershed, appropriate watershed protection awareness programs will be developed targeting high-impact communities in the Churia foothills. Strategies for education and awareness-raising will include conducting conservation awareness education (including benefits of agrobiodiversity) in local schools and through teacher training; and garnering the support of influential religious/cultural organizations and leaders as channels to promote conservation awareness. The project will further foster community ownership of biodiversity resources in the landscape by linking awareness-raising with information display devices in villages and community forests which identify the responsible parties and conservation role of these land management units within the overall landscape. Multiple media will be utilized in awareness-raising to enhance the effectiveness of information dissemination, including print media, TV, radio, community-based "edutainment" (such as diversity fairs and street drama), and organized workshops.

Annex 2R: Response to GEF Secretariat’s Comments

S/N	GEF Sec Reviewer’s Comments	Response
1	<p>2. PROGRAM AND POLICY CONFORMITY Project Design</p> <p><i>Expected at Work Program inclusion</i></p> <p>2. Not immediately clear what is the baseline in the productive broader landscape, and how baseline and GEF interventions will interact</p>	<p>The revised brief now includes a brief summary of the baseline situation and GEF interventions and the linkage between these two (paras 35-36).</p> <p>The baseline description in Annex 2F (Increment Cost Analysis) has been reorganized to more closely correspond to the four project outcomes and related activities and thereby clarify how the baseline and GEF interventions interact. The baseline situation/programs occurring in the productive landscape are further highlighted with appropriate sub-headings (see in particular, paras 10-15,18-20, 35-47 in Annex 2F which deal specifically with productive landscape-related issues). In addition, the baseline description has been edited to include explicit linkages with the corresponding GEF interventions.</p>
2	<p>3. Biodiversity benefits of the Terai are well recognized. However, it is not clear how the aims of the project will be realized: need for clear indicators, targets of achievement in relation to the productive sectors and protected areas.</p>	<p>In Annex 2A (Logical Framework Matrix), indicators have been revised to include those that specifically address achievements in relation to productive and protected areas. Relevant indicators in this regard are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th indicator under “Immediate Objective” (for both productive and protected areas) • 3rd, 4th & 6th indicators under Outcome 2 (for productive sector) • 5th indicator under Outcome 2 (for both productive and protected areas) • 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th & 8th indicators under Outcome 3 (for protected areas) • 3rd, 4th, 5th & 7th indicators under Outcome 3 (for productive sector) • 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 7th indicators under Outcome 4 (for productive sector)

S/N	GEF Sec Reviewer's Comments	Response
3	<p>4. Institutional and execution arrangements. The project seeks to work at a landscape level: for this to be effective there is a need for cross-sectoral agencies to work closely and collaboratively. Besides clear roles and responsibilities: the project budget to the line agencies needs to be set out clearly and transparently. Clarification on this.</p>	<p>The project recognizes the need for effective cross-sectoral planning and coordination mechanisms. This is reflected in the project's proposed approach of working with existing institutions at central, regional, and local levels to strengthen their capacities and build up their mechanisms for cross-sectoral planning and coordination (elaborated in detail in para 47 of the brief and paras 17 and 61 of Annex 2F).</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of the main institutions in the project are highlighted in Annex 2N (Project Implementation Arrangements). Further details on roles and responsibilities of institutions and stakeholder groups are provided in Annex 2O (Stakeholder Participation Plan).</p> <p>As highlighted in para 1, Annex 2N, UNDP will provide direct financial oversight of UNDP and GEF funds for project implementation. In this regard, UNDP will ensure that UNDP and GEF funds are appropriately channelled for activities that will need to be undertaken by different line agencies to achieve project objectives.</p>
4	<p>5. Resettlement: although the point is made that this process has been "formally" completed, what is clear is that there are several problems that still persist. There needs to be a clear process for conflict resolution and clear indications that GEF has no role and responsibility in the resettlement process – which is government led.</p>	<p>Resettlement of existing illegal squatters from project sites is no longer an issue. In the earlier project brief, it was reported that there was an estimated 130,000 squatters in the project sites. This figure was drawn from a squatter assessment report (November 2001) which is now out of date. It has since been clarified that there are no longer any illegal settlements in the protected areas and government-managed forests in the project sites, as a result of recently completed relocation of squatters from RSWR and Basanta forest (in productive landscape) -- localities in the project sites – under a government resettlement and land compensation program. GEF had no role or responsibility in the resettlement process undertaken for either RSWR or Basanta forest.</p> <p>The process for conflict resolution has already been established by</p>

