

## WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards - Risk Categorization Memorandum

Completed by Environmental & Social Safeguards Reviewer  
version: 21 Oct 2019

<b>Name of Landscape/Seascape:</b>	<b>Date:11/27/2019</b>																						
<b>Project Title (if relevant):</b> Terai Arc Landscape	<b>Previous memo Date (if relevant)</b>																						
<b>Implementing Office</b> WWF-Nepal	<b>CPM No.</b>																						
<b>Project Categorization (Reviewer to check the appropriate Categorization):</b>																							
<b>High Risk - A</b> _____ <b>/High Risk - Special Considerations</b> _____ <b>/Medium Risk (B)</b> _____ <b>X</b> _____ <b>/ Low Risk</b> _____																							
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Safeguard Policies Triggered:</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Yes</th> <th style="width: 20%;">No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Natural Habitats</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pest Management</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indigenous Peoples</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involuntary Resettlement &amp; Access Restrictions</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Health, Safety and Security</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical and Cultural Resources</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Safeguard Policies Triggered:	Yes	No	Natural Habitats		X	Pest Management		X	Indigenous Peoples	X		Involuntary Resettlement & Access Restrictions	X		Community Health, Safety and Security	X		Physical and Cultural Resources		X
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<b>Summary of Key Safeguard Issues:</b> <p>Involuntary Resettlement/Restriction of Access: WWF-Nepal support project activities carried out through an inclusive and consultative forest management framework managed by the communities. As part of these activities parcels of land can have the established permissions for usage changed and, in some cases, temporary fencing may be put in place to stop people from entering these sensitive areas. These decisions are made by the community itself through its community forest management framework. While the framework itself is likely an effective mechanism to prevent true restriction of access, it is essential that WWF-Nepal both document how the community forest management framework does this and provide for effective review and monitoring to ensure there is no means for restriction of access that negatively impacts the communities and vulnerable parts of the community in particular.</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples: There are indigenous peoples living in the areas of WWF's work and in the communities WWF engages. Diligent efforts around sensitivity and respect for these and other vulnerable communities is essential in moving ahead with this work. Per the above description of potential restriction of access, WWF would need to take additional steps to document how consultation and consent from these communities is integrated into the existing community forest management framework processes and requirements.</p>																							

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Community health and Security: There are three sets of risk present under this standard. First, increasing wildlife populations particularly those of large wildlife and predators increases the risk of human wildlife conflict. Second, provision of training and support to rangers does increase the potential risk for abuse or dangerous actions by those engaged in law enforcement. Third, careful review that support for established third party informant mechanisms is consistent with both local law and WWF guidelines while ensuring both safety of informants and not creating conflict in the community.

**Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:**N/A

**Required actions:** (type of ESIA, ESMP, IPP, IPMP, RAP, consultations, disclosure)  
WWF-Nepal should put in place a ESMP which responds directly to the impacts/risks enumerated above.  
Additionally, a stakeholder engagement plan, consultations, and disclosures are required.

**Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Safeguards Reviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Landscape/Seascape Lead in implementing office

<b>COMPLETED BY REVIEWER</b>	Approved WWF Safeguards Reviewer	Date Completed
	Brent Nordstrom	12/2/19

## WWF Environment and Social Safeguards Screening Tool for Landscapes and Seascapes

*This screening tool is designed to begin the process of identifying and ultimately mitigating risks associated with WWF’s activities in landscapes and seascapes . WWF has defined these activities as work taking place in a landscape or seascape where resources are provided in form of technical assistance, physical investments (infrastructure, technology or equipment) or financing to bring about changes in skills, knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and/or practices of institutions or individuals within a defined geographical area.*

*The landscape or seascape lead is responsible for completing the empty fields (white) below, which will ultimately be reviewed by an approved WWF Safeguards Reviewer (blue). Please review the [Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework](#) before continuing.*

*While this tool is specifically designed to identify environment and social risks, WWF’s existing policies on gender, Indigenous peoples, human rights, and poverty and conservation apply to all of WWF’s work. These policies are also available on the WWF Environment and Social Safeguards internal website.).*

### **PART 1: Record data on landscape/ seascape project being reviewed.**

Landscape/ Seascape Project:	Terai Arc Landscape		
Landscape Lead:	Shiv Raj Bhatta		
Participating WWF Offices:	WWF Nepal		
Partner Agencies:	Multiple		
Funding agency:	IUCN/KFW, DFAT, USAID, MFA Finland, WWF Network (US, UK, Germany, Finland, Netherland, Australia)		
Estimated start date / duration:	2001-ongoing		
Country:	Nepal	Average annual funding amount in USD:	2.29 Million USD
		Projected annual funding estimated for next 5 years:	FY 2020: 2.25 million USD FY 2021: 2.3 million USD FY 2022: 2.3 million USD FY 2023: 2.3 million USD FY 2024: 2.3 million USD
WWF CEO:	Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung		

### **Definition of “Landscape” or “Seascape”**

WWF often implements long-term, rolling projects and activities to pursue sustainable development and secure nature in a particular geographical area. The terms “landscape” or “seascape” (also collectively noted as “landscape”), are used to capture the set of projects and activities where WWF resources are provided, within a defined geographical area, in the form of technical assistance, physical investments (infrastructure, technology, or equipment), or financing to bring about changes in skills, knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and/or practices of institutions or

individuals. Because it relates to WWF's engagement and aids in WWF's safeguarding of local communities - notwithstanding our partnerships with government or other organizations - this definition may differ from externally defined landscapes. A landscape may be a part of an existing, larger landscape (e.g., ETIC zone in TRIDOM), or may cross borders, but it is important to have a country office as well as a landscape lead. The ESSF will be applied to the landscape in its entirety. As new projects or activities are developed in an existing landscape or seascape, the ESSF provides guidance to review and update existing safeguards activities to assure continued environmental and social risk mitigation and management.

## 1. Landscape Details

Provide a brief description and history of WWF's engagement in landscape (no more than 2-3 paragraphs), explaining key objectives, successes, challenges, opportunities, relevance for WWF global goals etc. If relevant, provide links to more detailed documents.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION & HISTORY**

The Terai Arc Landscape is among the most biologically important regions on earth, where the world's tallest grasslands and adjacent riverine forests support the world's highest densities of tigers, and the second largest population of greater one-horned rhinoceros. The Terai Arc landscape (TAL) is a unique transboundary conservation landscape covering over 5 million hectares across Nepal and India, extending from Nepal's Bagmati River in the east to India's Yamuna River in the west. It covers an area of 24,710 sq. km in Nepal with a network of six protected areas, forests, agricultural lands and wetlands. The TAL is Nepal's first conservation landscape and was initially established for the conservation of tigers in the early 2000's due to escalating habitat loss and fragmentation in the 1990s. Forced into isolated patches, the tiger population was rapidly declining. The Terai Arc Landscape was conceptualized to provide a contiguous habitat for tigers and facilitate connectivity across 15 protected areas on either side of this transboundary landscape. The introduction of the landscape level approach to conservation in Nepal in 2001 marked a paradigm shift in conservation programming to evolve from a single species and protected area focus to one that brought together connected landscapes, local communities and integrated conservation approaches to benefit people, nature and wildlife.

### **CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE**

Approximately 2.5 million hectares of the TAL transboundary landscape falls in Nepal, home to an estimated 7.5 million people<sup>1</sup>. The landscape is composed of 54% forests, 5% shrubs and grasslands, 35% agricultural land, and 2% water bodies. Home to one of the highest densities of Bengal Tigers in the world, the second largest population of the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros and the largest herd of Swamp deer, TAL-Nepal holds immense conservation significance, both from a national and global perspective. It is also home to numerous endangered and protected species with 85 species of mammals, 565 species of birds, 47 species of reptiles, and more than 125 species of fish. Over 75% of the forests of the lowland Terai and Churia fall within the TAL boundary, and these forests are Nepal's primary source of regulating greenhouse gas emissions associated with land-use change.

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<sup>1</sup> "National Population and Housing Census", 2011, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal, <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/documents/Nepal/Nepal-Census-2011-Vol1.pdf>

## **VISION, OBJECTIVE AND RELEVANCE TO GLOBAL GOALS**

TAL-Nepal is a priority program endorsed and led by the Government of Nepal, initially guided by its Strategic Plan for 2004-2014<sup>2</sup> and now updated to the Strategic Plan for 2015-2025.<sup>3</sup> The TAL strategic plans are aligned with the government's national priorities, policies and plans. In the national context, it is aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020)<sup>4</sup>, Forestry Sector Strategy (2015-2025), Forest Policy 2019 and Climate Change Policy 2011. At an international level, it is aligned to contribute towards the Aichi Biodiversity Target (2011- 2020)<sup>5</sup> and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>6</sup> - primarily SDG 13 – climate action and SDG 15 – Life on land.

The current strategic plan for TAL Nepal, sets out a bold vision for “A globally unique landscape where biodiversity is conserved, ecological integrity safeguarded, and socio-economic well-being of people secured, in a dynamic environment of land, water, and resource use stresses and climate change.” The key objective of the current strategic plan is to conserve the ecosystems of the Terai and Churia hills in order to ensure integrity of ecological, economic, and socio-cultural systems and communities. The TAL strategy focuses on three core themes - Species and Ecosystem Conservation, Forest and other Land use, Socio-economic wellbeing. These are supported by eight cross cutting themes - Institutional Coordination and Collaboration, Policy and Governance, Local capacity building, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Infrastructure Development, Climate Change, Research, Documentation and Dissemination, Awareness and Education and Sustainable Financing.

WWF-Nepal has been working in close partnership with the Government of Nepal since the inception of the TAL program, providing technical and financial support for the design and ongoing strengthening of the landscape strategy as well as for supporting program implementation on the ground. A major focus for WWF-Nepal lies in strengthening government capacities nationally and locally, as well as ensuring sound community stewardship over the land and resources to secure nature while optimizing community development benefits on a holistic and sustainable scale.