S/N	GEF Sec Reviewer's Comments	Response
		HMG/Nepal in the form of a resettlement committee comprised of local politicians and leaders. This committee has been in operation for many years and is the forum for conflict resolution.
5	<p>Replicability</p> <p><i>Expected at Work Program inclusion</i></p> <p>1. There are two levels of replication: one within the project, where piloted actions will be scale up and replicated; and second where replication will be sought outside the project areas, and without direct project funding. A clear plan and process for replication needs to be spelt out (as suggested by the STAP reviewer).</p>	<p>Further elaboration on the project's proposed replication strategy has been provided under Section 2d of the brief (paras 72-78).</p> <p>A workplan for project implementation will be included in the UNDP project document.</p>
6	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p><i>Expected at Work Program inclusion</i></p> <p>1. Monitoring and evaluation: the indicators are output oriented, and not outcome oriented. Need to go beyond outputs.</p>	<p>Indicators under Annex 2A (Logical Framework Matrix) have been reworded accordingly to be more outcome-oriented.</p>
7	<p>2. Biodiversity significance of the Terai are well recognised, and the project seeks to conserve this ecosystem complex: need for explicit baseline surveys and monitoring to ensure that the project is achieving its desired outcome.</p>	<p>Specification of types of baseline surveys that the project will undertake has been included under paras 23 and 68 of Annex 2F (Incremental Cost Analysis). Details for the project's proposed coordinated monitoring of biodiversity and socioeconomic indicators are provided under paras 84-85 of the brief and para 69 of Annex 2F.</p>
8	<p>3. Need for explicit indicators, targets and benchmarks of achievement for the productive sectors and protected areas.</p>	<p>Same issue raised under S/N 2 above. See response under S/N 2.</p>
9	<p>4. It is recognised that the project is not phased, but it would be extremely important to have some time-bound indicators</p>	<p>All indicators in Annex 2A(Logical Framework Matrix) have been revised to be time-bound to enable a built-in process of adaptive</p>

S/N	GEF Sec Reviewer's Comments	Response
	and triggers so that there is a process of adaptive management built in.	management.
10	<p>3. FINANCING Financing Plan</p> <p><i>Expected at Work Program inclusion</i></p> <p>2. Direct government commitment seems weak especially, in view of the direct linkages of this project to the productive sector, poverty and social objectives of the government (Table 4). Clarification on this issue.</p>	<p>At the time of GEF Sec review of the brief, His Majesty's Government of Nepal's (HMG/Nepal) contribution to the project was still being negotiated. However, HMG/Nepal has since confirmed reoriented/in-kind baseline co-funding support, through its various line agencies and district level authorities, for the estimated amount of US\$2.6 million over the project's 8-year period. This is elaborated in further detail in the brief, under Section 2bvi, Table 2 (Incremental Cost Matrix) and Section 3ai, para 87 and Table 4 (Financing Scheme). See also attached below HMG/Nepal's confirmation letter for co-funding.</p>
11	<p>3. Financial sustainability: need to distinguished between the protected areas (which would need continued funding through government budgets, revenues, etc.) and the productive sectors (where the emphasis should be on mainstreaming biodiversity into existing sector program, and hopefully the long-term costs will be internalised). The reliance on tourism may be exaggerated under the climate of uncertainty relating to social unrest and Maoists presence. There should be a clear process and plan for financial sustainability.</p>	<p>The section on Financial Sustainability in the brief has been revised to distinguish the financial sustainability plan for protected areas (paras 62-64) from that for productive landscape (paras 65-69). Further elaboration has also been provided on how the project aims to achieve financial sustainability in the protected areas and productive landscape in relation to GEF interventions.</p> <p>As highlighted in para 68 of the brief, ecotourism development will only be a minor component in the project's array of activities aimed at improving alternative and diversified livelihoods for local communities.</p> <p>A detailed process and plan for managing recurrent costs of project-related conservation interventions in both protected areas and the productive landscape (a critical component of financial sustainability) is provided in Annex 2L.</p>