## **SUCCESSSES, CHALLANEGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

The hallmark of Nepal's conservation journey over the last 25 years has been a continued effort to innovate and advance the goal of people living in harmony with nature. Challenges associated with phases of insurgency, political instability and weak governance, and natural disasters have presented serious obstacles at times, and in the case of the TAL have hindered the development of nature-based tourism, a key foundation for TAL's sustainable economic growth. TAL-Nepal is a significant contributor to the national tourism economy, hosting large numbers of domestic and international visitors annually to the region's protected areas, communities, religious and cultural sites, largely drawn by opportunities to view the wildlife and biodiversity of the Terai.

A key characteristic of TAL's conservation strategy are the seven land-use corridors and three critical wildlife migration points that facilitate connectivity across the transboundary landscape. Nepal has had notable success in establishing functional corridors that provide wildlife, including tigers, the ability to roam between protected areas and thrive. A key conservation result of the long-term effort to implement this connected

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<sup>2</sup> “Terai Arc Landscape – Nepal, Strategic Plan (2004-2014), Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, [http://dofdocs.gov.np/documents/81/tal\\_strategic\\_plan\\_20100323034613.pdf](http://dofdocs.gov.np/documents/81/tal_strategic_plan_20100323034613.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025, Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal”, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, [http://conservationcorridor.org/cpb/Ministry-of-Forests-and-Soil-Conservation-Nepal\\_2015.pdf](http://conservationcorridor.org/cpb/Ministry-of-Forests-and-Soil-Conservation-Nepal_2015.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> “National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020)”, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, [http://mofe.gov.np/downloadfile/29\\_Strategy%20and%20action%20plan\\_1526382258.pdf](http://mofe.gov.np/downloadfile/29_Strategy%20and%20action%20plan_1526382258.pdf)

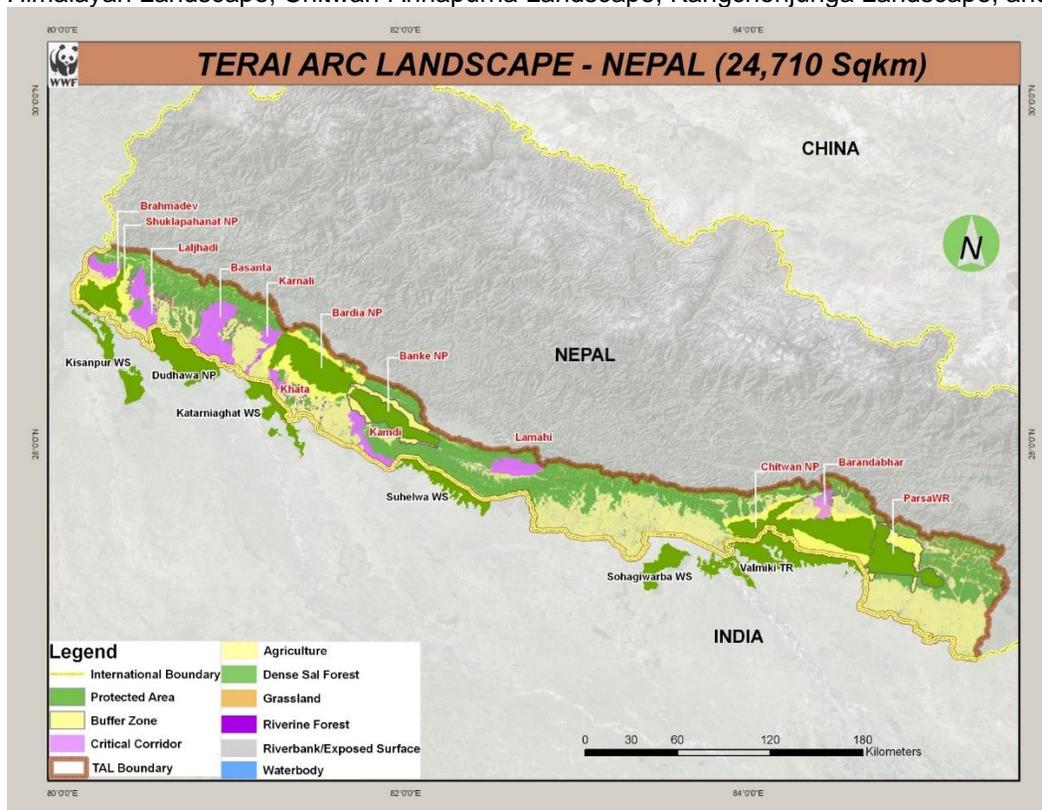
<sup>5</sup> “Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020)”, Convention on Biological Diversity, <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

<sup>6</sup> “Sustainable Development Goals” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

landscape approach linking local communities, nature conservation, and sustainable development has been in Nepal becoming the first of the tiger range countries to nearly double the population of wild tigers - from 121 in 2009 to 235 in 2018 - four years ahead of the global goal set for 2022. Similarly, rhino numbers have increased from 372 in 2005 to 645 in 2015, with the country has also celebrated five years of zero poaching of rhinos since 2011, in large part due to the critical role and support of communities in managing forests for multiple uses.

Continuous engagement with local communities and community stewardship remains the core component of the Terai Arc Landscape's conservation fabric and TAL program support. Community-led efforts in forest restoration and management have put Nepal on the global map for its leading efforts in community-based conservation. These efforts have been crucial in increasing the country's forest coverage to 44%, while also uplifting the local economy through livelihood diversification interventions such as small-scale forest-based enterprises, community-based homestay tourism, training and access for skill-based jobs, and establishment of micro-credit services providing benefits to thousands of people across the landscape. The TAL program also supports the management of buffer zones of national parks, where a unique revenue sharing mechanism is in place. Every year, 30-50% of the revenue generated from the protected areas is channelled to local communities residing in the buffer zones for community-based conservation and development initiatives. The success of TAL as a landscape conservation approach based on community led resource management has served as a model in Nepal for the declaration of four additional conservation landscapes - the Sacred

Himalayan Landscape, Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape, Kangchenjunga Landscape, and Kailash Sacred Landscape.



<b>Countries covered by land/sea scape:</b>	Nepal, India
<b>Size (in hectares):</b>	TAL Nepal - 2,471,003 Hectares
<b>Population:</b>	7.5 million
<b>Communities (check which types are present)</b>	<b>Describe below</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Municipalities (villages, cities and towns, displaced peoples' settlements and other):</b>	Nepal has three tiers of government – one federal or central government; seven provincial or state governments; and 753 municipal or local level governments. TAL extends over six

	<p>provinces and has 156 municipalities. Of the 156 TAL municipalities,<sup>7</sup> 2 are metropolitan cities<sup>8</sup>, 7 are sub metropolitan cities<sup>9</sup>, 57 are municipalities, and 90 are rural municipalities<sup>10</sup>.</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples:</p>	<p>Nepal follows the <a href="#">United Nations</a> definition of indigenous people as those who inhabited a country or a geographical region at the time when people of different cultures or ethnic origins arrived. The Government of Nepal recognizes indigenous people as “Aadibasi-Janjati”, according to <a href="#">National Foundation for Upliftment of Aadibasi Janjati Act 2002</a> of Nepal which refers to a tribe or community as mentioned in its <a href="#">Schedule</a>, having its own mother language and traditional rites and customs, distinct cultural identity, distinct social structure and written or unwritten history. As per this act and definition, there are 59 indigenous nationalities recognized in Nepal, of which 10 are residing in TAL.</p> <p>The Tharu are the dominant indigenous nationality of the Terai. For centuries, <i>Tharu</i> people, naturally resistant to malaria, were the only inhabitants of the Terai. After the eradication of the malaria in the 1960s, thousands of immigrants from the hill regions (including scheduled indigenous peoples from the hills region) migrated to the Terai.</p> <p>As per Nepal’s legal codes, only two types of land ownership are recognized, private land and government land. Therefore, Nepal does not have a legal provision for IP lands. Nor does it recognize IP managed reserves.</p> <p><b>oi</b></p> <p>The TAL program has developed strategies incorporating practices of indigenous people in forests, grasslands, rivers and wetlands management. One of the crosscutting themes of the TAL strategic plan, ‘Gender and Social Inclusion’, is heavily focused on incorporating indigenous people.</p> <p>Since most of the indigenous people residing in the TAL are natural resource dependent, the primary beneficiaries of the TAL program are these communities. For example, more than 45% of project beneficiaries are from indigenous people.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Municipalities: Having at least 75,000 population and at least thirty million rupees average annual domestic income for past five years including other developmental features as mentioned in local government act

<sup>8</sup> Metropolitan: having five hundred thousand population with annual average internal income of at least one billion rupees in the past five years including other developmental features as mentioned in local government act

<sup>9</sup> Sub metropolitan: having two hundred thousand permanent residents and with average income of at least two hundred and fifty million rupees in the latest five years including other developmental features as mentioned in local government act

<sup>10</sup> Rural municipality: All remaining local administrative units who does not meet above criteria to be declared as municipality, sub metropolitan city and metropolitan city

<b>Types of livelihoods and economy (both formal and informal)</b>	Describe the 3-5 most important types below
... for communities, IPs, Ethnic Groups:	<p>The average per capita annual income in TAL is roughly NPR 50,781<sup>11</sup> while the human development index ranges between 0.386 and 0.551. (For context, the national average per capita annual income is NPR 51,879 and the national average HDI is 0.453.)</p> <p>The main sources of income for households are agriculture, animal husbandry, employment and remittances. Forests act as a safety net for most rural households in the landscape who depend on natural resources for food, fodder, fuel wood and medicines.</p> <p>Subsistence agriculture remains a mainstay of the TAL economy as does primarily crop and livestock farming. The eastern TAL has experienced a scaling up of poultry farming and fish farming enterprises. Nature and culture-based tourism remains the primary source of income and employment for much of the TAL, with Chitwan National Park receiving 50% of the tourists visiting Nepal's protected areas, and Lumbini receiving one million visitors annually.</p> <p>TAL has productive forest areas and a majority of forested lands are under the community forest management regime. As such, engagement in timber and non-timber forest products is another source of income for local communities. Tharu and other indigenous peoples mostly practice agriculture and livestock rearing heavily dependent on forest and water resources. Increased tourism in and around the protected areas of TAL has also led to increasing levels of local community participation in the tourism sector through the development of homestay businesses and other micro-enterprises.</p> <p>Given the importance of Nepal's community forest management regime to livelihoods and to the implementation of the TAL program, we provide a brief description of its key features. As per Nepal's Forest Act and Forest Regulation, community forests are areas of forest given over to local communities for protection, management and use of forest resources. Every local inhabitant (household) in the community with traditional rights to the forest area and who depend on it for forest products, has the right to be a member of the community forest user group. The user groups prepare the governance and management plans themselves (known as the 'User's Constitution' and 'Forest Operational Plan'). The User's Constitution regulates socio-economic components such as membership, general assembly, executive committee, and their roles and responsibilities. The 'Forest Operational Plan' regulates bio-physical components such as forest protection measures, forest management systems and practices to be applied, distribution of</p>

<sup>11</sup> "National Population and Housing Census", 2011, Central Bureau of Statistics, Government of Nepal, <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/census/documents/Nepal/Nepal-Census-2011-Vol1.pdf>

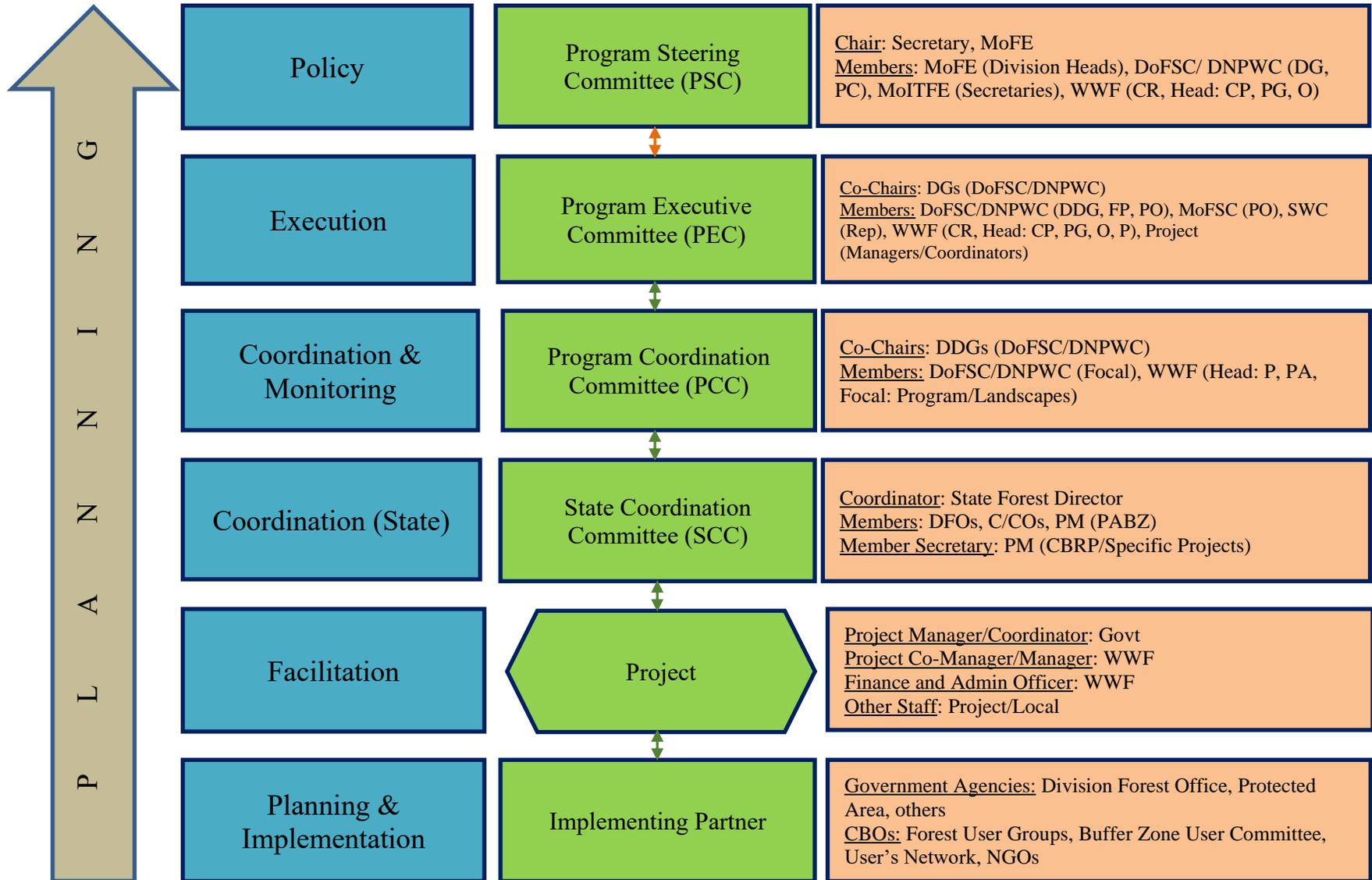
	<p>forest resources and benefits. The General Assembly approves the 'Users Constitution' and 'Forest Operational Plan' which are then submitted to the District/Division Forest Office for final approval. Once approved, the status of the Community Forest is formalized, and the government transfers the use rights of forest resources from government to local communities. The regime ensures that all revenues generated from community forests remain with the community forest users' groups themselves.</p>
<p>... for large-scale commercial or public investment and development</p>	<p>There are 3 major industrial zones in the TAL - Birgunj, Bhairahawa and Nepalgunj – serving as primary import and export hubs. Birgunj accounts for 60% of the country's total imports from India. There are various large-scale commercial enterprises in the Terai, ranging from agro-industrial products such as banana, poultry, fish and livestock to cement and brick kiln factories. Commercial and large-scale extraction of sand and rock from the riverbeds is also occurring in the TAL, fuelling the nation's infrastructure development drive. As such, sustainable development remains a key concern with poorly regulated systems for resource collection - timber, sand, and rocks.</p> <p>In the tourism sector, Chitwan and Bardia National Parks and the Lumbini World Heritage Site are the primary tourism destinations in TAL, with commercial and large-scale tourism and service infrastructure seeing increased investment over time.</p>

## 2. Institutional Arrangements for WWF's Work

Using the table below, list key partners that are currently engaged or that WWF expects to engage, for example government ministries, INGOS, local CSOs, universities, private sector, etc. Describe their role in relation to WWF.

The implementation modality of the TAL Program is shown in the following diagram and identifies the levels of Program Governance and key partners participating in the governance structure.

## TAL Program: Implementation Modality



CBO: Community Based Organization, CBRP: Corridor and Bottleneck Restoration Project, C/CO: Chief/Conservation Officer, CP: Conservation Program, CR: Country Representative, DDG: Deputy Director General, DFO: Divisional Forest Officer, DG: Director General, DNPWC: Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, DoFSC: Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, FP: Focal Point, MoFE: Ministry of Forests and Environment, MoITFE: Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment (state governments), NGO: Non-Governmental Organization O: Operations, P: Program, PABZ: Protected Areas and Buffer Zones Project, PC: Program Coordinator, PG: Policy and Governance, PM: Project Manager, PO: Planning Officer, SWC: Social Welfare Council

**Note: In the following table of key partners and roles, “Primary Grantee” refers to an organization or entity signing a grant agreement directly with WWF. A “sub-grantee” is at the next level and signs a grant agreement with the TAL Project Office, which is co-managed by the Government of Nepal and WWF (see chart above). A “coordination partner” refers to an organization or entity that contributes to the overall TAL Program goals and objectives, however, does not receive direct support from the Program through a primary or sub-grant agreement. A “Consortium Partner” refers to a core, defined implementing partner of WWF’s within the Hariyo Ban II project. CARE is the only Consortium Partner and receives grant funding directly from WWF-US.**

Partner	Role	Check if funded through WWF
Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE)	Policy enabler partner at federal level – e.g. MoFE approves TAL strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)	Co-implementer (primary grantee), inside PA Landscape program executive guidance body- e.g. DNPWC approves annual workplan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC)	Co-implementer (primary grantee) outside PA – Landscape program executive guidance body- e.g. DoFSC approves annual workplan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), Nepal Police	Wildlife pillar (department) of CIB implements activities using grant funds received through CIB as a primary grantee. This work is at a national level and is focused on wildlife crime control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State Ministries of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment (6 states)	Coordination partner at the provincial/state government level – coordinates and creates enabling environment at state level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local Government entities (156 municipalities)	Coordination partners at the local government level – responsible for enabling conditions and resource leveraging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protected Areas ( Parsa, Chitwan, Bardia, Banke, Suklaphanta National Parks-5 and Krishnasar Conservation Area-1)	Sub-grantees- implement program activities on the ground (e.g. responsible for program implementation and enabling environment for community-based conservation inside Pas)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Division Forest Offices (25) across 19 districts	Sub-grantees- implement program activities on the ground (e.g. responsible for program implementation and enabling environment for community-based conservation outside PAs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Buffer Zone User Committees BZUCs – 76, Conservation Area User Committees -4, in Buffer zone of protected area	Sub-grantees – directly implement project activities at local level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Forest Coordination Committees (CFCCs) 21, CFCCs are umbrella organization of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) which are 2000+, in corridors/connectivity outside protected areas	Sub-grantees – directly implement project activities at local level	
Federation of Community Forest Users' (FECOFUN) Nepal	Sub-grantee – NGO implementer at ground focusing on community forestry policy and advocacy work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)	Sub-grantee – NGO implementer at ground focusing on wildlife research and survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARE Nepal	Consortium Partner in USAID Hariyo Ban Program – II focusing on governance, climate change and GESI	
School Environment Education Network Nepal (SENSE Nepal)	Sub-grantee – NGO implementer at ground focusing on environmental/conservation education with school children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CUPPEC, CAWUN (Trade union groups affiliated with Building and Wood Workers International)	Sub-grantee – focusing on environmental awareness and sustainable forestry practices with community forests	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Academic institutions (Tribhuvan University/Institute of Forestry, Kathmandu University, Pokhara University,	Sub-grantee – primarily scientific research and survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)	Primary grantee – capacity building of SAWEN secretariat and enforcement agencies including promoting regional cooperation in wildlife crime control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Private sector	Coordination partner for resource leveraging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lumbini Development Trust (LDT)	Primary grantee for the Green Lumbini Initiative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organization (CBOs)	Primary grantees for the implementation of specific specialized activities such as the partnership with	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	the Judge Society Nepal for promoting legal awareness and procedural training.	
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### 3. Landscape/Seascape Strategy

In the table below, list the major strategies/ activities to be carried out or funded by WWF in the landscape/ seascape. Add further rows as necessary. Please organize your activities according to the ten categories below, as per the [CMP \(Conservation Measures Partnership\) actions classification](#) (see link for detailed definitions and examples).