S/N	GEF Sec Reviewer's Comments	Response
12	4. Clarification on WWF support: is it parallel financing or co-financing?	WWF is cofinancing the project as described in the project objectives, logical framework, and project budget. The WWF financing may or may not be classified as "parallel financing" by UNDP. The term "parallel financing" is specific to UNDP and refers to one of several ways that cofinancing is handled in accordance with standard UNDP financial procedures depending on the specific execution arrangements determined as part of the development of the "UNDP Project Document", and done after Council approval. The term should not be confused with "associated financing" which refers to financing of other activities outside the objectives of the project (and which also may or may not be "parallel").
13	<p>4. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION & SUPPORT Core Commitments and Linkages</p> <p><i>Expected at Work Program inclusion</i></p> <p>2. UNDP would need to provide assurance that the social unrest and Maoist insurgency will not foil the project or derail it.</p>	See attached below a letter from UNDP Nepal Country Office.
14	<p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS E-MAILED BY GEF SEC ON 21/8/01</p> <p>(1) Resettlement: This is mentioned as a key issue by the STAP reviewer, but is not referred to in the project brief text. The annexes (2F, 2si) refer to resettlement of some 130,000 "squatters," and reduced to just 7,154 remaining in the Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR). In Incremental Cost annex, it was noted that relocation was completed as part of the PDF-B and clarification is needed as to what amounts were expended and for what relocation-related activities. At time of endorsement, GEFSEC would like to request UNDP to kindly include the following in the final project: (a) Documentation of consultations among</p>	<p>See response under S/N 4 above.</p> <p>This is to clarify that no GEF funds under the project's PDF-B were allocated for relocation-related activities.</p> <p>Resettlement has been carried out as part of an ongoing HMG/Nepal program that has been underway for many years and is entirely separate from this GEF initiative. This process has been excruciatingly participatory and consultative, with a committee of local politicians and leaders established by HMG to oversee it. It has nothing to do with the GEF project.</p>

S/N	GEF Sec Reviewer's Comments	Response
	<p>affected populations in relocation, including outcomes of the consultations, especially with regard to GEF's Public Involvement Policy on disclosure and prior informed consent regarding relocation programs;(b)Evidence of closure of the resettlement issue by government, especially in the RSWR area, and indicating that no GEF funding was used in resettlement</p>	<p>Under the project's PDF-B, issues related to illegal squatting in proposed project sites were explored as part of the normal course of the Block B's efforts to analyze threats to globally significant biodiversity and their root causes, along with overexploitation of biological resources, overgrazing, etc. GEF funds have not been spent on anything outside of normal project development consultations and threat/root causes analysis.</p>
15	<p>(2) Gender Disparities. The STAP reviewer highlighted the issue of gender and disadvantaged populations, especially with regard to fuelwood extraction (see p.8). At endorsement, interventions targeted specifically to these groups may be included.</p>	<p>It is highlighted in the brief (para 50) and Annex 2F (para 79) that the project will design interventions related to sustainable livelihoods development that will effectively involve and benefit women and disadvantaged populations. This includes formation of women's groups and women's empowerment activities, based on HMG/UNDP's PPP/PCP experience (see para 85 in Annex 2F). In addition, a needs assessment will be undertaken to match feasible options for economic activities with skills and requirements of women and disadvantaged groups (para 87, Annex 2F). Based on the needs assessment, appropriate skills training and enterprise development programs will be designed and conducted.</p>
16	<p>(3) Re-encroachment Issues. The incremental cost annex refers to project activities that would "prevent re-encroachment, including mobilization of anti-poaching operations" (see para. 27). At time of endorsement, clarification on what specific activities would be supported is needed, especially since GEF funding may not be allocated for actual resettlement operations.</p>	<p>GEF funding in the project will not be allocated for any resettlement operations. As highlighted in the responses to S/N 4 & 14 above, there are no longer any illegal settlements in forestlands of project sites. Measures that will be undertaken under the project to prevent re-encroachment include building capacity and mobilizing anti-poaching operations to include areas evacuated by squatters; as well as surveying and demarcation of boundaries for protected area and government-managed forests (see paras 76 and 78 of Annex 2F). In addition, the project's sustainable livelihoods development activities will also target relocated squatters and thereby serve as critical measures to prevent re-encroachment.</p>