CMP Activity category	Major Strategies/ Activities in the landscape.
1. Land/Water management	<p>Prepare and implement watershed and sub-watershed management plans through stakeholder consultations, meetings/workshops to promote knowledge and experience sharing among government and community partners, and technical support in areas such as GIS.</p> <p>Strengthen linkages up-stream and down-stream in watershed management through multi-stakeholder interactions involving communities, local governments, and business entrepreneurs among others.</p> <p>Promoting integrated land-use management approaches and payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes aimed at improving watershed management practices through trainings, consultations and technical input to government and community organizations.</p> <p>Forest restoration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection measures such as providing fencing to protect natural regeneration areas and mobilization of community forest guards (<i>Ban Heralu</i>) to monitor and ensure implementation of sustainable forest management practices – tending, cleaning, pruning, low-impact harvesting). The mobilization activity includes training, equipment (e.g. GPS, camera, forest resource measurement tools, etc), and provision of nominal mobility costs through community forest user groups. Community forest guards are hired by community forest user groups and are not government officials.</li> <li>• Plantation establishment (including seedling production and enrichment planting) and promotion of native species.</li> </ul> <p>Forest Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity development of forest authorities and user groups.</li> <li>• Support for silvicultural/tending operations (thinning, pruning, sustainable harvesting, after-harvesting, and equipment support such as GPS, camera, forest resource measurement tools, and field gear.</li> <li>• Forest fire prevention through controlled burning, and small-scale construction/maintenance of forest roads.</li> </ul> <p>Promote public and private land management on degraded forest/agricultural land through agroforestry practices including Non-Timber Forest Products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plantation to promote multiple use trees (fruits, fodder, fuel, timber).</li> </ul>

	Promote green infrastructure (vegetative and small-scale structures) to reduce erosion and landslides, as climate adaptive measures.
2. Species Management	Translocation of species (rhino, wild water buffalo, swamp deer, black buck, gharial and other priority species): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for animal capture, sedation, transportation, enclosure and post translocation monitoring.</li> </ul>
	Strengthen species breeding centres (elephant, crocodile), rescue centres and veterinary clinics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for small scale infrastructure (buildings), training of government personnel and equipment support.</li> </ul>
	Restore/manage critical habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassland creation and management through improved practices such as manual removal of unwanted and invasive species, controlled fire, grass pruning, equipment purchase (e.g. excavators).</li> <li>• Wetland restoration, creation and management employing various techniques such as earthworks, small impoundments, pipeline and solar pump installations, removal of unwanted/invasive aquatic species, and equipment purchase e.g. tractor, excavator.</li> </ul>
	Strengthen and support Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) of community-based youth volunteers mobilized to address human-wildlife conflict situations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and material support (e.g., torch light, field gears, camera, GPS).</li> </ul>
	Create and manage wildlife database system.
3. Awareness Raising	Mobilize, institutionalize and strengthen Community Based Anti-Poaching Units <sup>12</sup> (CBAPU) and forest guards through training and material support (e.g. street drama, village and door-to-door campaign, materials and equipment including torch lights, field gear, cameras, GPS, snacks).
	Promote environmental conservation education and awareness campaigns among major stakeholders.
	Mobilize media on conservation related issues (electronic and print media): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure and learning site visits, support for issue-based radio programs, training and awareness programs on conservation issues and achievements</li> </ul>
4. Law Enforcement & Prosecution	Strengthen capacity of law enforcement agencies through financial and technical support to enforcement agencies including park authorities, division forest authorities, Nepal Police (CIB), Armed Police Force, district administrative authorities, and customs and postal authorities. Specific types of support are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment and accessories for patrolling - e.g. GPS, tents, sleeping bags, raincoats, mattresses, tents, rubber boots, utensils, water bottles, flash, LED and search lights, safety jackets with reflectors, safety mesh vests, flashlights and headlamps, fire extinguishers, etc.</li> </ul>

<sup>12</sup> Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPU) are is youth led volunteering groups that generate awareness on poaching and illegal wildlife trade. There are over 450 CBAPUs in the Terai Arc Landscape.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobility and operation support – Transportation equipment e.g. motorbikes, bicycles, spare parts for cycles, rubber boats, two and four-wheel vehicles, fuel and maintenance.</li> <li>• Improvement of outpost facilities – Support for establishing a Joint Operation Room (AC installation, solar power, batteries, tables, chairs, carpeting, etc.), office setup support, diesel generator, solar setup, drinking water purification equipment (bio-sand filters).</li> <li>• Informant mobilization – Financial support to government authorities for information purchase and remuneration of informants. Government officials have established informant networks. Each informant is paid by the government authority based on the information they provide. There are specific official protocols and guidelines around the mobilization of informants.</li> <li>• Communication support - mobile and mobile top-up, batteries, chargers, IP phone, SMART mobile phone, power bank, sim cards, etc.</li> <li>• Capacity building trainings/workshops (e.g. biodiversity conservation, wildlife safety, legal provisions, human rights-based approach, investigation, prosecution training), and support for study tours and other training and learning opportunities.</li> <li>• Wildlife crime database establishment and maintenance (software purchase, data collection, trainings and equipment)</li> </ul> <p>Strengthen/maintain technology use in wildlife crime control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment purchase for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), sniffer dog squad, LED SMART TV Monitor, laptop, wireless internet connection equipment, CCTV cameras, HIK vision NVR, community-based alert system, fiber splicer machine, optical fiber accessories/tool kit, tablets, desktop computer, vehicle tracker device and satellite phones protected areas in the mountains</li> </ul> <p>Small infrastructure construction/maintenance support for protection of wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guard posts/outposts</li> <li>• Watch towers/machans (platforms for wildlife monitoring, sighting and diverting wildlife from villages).</li> <li>• Fire lines/forest roads</li> </ul> <p>Strengthening of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) at local and central levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings/workshops/meetings</li> <li>• Equipment and logistic support (GPS, digital cameras, laptops)</li> </ul>
5. Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives	<p>Prevention and Mitigation of human wildlife conflict</p> <p>Preventive measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing (mesh, electric, barbed, bio fencing) – for local community members</li> <li>• Trenches and watch towers</li> <li>• Predator proof pens – individual household level support</li> <li>• Early warning systems</li> <li>• Training and equipment support</li> <li>• Wildlife preventive interventions (deterrent native crop promotion)</li> </ul>

	<p>Curative measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick relief/endowment/scholarship funds for wildlife victims</li> <li>• Insurance (crop/livestock/human)</li> </ul>
	Promote use of alternative energy (biogas, improved cook stoves and solar energy) - support for construction material and training on skills to construct and maintain services
	Integrated grazing management (fodder production, improved cattle sheds, corral fences, feeding troughs, grass cutters – to reduce grazing pressure on forest)
	Promote/support forest, farm and off-farm based enterprises (small and medium enterprises – sawmills, leaf plates, broom grass, essential oils, and other forest/agro-based enterprises) through revolving funds, training on business plan preparation, market linkages, exposure visits, occupational health and safety equipment support
	Strengthen micro-finance institutions (cooperatives) to improve access to credit (support for trainings, office equipment, and exposure visits)
	Conduct trainings on skill-based income generation activities (toolkit including basic equipment such as plumbing/carpentry, cycle/mobile repairing/seed money through revolving fund)
	Promote nature-based tourism and community-based initiatives, e.g. home stays – support for small scale infrastructure, basic amenities, equipment, trainings (e.g. nature guide, hospitality), cultural promotion, exposure visits, support for production promotional material, etc.)
6. Conservation Designation & Planning	Prepare/revise landscape strategy plan and management plans of protected areas, buffer zones, district/divisional forests, corridors, and wetlands, as well as species action plans
	Prepare/implement habitat management guidelines and prescriptions (training, workshop, exposure visits, technical inputs – GIS works)
	Prepare and implement Ramsar strategy, action plans, and management plans (trainings, workshops, exposure visits), and equipment support for water quality maintenance)
	Prepare/revise forest operational plan including sustainable forest management (SFM) and community forest operation plans (training, workshop, exposure visit, technical inputs – GIS etc)
	Prepare and implement community climate adaptation plans of action (training, workshop, exposure visits)
7. Legal & Policy Frameworks	Preparation and revision of act, regulations, policies, guidelines, procedures, strategies (training, workshop, meetings, stakeholder consultation, logistic support) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental outlook, forest policy, forest acts and regulations, national park and wildlife conservation act and regulations, CITES, scientific forest management guidelines, DNPWC strategy, wildlife management outside PA strategy,</li> <li>• Model biodiversity act framework preparation for local government and state governments</li> </ul>
	Strengthen transboundary cooperation at regional, national and local levels (trainings, workshop, meetings, visits, and information sharing mechanisms)
8. Research & Monitoring	Conduct research/studies on human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation
	Undertake e-flow assessments and build capacity on e-flows

	Joint monitoring with relevant stakeholders (local/province/federal government and civil society organizations (CSOs)/community-based organizations (CBOs)
	Conduct regular research and monitoring of species and ecosystems and use of technology such as radio collar, camera traps and genetics (including engagement of citizen scientists <sup>13</sup> for community-based species monitoring) through financial and logistic support
	Conduct independent review and assessment on emerging issues of TAL (e.g. species management, wildlife crime, forest management, infrastructure, livelihood)
	Support presentations and publications in scientific and technical forums
	Assess/establish early warning systems for climate induced disasters
	Identify feasible sustainable financing mechanisms, and sensitization of stakeholders
9. Education & Training	Awareness, trainings, workshops, and support for education materials, study tours, hoarding boards, mobilization of eco-clubs, curriculum development, and development of training manuals
	Documentation and publication of landscape level learning and best practices
	Preparation, publication and distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) material
	Mobilization of youth volunteers (The Generation Green - TGG) for environmental awareness through sensitization and entrepreneurship development
10. Institutional Development	Support for government and civil society organizations and delegates to participate in multilateral forums (e.g. CBD, UNFCCC, Ramsar conventions, CITES)
	Strengthen capacity of community-based organization (CBO) members (buffer zone institutions, community forest coordination committees, etc.) through support for trainings, office equipment, and exposure visits
	Support strengthening of wildlife crime control bureaus (WCCB) at local and central level (equipment supports like GPS, computer and trainings/workshop)
	Strengthen forest institutions (trainings for officials, office equipment, exposure visits)
	Support to enhance capacity of federal, provincial and local government bodies (trainings, exposure visits)
	Strengthen good governance practices among stakeholders (General assembly, Public Hearing and Public Auditing) through support in logistics and trainings/workshops
	Promote gender equality and social inclusion, human rights-based approach, social and environmental safeguards (trainings/orientations/periodic coaching)
	Capacity building on climate change and disaster risk reduction (trainings/orientations)

**4. Budget and Funding (Information for this section is yet to complete with team efforts/we are working with program administration/finance/monitoring unit)**

<sup>13</sup> Citizen scientists are community-based youth volunteers with local knowledge on subject matter who are be engaged in periodic species monitoring; primarily outside protected areas

Estimated funding secured for the next 5 years	State approximate figure (and currency)
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Use the table below to identify known or anticipated:

- WWF projects within the landscape/ seascape over the next 5 years
- Sources of funding per project, and whether that funding is already secured
- Estimated budget (in EUR)
- Duration and timing of projects
- CMP activity categories (from 1-10 above in Section 4) of the major activities per project

Add extra rows as necessary.

Insight CPM Project number	Check if funding secured	WWF and Primary Donor(s)	Estimated budget by year ('000 EUR)					Activity Categories (CMP 1-10)
			FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	
9S073261	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne H. Swift & Lee Lord	8,700	-	-	-	-	8
NP205900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted - One Time Reduction	6,200	-	-	-	-	6
NP207400	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shining Foundation Limited	127,200	101,100	-	-	-	1, 5, 10
NP211800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF-Canada	62,000	29,300	27,200	-	-	2, 3, 5
NP209100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multiple donors	2,500	1,200	-	-	-	10
NP205100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF- Singapore	1,900	-	-	-	-	8
NP209500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF-Denmark	39,000	-	-	-	-	1,5
NP212100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IUCN	170,400	115,800	-	-	-	1,5,9
NP205800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USFWS	3,300	-	-	-	-	8
NP204900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF International	20,500	-	-	-	-	3
NP205000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF UK	2,700	-	-	-	-	8
NP208700	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coca Cola Foundation	4,500	-	-	-	-	1
NP206700	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MFA, Finland / WWF Finland	216,700	473,800	128,600	-	-	1,5,6,8,9,10
9Z140261	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF UK	538,100	-	-	-	-	3,4,7,8
NP207200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF Netherlands	77,200	-	-	-	-	4
NP204000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KfW/IUCN/WWF Germany	142,600	-	-	-	-	2,4,5,7,8,10

NP211900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	California Community Fndn/Leonardo DiCaprio Fndn	32,500	-	-	-	-	2
NP212100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US IPA - Tiger	32,500	-	-	-	-	2,3,5
9Z140261	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF International	1,300	-	-	-	-	2,3,5,8
9Z140261	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF Singapore	8,100	-	-	-	-	2,3,5,8
NP212200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	US IPA - Rhino	32,500	-	-	-	-	8
44200020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Coca-Cola Foundation	2,700	-	-	-	-	1
9Z140261	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF UK	84,600					4
9Z140261	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWF- Singapore	29,600					2,3,5,8
NP088250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Global Environmental Facility – GEF	236,500	1,030,300	814,700	771,100	496,200	1,2,7
NP091105	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hariyo Ban II - TAL	187,000	-	-	-	-	1,2,5,6,7,8,9,10
Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other WWF Network	53,760	164,550	398,850	458,670	541,140	
Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other GAA	17,920	54,850	132,950	152,890	180,380	
Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Foundation	107,520	329,100	797,700	917,340	1,082,280	
Total			2,250,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	

### **Stakeholder engagement during project conceptualization**

**Stakeholder Analysis:** Has a project stakeholder analysis been carried out and documented – identifying not only stakeholders' interests in the project, their rights and their influence but also whether they might be affected by the project? Positive and negative Does the stakeholder analysis differentiate between women and men, where relevant and feasible? It is recommended to add the stakeholder analysis to the documents submitted to the approved WWF Safeguards Reviewer.

The initial stakeholder analysis for the TAL Strategy was conducted during the inception of the Program in early 2000 in conjunction with a Root Cause Analysis (RCA). In addition, several studies were carried out for a detailed understanding of the biological and social situation and the interlinkages. A key observation from this work was that the local people of the TAL were highly dependent on forest resources, with the poor and poorest of the poor having the highest dependency. During the conceptualization of the program, the availability of forest resources was in severe decline due to high pressure. In order to address this situation, the TAL Program identified the need to strengthen participatory forest management practices through Community Forestry user groups and work with those groups to develop alternatives for forest dependent people. Alternative livelihood promotion and alternative energy promotion were considered as key interventions to address this issue.

Governance was identified as one of the major challenges in light of the political conflict occurring in Nepal at that time. The TAL Program identified the need to strengthen meaningful participation transparency, accountability and equity in forest user groups. Strengthening capacity of the local institutions (CBOs and others) was also identified as one of the major project interventions necessary for success. Participation of women was found to be lacking in local institutions responsible for the management of forests and other natural resources in buffer zones and corridors. The Program identified the need to empower women and increase their participation in these local institutions as a key area necessary to strengthen gender equality and social inclusion.

Human-wildlife conflict as well as park-people conflict was identified as another important issue to address as part of the Program. Enhancing community participation, building greater awareness, and introducing measures such as physical barriers to minimize wildlife damage and curative measures such as relief schemes to support the victims were some of other interventions proposed in the project.

**Biological analysis** was conducted in 2001 which focused on biodiversity loss. Expert teams conducted a series of consultation meetings with local people, community forest user groups, and national park authorities. The teams also analysed the gaps in protected area network and management systems for which a series of consultative meeting were conducted with organizations involved in conservation and development projects in TAL such as District forest offices (DFO), Department of National Parks and Wildlife reserves (DNPWC), WWF Nepal, CARE Nepal, DFID, SNV, UNDP, and USAID to solicit their inputs in landscape level conservation.

Since the inception of the TAL Landscape Program, the strategic planning and preparation process has been guided by approaches that are inclusive, equitable, and respectful of traditional knowledge and local decision-making. The preparation of TAL strategy 2004-2014 and 2015-2025 followed a participatory and consultative process. A review of past successes and failures was taken into account. The landscape strategy is an outcome of multi-layer (local/community level, district/regional and national) consultative processes with all key stakeholders.

Project level stakeholder analysis, socio-economic and biological analysis have been conducted during the conceptualization and ongoing implementation of the program with rigorous stakeholder engagement. (Chapter 2, TAL-Nepal Strategic Plan 2004-2014<sup>14</sup> presents the Root Cause Analysis).

The Root Cause Analysis (RCA) process in TAL-Nepal involved the following steps:

1. Information Gathering- RCA and strategy building process began in 2001 with the [first participatory study carried out to collect scientific and socio-economic information](#) on, as well as the [participatory planning for TAL – Nepal conducted while designing the critical areas restoration project](#).
2. Develop initial conceptual model. A multi stakeholder workshop was conducted in 2002, to conduct an initial analysis of root causes and develop the first draft of root cause analysis matrices.
3. Further Data Collection and Verification – Several information gaps were identified by the multi-stakeholder workshop in 2002, and further studies were conducted on livelihoods and forests. This phase included: [desktop review of livelihood in TAL Nepal](#) (WWF, 2003), a [participatory study investigating the perception of local communities on livelihood and environmental issues](#) (2003), and an assessment of forest management system (2003), RCA matrices were then again revised with new information.
4. Revise model- RCA matrices were presented for review and revision at [four separate workshops in May 2003](#): a national level multi-stakeholder workshops, a national level biodiversity workshop, a field level multi-stakeholder workshop and an advisers workshop. The results of these workshop were used to complete the final version of root causes.

Based on the findings from the biological analysis and root cause analysis , strategies were developed and verified by TAL program strategic plan core team and then was finally validated through multisectoral consultation and adoption of best practices (refer to chapter 3, in [TAL strategic plan 2004-2014](#))

**Stakeholder Consultation:** Has information about the project – objectives, activities, sites and potential risks – been shared with stakeholders? Have consultations been held with relevant groups - functional groups at community to discuss the project concept and risks? Provide details about the groups involved. Were women involved or consulted separately? Did the consultations involve stakeholders that might be negatively affected – Negative and positive by the project? Were consultations conducted in a culturally appropriate way? – language Have results of the consultations been documented? Were results used to inform project design?

Stakeholder consultation is a continuous process in TAL and is equally important during all phases of the program including strategy development, specific project design, and the annual planning process. In order to identify interest and priorities of local stakeholders, planning is done jointly by government community institutions and TAL team. Community organizations undertake stakeholder consultation through general assemblies, public hearings and annual public auditing. As part of process facilitation at the local level, community facilitators, community learning and action centres (CLAC), and multipurpose resource centres (MPRCs) have been established through project support. Specific projects, such as the IUCN/KFW project, may have separate requirements and tools for stakeholder consultation, and are implemented accordingly (see attached IUCN/KFW project document).

Since the initial project design phase in 2001, stakeholder consultation has been a key step in identifying issues and cross cutting themes at the landscape level. The program shares landscape strategies, objectives, activities, sites and potential risks with stakeholders. Consultations

<sup>14</sup> “Terai Arc Landscape – Nepal, Strategic Plan (2004-2014), Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, [http://dofdocs.gov.np/documents/81/tal\\_strategic\\_plan\\_20100323034613.pdf](http://dofdocs.gov.np/documents/81/tal_strategic_plan_20100323034613.pdf)

are held with government agencies working in natural resource conservation, community-based organizations like buffer zone user groups, community forest groups, micro-credit/cooperatives, and community based antipoaching units. Relevant functional groups like local youth clubs and mother's groups are also consulted regularly during community visits. District level consultation occurs with all the district level partners and organizations including village development committee, district development committee, protected area officials, buffer zone user committees, community forest user groups, INGOs and NGOs. Local community leaders are key individuals facilitating stakeholder consultation and their involvement helps ensure appropriateness of consultation in a diverse society with high cultural diversity.