His Majesty's Government
MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND SOIL CONSERVATION

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Ref. 27th August, 2002

His Majesty's Government
Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation
Singhadarbar, Kathmandu

Singh Darbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr. Frank Pinto
Executive Coordinator
UNDP-GEF
304 E. 45th St. 10th Floor
New York

Subject: Letter Confirming Government Co-funding of UNDP-GEF Project

Dear Mr. Pinto,

The Purpose of this letter is to confirm the US\$ 2613995.00 co-funding figure as included in the Project document entitled "Landscape Level Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal's Western Terai Complex". This figure is realistic and was developed by the Project team in consultation with us during the PDF-B preparatory period.

The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) is actively engaged in the conservation and management of biodiversity all across the country and is now finalizing the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) the main policy document which has placed landscape level conservation as the main working approach. The currently designed project will go a long way in showcasing the best practices and lesson learnt in Nepal and elsewhere.

We are pleased to be involved with this kind of partnership among the Nepal Government, conservation partners and UNDP and GEF.

We look forward to working with this joint initiative.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Damodar P. Parajuli
Chief, Foreign Aid Coordination Division (FACD)
Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
and
National Project Director, Nepal Biodiversity Landscape Project



NEP/99/030 & NEP/00/G41

29 August 2002

Dear Dr Kumari,

Subject: Nepal Biodiversity Landscapes Project – Western Terai Landscape Complex

UNDP has worked closely with His Majesty's Government of Nepal since 1999 in formulating a landscape-scale biodiversity conservation project. The Nepal Biodiversity Landscapes –Western Terai Landscape Complex brief was submitted to the GEF Secretariat on 2 August 2002 and we expect its endorsement in the October session of the GEF Council.

Recently, the GEF Concept Agreement Review was completed. We are in the process of addressing the issues and concerns raised in the Review. The review includes a comment regarding the ongoing social unrest and Maoist insurgency and their impact on the project.

Despite the insurgency and the state of emergency that His Majesty's Government declared in November 2001, UNDP has remained engaged at field level activities in almost sixty districts of the country. Currently we have for instance Local Governance Programme, Participatory District Development Programme and Sustainable Community Development Programme active in the proposed project area. We have assessed the situation and feel that the project in the Western Terai Landscape Complex can be fully implemented from late 2002 onwards.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henning Karcher', written over a horizontal line.

Henning Karcher
Resident Representative

Dr Kanta Kumari
Program Manager
GEF Secretariat

Annex 2Si: STAP Review

LANDSCAPE LEVEL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN NEPAL'S WESTERN TERAI COMPLEX. NEP/99/030

Review by Dr Andrew Tilling

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Western Terai region of Western Nepal is globally significant for its biodiversity. Despite advances in conservation and sustainable development efforts, this biodiversity is being steadily eroded. The project seeks to address this process through the use of a landscape ecology approach that recognises the integral role of human populations.

The rationale for adopting the approach is well put and the basis already exists: there are existing parks, reserves and buffer zones which can be consolidated and extended and stronger links can be established with cross-border reserves in India. Many of the fundamental policy instruments already exist in law.

The project now seeks to extend the conservation philosophy and mainstream conservation activities within government and amongst the local population. There are significant institutional challenges that will have to be tackled. These include capacity building and forging closer inter and intra-departmental co-operation to ensure integrated planning and implementation of activities. The local population will also need to realise significant benefits. The project proposed to tackle these challenges.

The project objectives need to be clarified and specific attention to be paid to a strategy for the replication of the project. The relationship between the baseline situation (a continuation of the *status quo* with on-going agency projects) and the GEF project needs to be spelt out. At present it is not explained in detail, making it difficult to determine what exactly will be done. The social situation is of most concern, such as the make up of the local population and the role of women and disadvantaged groups. Another area that warrants further consideration is the identification of markets and distribution of benefits for the local population.

2 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOUNDNESS OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Introduction

The concept to develop an area wide landscape ecology approach to conservation in Nepal is very valid and pertinent to the Western Terai. All the elements necessary to justify this landscape level approach appear to exist. These are outlined in Annex 2G the Rationale for Landscape Approach. In summary these are that:

- the approach is necessary as the requirements to maintain a viable continuous population of such species can be very large. Some species occur at low population densities and therefore require large habitat ranges.

- some species use specialized habitats, or have specialised food sources. They often also occur at low population densities because such specialised resources are uncommon or are patchily located.
- species that move regularly between different areas may be inadequately protected by national parks and reserves if one of the areas they regularly utilise is outside the reserve system.
- a small population in a national park or protected area does not mean that it will persist in the longer term (species richness relaxes),
- substantial areas of forest *are still intact* outside protected areas. Thus, there is an existing natural basis for a landscape-level approach, and
- the landscape ecology approach recognises the integral role of human communities, explicitly recognising the place of people in the environment.

The imperative to adopt a region-wide landscape ecology approach is succinctly outlined in Annex 2F: Incremental Cost Analysis. The existing threats to biodiversity are stated as being: agricultural encroachment and squatting in forestlands; high grazing pressures in the forests; overexploitation of biological resources from forests and the replacement of traditional crop varieties and landraces with modern cultivars.

Nevertheless, the Government of Nepal and various donors have established a legal, policy and institutional framework that will underpin the proposed GEF project. These include the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector, the Forest Act, Buffer Zone Management Act and Regulations and decentralisation of authority from central to district levels through the Local Self Governance Act. Also, there are existing projects that have implemented community approaches to resource management, biodiversity conservation and the sharing of benefits with local communities. These provide a precedent for the project and a wealth of examples and experience from which to draw lessons.

However, the implementation of community-based approaches and landscape level biodiversity conservation efforts have been spasmodic and ad hoc, largely due to insufficient funding and institutional capacity and lack of coordination and integrated planning. There is also a need for a paradigm shift in attitudes and thinking towards a more holistic, inter and intra-sectoral and inclusive approach to ecosystem management. Nevertheless, the report on the existing situation (Annex 2F) makes a convincing argument about the inadequacies of continuing with the baseline and the need and opportune timing for a GEF project.

A difficulty arises, though, in judging the adequacy of the proposed GEF project. Whilst a continuation of the baseline situation is clearly seen as insufficient to bring about biodiversity conservation, the proposal does not spell out the links between the various elements of existing and extrapolated activities and the GEF proposal. Ballpark figures are given, but there are no details of the activities that donors and the Government of Nepal have already planned or are committed to. Hence comments might be made about perceived gaps or omissions in the GEF proposal, though these in reality may be picked up or dealt with by other donors or the Government.

2.2 The concept and rationale

In Nepal the landscape-level approach to biodiversity conservation is innovative and its promotion ambitious, given the many constraints to managing and implementing projects.

The rationale is that the landscape-level approach is not a substitute for an extensive, comprehensive and representative system of protected areas (e.g. national parks, wildlife reserves, conservation areas). These are seen as an essential foundation for the conservation of biodiversity. The concept relies on core zones free of human habitation and buffer zones to ameliorate human impacts. This is a standard approach that is well tried and tested in Nepal, but has its critics.

An alternative approach would be to manage *in-situ* human populations, whilst still keeping core zones where there is minimal human interference. At the heart of this approach is the concept of a continuum of environments based on ecological sensitivity to human interference, irrespective of institutional and administrative boundaries. This approach is not discussed in the project brief, though it is apparent that integrated conservation and development efforts will be promoted in buffer zones and priority areas and probably in secondary areas of biodiversity significance if the project is extended to these areas.

Mention is made of 130,000 illegal squatters. The project plans to completely relocate those in the Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (RSWR) to alternative sites. This may seem to be desirable and already a standard practice, but may prove highly contentious, if not impossible to achieve (mention is made in Annex 2F, page 4 of the corrupt practices that capitalise on illegal settlements and in fact regularise the process). Potentially it is a very divisive measure that can easily lead to confrontation, (see for instance the case of Dukuduku State Forest, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, which led to an armed incident in 1999. The project will need to provide a well-argued reason for shifting these *in-situ* settlers and to elaborate on measures to prevent resettlement recurring. Activity 2.6 of the logframe ("Strengthen regional review mechanisms for resettlement and land compensation for squatters on government lands, including the development and implementation of plan for resolving illegal settlements in bottleneck areas of WTLC") needs to be underpinned by a rationale as well as an approach and mechanism to deal with illegal and corrupt land settlement practices. Otherwise, relocation of settlers will not be sustainable).