Results from the consultation process are referenced in the landscape strategy and fully inform detailed project design. Special priorities are given to ultra-marginal group (e.g. majhi, mushahar, Bote) in the design and interventions of the livelihood improvement program. Poor and vulnerable households are selected by the communities based on well-being ranking done during the community forest user group operational plan preparation and revision process. Also, priorities are given to include resources for alternative energy promotion activities to reduce women's workload in collecting firewood from nearby forest.

Key aspects of the ongoing stakeholder engagement process are described below:

- 1) Who are the key Stakeholders in the TAL Landscape? Key stakeholders include: a) from governments (Protected Area Authorities, District/Division Forest Offices, District Forest Coordination Committee, District Development Committee/District Coordination Committee, and representatives from women, children and social welfare office, agriculture and livestock office, forest office; b) from civil society (NGOs such as National Trust for Nature Conservation, CSO representatives, journalists); c) from communities (community forest user groups and networks, buffer zone users committee and networks, functional groups of these umbrella organizations such as women's groups, community based anti-poaching units, community rapid response team, conservation cooperatives).
- 2) How have the key stakeholders been engaged over the last two years (2017 – 2019) and incorporated into the program management cycle? Annual program planning is highly participatory. With the help of local stakeholders including local government agencies, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs and local communities, the field units of the project prepare annual plans. In practice, the annual plans are prepared using a bottom-up approach. The grass root organizations such as community forest user groups and buffer zone user's committees submit their plans to the project office. Before submitting, they thoroughly discuss within their groups/committees and document the final plans. Once the plans are submitted to the project, the field project unit compiles these plans for official endorsement. These plans are shared with District Forest Coordination Committee and regional planning meetings and submitted to central authorities for approval. The approved annual plans are rolled out with the grass root level groups/committees who implement them within their respective groups.
- 3) How has stakeholder input changed project design or implementation (i.e., resulted in adaptive management)? While preparing plans in detail, the interventions are finalized based on the priorities determined by local communities according to their particular conditions (for example, some communities prioritize livelihood interventions such as fishponds to benefit river dependent communities, others may focus on relief schemes or preventive measures such as physical barriers needed to address high human-wildlife conflict areas. One recent adaptive measure followed the tragic death of a student, killed by an elephant in the Khata corridor when he was going to school. The program supported the establishment of a new bus shuttle service to improve safety based on discussion with the community.

4) How has stakeholder engagement been documented? Documentation of meeting minutes of grass root level stakeholder meetings (community forest user groups, buffer zone user committees and their networks) is used as a key input and basis for planning, project level grant agreements, as well as for project implementation and adaptive management. Other key documentation occurs through meeting minutes during project roll-out, field/project monitoring reports, public hearings and public audits, and progress reports from program sub-grantees. (Hyperlinks to be provided.)

**PART 2: Complete initial screening to identify areas of work that carry the highest and lowest levels of risk.**

	1.	<b>Does your project finance any of the following activities?</b>	
		Yes	No
		No	Weapons and munitions Military activities. Note: Use of rangers, eco-guards, or similar personnel is not considered a military purpose as long as such persons are subject to the authority of civil administrative bodies, including those run by legitimate political in fragile situations as defined by the <a href="#">World Bank</a> . "Legitimate" here means political organizations that are not banned by national governments nor on any international banned lists issued by foreign governments and the UN. Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labor/harmful child labor Production or activities that impinge on the lands owned, or claimed under adjudication, by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples The procurement or use of formulated products that are in World Health Organization (WHO) Classes IA and IB, or formulations of products in Class II, unless there are restrictions that are likely to deny use or access by lay personnel and others without training or proper equipment; Not allow the procurement or use in its projects pesticides and other chemicals specified as persistent organic pollutants identified under the Stockholm Convention; Conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, especially those that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or identified as having high conservation value; Introduction of, or increased competitiveness of, species known to be invasive into new environments.
		<b>If you answered "yes", this work should not be financed and should instead proceed to re-design before further screening.</b>	

	2.	<b>Are the activities being reviewed solely limited to the following?</b>		
		Yes	No	
			No	Policy reform
				Natural resource assessments and monitoring
				Monitoring and evaluation exercises
				Desk studies, workshops, meetings
				Scientific research and field surveys
				Research and extension in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural resource management,
				Remote sensing and geospatial analysis
				Capacity development, communication and outreach programs, including training
<b>If you answered “yes”, further screening is not required for the identified activities because no environmental or social risks have been identified. All WWF policies and standards still apply.</b>				

**PART 3: Complete questionnaire on environment and social risks for areas of work that were not identified in Part 2.**

	Landscape/ Seascape Lead		WWF Safeguards Reviewer
	Yes, No, N/A, TBD	Provide appropriate level of detail, including how the risks are being addressed	Comments, additional considerations
<b>Recognition of human rights, including substantial and procedural rights</b>			
1. Could the project potentially contribute to certain population groups experiencing disadvantages in connection with the access to basic state services such as health or education, drinking water, productive resources or sources of income?	No	The program does not support any interventions that contribute to certain populations experiencing disadvantages in connection with access to basic state services such as health or education, drinking water or sources of income.	There is no concern of disruption of access to basic state services. Note that for the purposes of this review, community forests are not considered a state service. Although even if they were, it would not be indicative of this sort of risk per response below.
2. Will the project influence land use decisions or land tenure arrangements with a risk of this adversely affecting peoples' livelihoods or rights? Consider in particular impacts on vulnerable groups and different gender or situations where systems of common ownership are affected?	No	<p>Changes in land tenure are not influenced by the program. Program work is carried out under the framework of Nepal's community managed forest regime in which land ownership remains with government of Nepal. Nepal's community- based forest management framework has been extensively researched and has been characterized as a highly effective model of common property resources management that contributes to the reduction household vulnerability.</p> <p>Regarding productive resources like forest products (firewood, driftwood, fodder, small timber, NTFPs), following the development of the community forestry model, certain population groups could however, experience a greater advantage (wherein community forestry members have usage rights and can decide how to protect, manage and utilize forest products sustainably).</p> <p>If there is need of full protection of forest like zero disturbances from people and livestock, project support goes primarily for protection of forest through fencing (fencing as part of sustainable forest management upon the decision of general assembly of the forest user group) and watchperson mobilization. In these cases, the communities can still use resources from the protected site as</p>	<p>Nepal's community-based forest management framework is a robust and inclusive mechanism that ensures participation and insight from marginalized groups including minorities, IPs, and vulnerable people based on social or economic status and gender.</p> <p>As this mechanism is effective and strictly applied there is no significant concern of these groups being disproportionately impacted by activities. Still, it is recommended that WWF-Nepal show</p>

		<p>determined through the buffer zone/community forest operational plan, which may allow for periodic collection of firewood and fodder.</p> <p>Fencing is a temporary protection measure. The forest buffer zones and corridors are community managed, and once the forest is restored, fencing is removed and the resources from the restored forested areas are available for community-use as per the community forest plans approved through the local governance process described below.</p> <p>In terms of process, community stakeholder consultation and buy-in for project activities to be implemented in community forest like fencing/restoration must be endorsed in the community forest operational plan which is endorsed by general assembly (presence of every household of community forest user group). Activities carried out are annually audited through public hearing and public auditing process.</p> <p>The program also engages impacted communities in identifying trade-offs and finding suitable alternatives. Specifically, the project supports the provision of a range of alternatives for forest dependent communities to reduce the dependency on forest resources through following interventions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provision of alternative options of fuelwood/firewood such as biogas and efficient cooking stoves.</li> <li>2. Promotion of integrated grazing management (Support community for trough, fodder plantation, grass cutters, cow-shed improvement) to reduce dependency on forests for grazing.</li> <li>3. Promotion of forest/farm-based livelihood options as alternative income generating options to reduce pressure on forest resources.</li> </ol> <p>Skill-based job training for alternative ways of income generation.</p>	<p>documentation to how these groups are included in this process and in particular how their views are integrated into decision-making.</p>
<p>3. Is there a likelihood that the project will lead to additional or new conflict among project effected communities or to the</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There is little likelihood of new or additional conflict given that the program supports community-based conservation initiatives where communities are fully involved and engaged from the initial stage of identifying issues to project design, implementation and</p>	<p>Once again, the centrality of the community-based forest management framework</p>

<p>formal or de facto restriction or exclusion<sup>15</sup> of particular groups from access to resources provided by the project, to services or participation in decision-making?</p>		<p>monitoring of project results. The program also supports capacity development of user groups for more meaningful participation of all households in decision making processes. As per the mandate delegated by the local development plan such as community forest operation plan, community adaptation plan, buffer zone development plan, priorities are given to the vulnerable and marginal communities including indigenous people (identified during the beneficiary selection stage) to encourage equitable benefit sharing.</p>	<p>proves an effective means of mitigating likelihood of new conflicts. The use of this participatory and inclusive framework that gives a broad range of groups voice and part of decision-making should build support for changes in land-use and usufruct rights.</p>
<p>4. Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>During the last 5 years, there have not been any human rights concerns raised by local communities or individuals with respect to the TAL Program and its implementation. However, in March 2019, BuzzFeed News published a series of articles making serious accusations about WWF's conservation work around the world. Several of the accusations refer to WWF's work in the TAL dating back prior to the past 5 years. WWF has commissioned an independent review to investigate these allegations which focus primarily on allegations of human rights abuse by government eco-guards supported by WWF. The Independent Review is being conducted by a panel which is being led by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. The Independent Review is ongoing at the time of this writing. The panel will report its findings and recommendations when the review concludes, and the results will be made public.</p> <p>In a small number of cases, communities have been concerned about increased human-wildlife conflict (including human casualties or injuries and crop and livestock depredation). To address the potential for increased incidence of human/wildlife conflict as a result of program interventions, the program has been implementing both curative and preventive measures to mitigate human wildlife conflict issues among affected communities.</p>	<p>Given the ongoing review sensitivity around WWF-Nepal's work in the landscape, careful review, oversight, and due diligence for this work should be put in place. Should there be substantive considerations from the independent review related to work in this landscape, this screening and mitigation efforts will be adaptively management to reflect those.</p>

<sup>15</sup> Examples of de facto restriction or exclusion are: information is not made available in appropriate languages, individuals with no/low income or without tenure rights (or registered titles) can't access services (e.g. agricultural extension services), persons with disabilities are confronted with physical barriers that block their access; certain groups are stigmatised by society and thus have no access services.

Gender equality and risks (including gender-based violence)			
5. Is there a risk that the project potentially limits women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, (e.g. taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services such as fisheries and clean water)?	No	The program works proactively to support Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to strengthen the meaningful participation of women in decision-making for participatory management of natural resources. The community forestry guidelines of the Ministry of Forest and Environment have a mandatory requirement for women's representation in one of the key positions (chairperson or secretary) of the executive committee of community forest user committee, and one of the other positions of the executive committee (i.e., chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer). The project helps to implement this provision through women's empowerment in the community forest groups. More broadly, the program supports the capacity strengthening of women's groups in the buffer zones of protected areas, also required by the community forest management guidelines. Women are given top priority by the program in conducting capacity building for CBO partners.	
6. Is there a risk that the project may discriminate against women or other groups based on gender, with regards to participation in the design and implementation of project activities or to access to opportunities and benefits?	No	The program does not discriminate against women or other groups based on gender. The program systematically conducts consultations with functional group like woman led buffer user group and women's managed community forestry user groups.	The project integrates gender consideration for gender and builds its work on an inclusive framework.
7. Is there a risk that persons employed by or engaged directly in the project might engage in gender-based violence (including sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment)? Please also consider examples such as women being beaten, verbally and sexually harassed, raped, and killed by forest guards when collecting	Yes	<p>This risk is present however, a variety of measures are taken to reduce these risks. These include the incorporation of capacity building trainings on Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion, women's empowerment, human rights-based approach, and gender-based violence during implementation of projects.</p> <p>WWF Nepal also ensures that its staff are fully oriented and trained on all relevant WWF policies including on gender-based violence.</p> <p>In addition, formal human-rights-based and social policy trainings were initiated for project offices and grantees in 2017. Training</p>	While women's empowerment can sometimes create intrahousehold conflict, the project may even contribute to conflict reduction by also engaging male champions and employing other resources/ mechanisms to address the risk. These include inclusive

<p>forest products from protected areas.</p>		<p>was conducted for the head of the Protected Areas (civilian Chief Warden, Commander of Nepal Army overseeing PAs, and Colonels), so that they understand human rights issues and importance. The same training was conducted for District Forest Officers and regional forest officials who work outside PAs. Trainings and workshops were conducted for field Project staff to improve their ability to interact with grantees properly in this regard. To ensure sub-grantees (those that are in direct contact with the community) understand the requirements of the social policies, an orientation to 20 grantees (CBO, CSO) was conducted in TAL by sociologists and HRB consultants.</p> <p>WWF Nepal also has a Project Complaint Resolution Mechanism<sup>16</sup> in place to receive and respond to concerns raised by stakeholders who may be affected by WWF Nepal supported conservation activities as a key means to strengthen implementation of WWF’s Social Policies and Safeguards.</p> <p>Additionally, the program will also ensure availability of information on the existing project complaint resolution process to all stakeholders where they can file a complaint if such situation exists. The information on the complaint resolution mechanism will be available in offices of sub-grantees where right holders have appropriate means of accessing the information.</p>	<p>trainings and capacity-building and support for Community Learning and Action Centers (CLACS).</p>
<p><b>Labour and working conditions</b></p>			
<p>8. Might the project be directly or indirectly involved in forced labour or in child labour? E.g. when promoting agricultural production, in particular commodities where child labour is a common issue (e.g. cocoa production) and which could interfere with the child’s education or be harmful to the child’s health or physical,</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The TAL Program is committed to WWF’s social policies and does not see and potential for forced labour or child labour in any Program activities. In certain interventions such as community homestays, children might perform cultural promotional activities (such as traditional dance and participation in activities to welcome guests).</p> <p>The Government of Nepal also has a defined policy on child labour. Moreover, the Social Security Fund has been recently established in Nepal to promote workplace safety to workers. WWF also has a partnership with trade union groups who support</p>	<p>There is no indication that there is a risk of forced or child labor in the context of this work.</p>

<sup>16</sup> “WWF Nepal Project Complaint Guideline”, WWF Nepal, [http://www.wwfnepal.org/about\\_wwf/project\\_complaint\\_guideline/](http://www.wwfnepal.org/about_wwf/project_complaint_guideline/)

mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.		wider outreach efforts on occupational health and safety. The 2019 Nepal Forest Policy also recognizes workers safety.	
<b>Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes</b>			
9. Will the project lead to increased waste production, in particular. hazardous waste?	No	The TAL Program only supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that do not generate hazardous wastes.	
10. Will the project require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, or water?	No	The TAL Program supports SMEs, primarily green enterprises such as leaf plates and essential oils that do not require large amounts of raw materials and energy for production. The program also supports a community based small-scale wood processing unit that consumes raw materials collected only from nearby community forests and requires only low energy and water inputs. The TAL Program has never supported any large-scale industries that demands excessive raw material and energy consumption.	
11. Will the project lead to significant increases of greenhouse gas emissions or to a substantial reduction of carbon pools (e.g. through loss in vegetation cover or below and above ground carbon stocks)?	No	As mentioned above, the program does not support large scale enterprises or any interventions that could lead to significant production of greenhouse emissions. In contrast, the program supports promotion of alternative energy options such as biogas and improved cooking stoves that support forest regeneration and reduce pressure on forests for firewood while also reducing exposure to smoke and respiratory disease.	
<b>Climate Change</b>			
12. Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might affect the effectiveness of project activities or the sustainability of intended changes?	Yes	<p>Activities like restoration of critical corridors, habitat management and wetland restoration might be impacted by climate variability (drought, flooding). Recent management plans for national parks have taken climate variability into account and are identify climate smart management approaches. The Program supports these approaches.</p> <p>At landscape level, climate vulnerability assessments have been conducted in TAL in all 11 sub-basins. At corridor level, climate vulnerability assessments have been conducted in the key corridors of Lamahi bottleneck, Kamdi corridor, Brahmadev corridor, Karnali corridor, Hadikhola watershed, and Madi valley. At the site level, 130 site specific community-based adaptation plans have been developed based on vulnerability assessments and the program has been supporting the implementation of these adaptation plans.</p>	<p>Consideration of the impacts of climate change into the landscape work would be very prudent as part of ongoing planning processes and adaptive management. It is anticipated that climate stresses and impacts could have a significant impact on the landscape.</p> <p>It is important that WWF-Nepal has assessed these potential impacts</p>

		<p>The program promotes community and ecosystem resilience activities such as community shelter houses, implementation of community-based adaptation plans, water source protection, and recharge ponds. Capacity building of communities on climate change and disaster risk reduction are also interventions supported by the program that contribute to building climate resilience in communities.</p> <p>Farm-based livelihood interventions such as off-season vegetable farming, horticultural practices and off-farm interventions such as cycle repairing and traditional handicraft making are designed in a way to increase the resiliency of people and nature.</p>	and incorporate climate resilience into their portfolio of work.
13. Is there a risk that project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of local communities or of the local ecosystem to climate variability, temperature increases or climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, storm surges, etc).	No	<p>Program activities such as biogas promotion and stall-feeding promotion for livestock rearing to reduce pressure on forests and increase forest cover and quality, also increase the resiliency of people and wildlife by increasing the overall access and availability of resources.</p> <p>The Program promotes livelihood improvement interventions to increase the resilience of local communities. The use of mixed vegetative and small structures as climate adaptive measures are also helpful to address climate induced disaster and reclamation of degraded land in a cost-effective manner.</p>	There are various clear indications that WWF-Nepal gives sufficient thought to climate adaptation that their work would mitigate, not exacerbate the potential for climate impacts on communities and ecosystems.
<b>Conclusion of WWF Safeguards Reviewer</b>			
<b><i>Have negative environmental or social impacts been identified adequately?</i></b>	Yes.	The only two risks that have surfaced through the section of the screening is the potential for climate impacts to undermine project activities and the potential for someone employed by the project to engage in sexual harassment or gender-based violence.	
<b><i>Are assessments required to better understand the impacts? What specific topics are to be assessed?</i></b>	WWF-Nepal has already carried out significant work in assessing the potential impacts of climate. Given their breadth of climate consideration, no further assessment is required. Gender considerations and addressing the threat of GBV and harassment are given significant thought both through governmental tools and project design. No specific assessment is required at this time.		
<b><i>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?</i></b>	<b><i>Yes. WWF-Nepal has integrated climate adaptation and thorough mechanisms for addressing gender-related issues into their project portfolio in the Terai Arc Landscape. These measures are highlighted above. WWF-Nepal should also make sure that they employ full due diligence of the presence and implementation of sexual harassment and gender based violence policies.</i></b>		

**PART 4:** Complete assessment of potential impacts related to existing WWF environment and social standards.

	Landscape/ Seascape Lead		WWF Safeguards Reviewer
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	Answer question, provide further detail where relevant	Comments, additional considerations
<b>Standard on Involuntary Resettlement (includes Access Restriction to Natural Resources/Livelihoods)</b>			
<b>1) Will the project involve resettling peoples or communities? if yes, answer a-b below</b>	No		
a. Describe the project activities that require resettlement		The Program does not support any activities that involve resettling peoples or communities.	
b. Have alternative project design options for avoiding resettlement been rigorously considered?		Not applicable	
<b>2) Does the project include activities that might restrict peoples' access to land or natural resources? Please consider the following activities: establishing new protected areas (PA) or extending the area of an existing PA, improving enforcement of PA regulations (e.g. training guards, providing monitoring and/or enforcement equipment, providing training/tools for improving management effectiveness), constructing physical barriers that prevent people accessing certain places; changing how specific natural resources are managed to a management system that is more restrictive; if yes, answer a-f below</b>	Yes		
<b>Answer the following only if you answered yes to item 2</b>			
a. Indicate the project activities that (might) involve restrictions and the respective resources to be restricted.		The Program does not support activities that restrict access to land. However, access to natural resources may be restricted in some cases when fencing is temporarily used to restore areas of degraded community forest. <b><u>(Please refer to Part 3, Section 1 under Recognition of human rights, including substantial and procedural rights, where we provide a detailed explanation on this issue.)</u></b>	The program engages the community in their responsibilities of forest management. Through the inclusive decision-making framework, the community, facilitated by WWF may temporarily put fencing in place to prevent any disturbance to specific sites.