Extending that to include non-priority areas is challenging as it moves to non-specific conservation measures, rather than targeted specific habitat and spp conservation.

2.3 The Goal and objective

This is a conservation project that is explicitly concerned with the erosion of biodiversity and the fostering of a better management system to address this. The project goal reflects this adequately.

The project objective is more problematic. It is a bit confusing as it re-states the goal, followed by a number of policies to achieve it:

- through integrated landscape planning and
- enhanced local and institutional management of biodiversity

Thus, there are at least two objectives embedded in the 'immediate objective' statement (three, if one isolates local and institutional management). Furthermore, later on, another aim is stated, which is to:

- develop replicable landscape level management models to safeguard the long-term biological wealth and vital ecological functions in Nepal (Para 38, Project Brief).

Apart from the confusion caused by interchanging the terms 'aims' and 'objectives', there are sound reasons for clearly stating and separating objectives, especially when using the logframe. Outcomes and Activities can be more systematically identified, provided for and developed. For instance, it is difficult to find an explicit strategy and activities to ensure that the approach and lessons learned are replicated. This should be in place by the end of the project.

2.4 Coverage: the protected areas and non-protected area; priority and non-priority areas

The proposal identifies priority areas for action: buffer zones and wildlife corridors, critical bottlenecks and cross-border relationships with India are appropriate. Productive landscape areas outside these areas are also targeted. They may be adjacent to buffer zones and national parks, but are not necessarily close by. Here the project wants to encourage conservation, but this may prove to be much more difficult than is acknowledged, owing to the distance from high profile parks and ecological assets.

Though not covered by the present funding proposal, areas of secondary importance pose even greater challenges. Here, it is acknowledged, there is a lower occurrence of biodiversity values. They may not therefore be suitable sites for the replication of the project. This underlines the importance, right at the inception of the project, of giving greater explicit consideration to a replication strategy.

2.5 Linkages to other programmes and action plans at regional or sub-regional levels

The linkage with other programmes and projects and with other donors is impressive. This dovetailing of activities is not discussed in the brief and clearly needs to be formerly established and agreed upon before the inception of the project.

2.6 The participatory approach

It is apparent that under present conditions the Government cannot adequately deal with the erosion of biodiversity. Chronic lack of staff and capability is a major factor. Hence, it is imperative to co-opt the help of the local community. But it is how this is done that is important.

The project brief aptly recognises the importance of involving stakeholders in the project, and, furthermore, states that the landscape ecology approach deal with human impacts. Much more than this is required. A central issue is community control of resources, direct involvement in decision-making and the equitable distribution of benefits.

This is alluded to in para 33 of Annex 2F, where it is stated that there have been growing demands for more of the national forests in the Western Terai to be handed over to local communities. A similar case can be made for the creation of community assets, such as community-run facilities and protected areas. Setting up user groups and training them is important, especially in widening the communities' perceptions and skills. But this is not sufficient in itself. And, participatory resource management is not the same as selling one's labour to tourist ventures. This should go without saying, but mention is made of it because measures to promote participatory management are not adequately expounded or elucidated. For instance, communities need to be empowered and encouraged to undertake their own

monitoring and evaluation of the benefits and consequences of participatory management (Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation) and not merely assist project monitoring.

2.7 Improving Rural Livelihoods

It is commendable that a large proportion of total project costs (35%) is devoted to sustainable livelihoods (approximately US\$3.74 million). This presumably is in recognition of the importance of dealing with basic livelihood needs, which need to be thoroughly researched and understood. However, it is difficult to ascertain what social research will be undertaken. Studies and measures are proposed to assess resources in the Baseline and activity 2.11 in the logframe identifies target research to fill in knowledge gaps in wild biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the WTLC. Again it is not clear what this research will cover. It should concentrate not only on physical resources, but also on learning about the human population, their predicament and their socio-cultural knowledge and practices (for instance Indigenous Knowledge). Attention also needs to focus on markets and the realisation of monetary returns. It is all very well trying to milk the ecotourism cow, but there are also limits to charging tourists and financially exploiting resources. For instance, Zimbabwe's introduction of excessive foreign tourist charges to enter national parks (such as Victoria Falls) alienated many South African tourists. Comparative cost studies are important as well as strategies to identify markets, stimulate demand (where appropriate) and to equitably distribute returns to beneficiary stakeholders

3 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND/OR DRAWBACKS OF THE PROJECT

The global environment benefits are clear and succinctly stated in para 54 of the brief. Without the project there will likely be a continued significant deterioration in ecological integrity. Hence, drawbacks are more likely to accrue from a continuation of the existing baseline situation, rather than to the GEF project, with other donor support.

4 PROJECT FIT WITH GEF GOALS, ITS OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES, PROGRAMME PRIORITIES, GEF COUNCIL GUIDANCE AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE RELEVANT CONVENTIONS

The project appears to be in line with GEF goals and strategies and if approved and implemented successfully will go a long way to promoting the ideals of the Biodiversity Convention.

5 REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Western Terai landscape complex is well situated to take advantage of the ecosystems management approach advocated by this project. There are already well-established national parks, buffers zones, clearly identified priority area and cross-border reserves which lend themselves to being more closely linked by conservation corridors and integrated, co-management strategies.

6 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

6.1 Institutional sustainability

A high degree of support for increasing the capacity of institutions to implement the project is indicated in the logframe and budget. One of the strengths of the project is the extended timetable to do this: eight years should be sufficient time.

6.2 Other Capacity-building aspects.

A crucial issue is inter and intra-departmental cooperation. This has been difficult to achieve in the past. This is a major concern, which warrants more attention.

6.3 Financial sustainability

Quite a lot of attention is given to ecotourism, but this can be a fickle industry. A question must hang over the derivation of benefits for those not directly involved in potential high-income generators such as the national parks.

6.4 Economic sustainability

The brief correctly highlights the fact that economic sustainability is partly dependent on a direct community share of revenues (para 64). Other mechanisms, such as trust funds to enable community entrepreneurship, are also highlighted. As noted above though, explicitly attention also needs to be taken of markets and marketing in order to pinpoint opportunities and consumer requirements.

6.5 Social sustainability

Social sustainability will be more likely if the project is truly participatory. The project will stand or fall on the willingness of stakeholders to adopt the concept and management activities. Involving stakeholders in decision-making and ensuring that they get equitable access to real benefits will facilitate this. The brief and annexes do not develop this issue. In order to achieve equitable development, the project needs to develop a strategy to ensure that affirmative action is taken for women and disadvantaged groups and castes. A more far-reaching indicator than the 50% proportion of women and members of disadvantaged groups occupying leadership positions in user groups is needed (logframe Outcome 4).

7 RISKS

The brief alludes to the problem of Maoist insurgency and corrupt local practices, including poaching and theft across the open border with India. Whilst mention is made of the use of the army to help curb poaching, this approach should not be seen as being satisfactory. Clearly some heavy policing is going to be necessary, due to the high value of wildlife products, but ultimately the community itself must be involved in running their own protection system outside formal national parks and reserves.

Political unrest and corruption are very serious matters. If they continue, they will undermine the whole intent and thrust of the project. Dealing with them is outside the brief of this

project but unless they are clearly acknowledged and tackled in a holistic manner, the potential of this project will be unrealised.

Annex 2Sii: Response to STAP Comments

The section and paragraph numbers in the left column below refer to relevant sections in the STAP Review.

STAP Reviewer's Comments	Response
<p>Section 1, para 4, 1st sentence Section 2.3, last para</p>	<p>The project's objective or "Immediate Objective" under the logframe has been reframed to the following: "To establish effective management systems and build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of Nepal's Western Terai landscape complex." (See rewording on p.1, Annex 2A and para 38 of project brief).</p> <p>The reframed objective removes any re-statement of the project goal and provides the logical linkage to the four proposed outcomes of the project.</p> <p>The other issue regarding developing "replicable landscape level management models..." is addressed further below. It is not included as another immediate objective of the project.</p>
<p>Section 1, para 4, 2nd sentence Section 2.1, last para</p>	<p>The relationship between the baseline situation and the GEF project has been made explicit under: paras 35 and 36 in the project brief; and the programmatic baseline descriptions of Annex 2F (Incremental Cost Analysis), paras 5-52. Specific references are made to activities under the GEF Alternative (including paragraph locations) which address baseline gaps/barriers, where relevant in the baseline descriptions.</p> <p>As highlighted in para 57 in Annex 2F, GEF project activities have been jointly identified by project partners and stakeholders as interventions necessary to fill in the existing gaps in the programmatic baseline. In general, project partners have demonstrated their commitment to the GEF project in the form of co-funding commitments. With the exception of SNV, which has indicated full flexibility in the types of activities for which it will co-fund, co-funding from other project partners cover select categories of interventions (eg, IPGRI, NARC, and LI-BIRD co-funding will be focused solely on agrobiodiversity-related interventions) which reflect institutional mandates.</p> <p>The roles of project partners in implementation of project activities have been determined broadly, as described under Annex 2O (Stakeholder Participation Plan). However, the details of the working operandi and dovetailing of activities and resources by project partners will be determined at inception of project implementation.</p>
<p>Section 1, para 4, 4th</p>	<p>The project brief has strengthened the manner in which</p>

STAP Reviewer's Comments	Response
sentence Section 6.5, 1 st para	<p>empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups is addressed by:</p> <p>1) explicitly including targeting of women and disadvantaged groups in proposed livelihood development programs; this would entail undertaking a needs assessment to match the needs and skills of women and disadvantaged groups with market opportunities for skills training and awareness programs (see paras 48, 85, and 87 in Annex 2F and para 53 of project brief)</p> <p>2) including the following indicator in the logframe matrix (Annex 2A), under Outcome 4, to track the project benefits to women and disadvantaged groups: “Number of both women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from disadvantaged groups increased by 20% by project end”</p> <p>In addition, the version of the brief reviewed by the STAP reviewer had failed to fully reflect the range of activities already being undertaken with UNDP support aimed at empowerment of women and capacity building to promote participatory management. This information has now been added under Section 4a ii. (para 91) of the project brief. The project will benefit from the experiences and policy environment created by these related interventions.</p>
Section 2.6, last para	<p>The participatory approach of the project has been further strengthened by:</p> <p>1) strengthening the role of community-based monitoring schemes on community-managed areas (ie, community forests, agricultural lands, and grazing lands) as part of the overall project monitoring system and training of local community members (see para 69 in Annex 2F)</p> <p>2) explicitly recommending a participatory process in the development of a landscape management plan (see para 70 in Annex 2F).</p>
Section 1, para 4, last sentence Section 2.7	<p>The project brief is now more explicit about the type of research that will be undertaken to fill in knowledge gaps in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (see paras 68 and 87 in Annex 2F). In addition, the description of the research to be undertaken now explicitly includes study on identification of potential markets for benefits of local populations.</p>
Section 2.2, 3 rd para	<p>With regard to the earlier project brief's reported figure of 130,000 illegal squatters in the project sites, this has since been found to be incorrect, and it has therefore been removed from</p>

STAP Reviewer's Comments	Response
Section 2.2, 4 th para	<p>the project brief. The Project Manager for the project's PDF-B Project has clarified that there are no longer any illegal squatters in the protected areas and government-managed forests in the project sites. This figure was drawn from a squatter assessment report (November 2001) which is now out of date.</p> <p>The Project Manager for the project's PDF-B Project has just confirmed recent completion of full relocation of squatters in RSWR and Basanta forest (in productive landscape) -- localities in the project sites. Therefore, there is no longer a need to argue for shifting these squatters in the project brief. The project brief has been updated accordingly. In addition, the main focus is now on restoration that is required in this degraded area of RSWR (see paras 29 and 76 in Annex 2F and para 49 of project brief).</p> <p>In addition, further elaboration has been provided to reinforce the approach for Activity 2.6 -- strengthening land review mechanisms (see para 62 in Annex 2F).</p>
Section 2.3, last para Section 2.4, last para	The project brief section on Replicability has been revised to more clearly distinguish and provide further details on the different forms of replicability that the project is designed to facilitate (see paras 72 -78 in project brief).
Section 7, last para	The analysis of the risk posed by the Maoist insurgency on the project is further elaborated in Annex 2M (Project Risks and Proposed Abatement Measures).