		<p>Additionally, there may be some cases where fencing of restoration sites in critical forest areas, may impact a small number of livestock owners who graze on those sites. To mitigate the impact, the program promotes and supports integrated livestock management in high grazing pressure areas.</p>	<p>When these are place there is still general allowance of access to forest resources save in very specific locations and where there are implications for livestock, the project supplements this work with integrated livestock management.</p> <p>While these efforts are targeted and managed by the community through an inclusive decision-making framework, they could result in some very specific restriction of access, however, it is probably insufficient to trigger this safeguard.</p>
<p>b. Is there a risk that project restrictions might infringe on statutory or customary rights for land and natural resources? Consider also common property regimes (e.g. dry season grazing areas)?</p>		<p>The program does not support any interventions that restrict any statutory or customary rights for land and natural resources.</p>	
<p>c. Are there individuals and communities with strong ties to land or territory and resources and with customary tenure system (despite not being recorded, titled or protected by government)? Consider also communities whose rights recognized under international law (e.g. indigenous peoples).</p>		<p>The program does not work in areas where there are any individuals or communities with customary tenure system.</p>	
<p>d. Have the implications of access restrictions on people's livelihoods been analysed? Explain who might be affected and describe impacts.</p>		<p>The implications of access restrictions on people's livelihoods have been analysed during the initial TAL strategy formulation period and</p>	<p>WWF-Nepal is operating in a framework that already addresses the</p>

Distinguish social groups (incl. vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples) and men and women.		as part of the development of the second strategic plan (2015 – 2024). The government of Nepal also has specific provisions for providing access to certain groups such as fishing permits for river dependent communities and thatch grass collection from protected areas by local people respecting their traditional use rights.	needs of the community and where land-use is governed by the community who follow detailed rules and requirements for decision making.
e. Have strategies been considered to avoid restrictions by making changes to project design?		Program strategies do not consider activities that might have restrictions (See details above on answer 2 (a)).	
f. If it is not possible to avoid restrictions, will the project include measures to minimize or compensate for impacts from loss/ restrictions of access? Please describe the measures. Are eligibility criteria established that define who is entitled to benefits or compensation? Are they transparent and fair (e.g. in proportion to their losses and to their needs if they are poor and vulnerable)?		Yes, the program employs interventions to mitigate for impacts from temporary loss/restriction of access. The mitigative measures include provision of alternate livelihood options, integrated grazing management and alternative energy promotion. Primary beneficiaries of the program activities are poor and vulnerable households. Poor and vulnerable households have been selected by the communities themselves based on well-being ranking done during the community forest user group operational plan preparation and revision process. The forest operation plans are approved by General Assembly of forest user groups. All households are the members of general assembly.	The program supports very targeted interventions by the community that do not truly constitute restriction of access. Still it is important that WWF-Nepal engages the community to ensure measures are put in place where the community, both as a whole and smaller parts including vulnerable subcommunities, benefit from program work.
<b>3) Will the project require the acquisition of land for project purposes (e.g. infrastructure development)? If yes, describe the current legal status/ownership of the land.</b>	No	The Program does not invest in acquisition of land for any purposes.	
<b>Conclusion of the WWF Safeguards Reviewer</b>			
<b>Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD</b> <b>Who are the main groups potentially affected? If possible, indicate probability and impact.</b>	Yes	Involuntary resettlement is being triggered within this landscape strictly as a precaution. There seems to be a robust governance framework in place to ensure inclusive and equitable decision-making by communities as it relates to potential restriction of access.	

<b>Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?</b>	There are no anticipated impacts and no additional assessments are required. However, it is appropriate that WWF-Nepal prepare and provide documentation of the community-managed forests framework to demonstrate how decisions are made.
<b>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been developed, implemented, or considered in project design and budgeted? If so, what are they?</b>	No further mitigation measures are anticipated, however, WWF-Nepal should maintain ongoing vigilance to ensure that the process is followed and that there is no divergence from this framework.

	Landscape/ Seascape Lead		WWF Safeguards Reviewer
	Yes, no, n/a, TB D	Answer question, provide further detail where relevant	Comments, additional considerations
<b>Standard on Indigenous Peoples<sup>1718</sup></b>			
1. Is the project site in an area inhabited by or important to indigenous peoples, tribal peoples or other traditional peoples? <b>If yes, answer questions a-f</b>	Yes		
2. Even if indigenous groups are not found at the project sites, is there still a risk that the project could affect the rights and livelihood of indigenous peoples? <b>If yes, answer questions a-f</b>	N/A		
<b>Answer only if you answered yes to 1 or 2 above.</b>			

a. Name the groups; distinguish, if applicable, the geographical areas of their presence (including the areas of resource use) and how these relate to the		There are 59 indigenous nationalities in Nepal, <a href="http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/15296">http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/15296</a>  TAL includes 10 among them. They are Tharu, Newar, Gurung, Tamang, Muslim, Mushahar, Bote, Rai, Darai, Chepang, Praja,	
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<sup>17</sup> The coverage of indigenous peoples includes: (i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services

<p>project's area of influence.</p>		<p>Gharti. They reside in areas where the project is being implemented.</p> <p>Most of the indigenous nationalities can be found distributed widely across the TAL, however their density is location specific. Most of the indigenous people's livelihoods are dependent on natural resources (e.g., Bote and Mushahar are dependent on fish and other aquatic resources, while Tharu, Chepang and others depend on forest resources). Following the influx of settlers and a wave of massive deforestation after the success of a widespread malaria eradication program in the Terai in 1954, indigenous livelihoods were strongly affected.</p> <p>Nepal's Community forest management program - which transfers usage rights to forest resources to the local community, including indigenous nationalities – is supported by the TAL Program and is working to improve quality and quantity of forest and improve availability of forest resources in sustainable basis to these communities.</p> <p>The existing rules and regulation of protected areas management in Nepal also ensures traditional rights of indigenous people to access river resources from PAs with due permission from protected area authorities. To reduce the pressure on river ecosystems, the TAL Program supports alternative measures like fish-pond construction and fish farming, also in benefit of indigenous peoples.</p>	
<p>b. What are the key characteristics that qualify the identified groups as indigenous groups? Do these groups identify themselves as indigenous? And how does the host country's Government refer to these groups?</p>		<p><a href="http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/prevaling-law/statutes-acts/national-foundation-for-upliftment-of-aadibasi-janjati-act-2058-2002">http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/en/archives/category/documents/prevaling-law/statutes-acts/national-foundation-for-upliftment-of-aadibasi-janjati-act-2058-2002</a></p> <p>The key characteristics of indigenous groups are that they possess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• own mother language;</li> <li>• traditional rites and customs;</li> <li>• distinct cultural identity; and</li> <li>• distinct social structure.</li> </ul> <p>Indigenous groups were identified by national laws and policies of Nepal and groups are collectively called indigenous nationalities</p>	

		by the government of Nepal. By constitutional provision, there are requirements for ensuring that indigenous nationalities receive certain state services. These include staff hiring and promotion (federal services, state services and local services); and dedicated seats in all tiers of governance (federal parliament, state parliament, local governments).	
c. Is there a risk that the project affects their livelihood in ways other than through access restrictions (already covered in the respective Standard above)? E.g. by affecting their self-determination, cultural identity, values and practices, social cohesion, or by providing inequitable benefits?	No	The program does not affect their livelihood in ways other than access restrictions. Overall the Program is supportive of improving indigenous people's livelihoods, and promotes positive benefits sharing mechanisms, including through the legal provisions of the community forest guideline which allocates 35% of community forest user group income for poor, woman, Dalits, indigenous nationalities. The Program supports the implementation of these legal provisions.	
d. Explain whether and how legitimate representatives of indigenous groups have been consulted to discuss the project and better understand potential impacts upon them?	Yes	<p>The Program works through community forest user groups and buffer zone user groups. These community institutions are formed as per legal provisions (forest regulations 1993 and buffer zone management regulation 1996). Stakeholder consultation is done with the executive representatives of these community groups. Executives are selected by all member households of that area.</p> <p>In community forests, every household (including indigenous peoples) are included in community forest user group and are members of the general assembly. Every general assembly member has rights to select executive committee members.</p>	

		<p>In buffer zones, there are settlement-based buffer zone user groups. Every household (including indigenous peoples) of the settlement are members of user groups.</p> <p>In both cases, there is a space to represent interests of indigenous peoples. The program supports in the functioning of such provisions.</p>	
e. Has a process been started or implemented to achieve their free, prior and informed consent [(FPIC)] to activities that might affect them (positively or negatively)?	No	<p>A FPIC guideline does not exist at the national level.</p> <p>The program has not carried out a formal FPIC process but, as described previously, has engaged and consulted with community stakeholders throughout the program and project management cycle and through the established community forest management governance structure, institutions and processes in order to achieve the widest possible consensus and buy-in from the community and its indigenous members.</p> <p>Currently WWF Nepal is working with the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities to develop a FPIC guideline for the scope of conservation.</p> <p>The Program supports the implementation of community forest operational plans, protected area management plans, and forest management plans. These plans are prepared by communities and stakeholders themselves. For example, the community forest operation plan is prepared starting from meetings engaging all households within that particular settlement. The activities proposed by those meetings are gathered and discussed in general assembly. General assembly then approves the operational plan. Environmental and social audits such as Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) are carried out before formulation of these plans.</p>	
f. Explain whether opportunities are considered to provide benefits for indigenous peoples? If yes, is it ensured that this is done in		<p>Indigenous people have equal opportunity to place their needs and demand during project design phase. Those demands are reflected in CBO's plan. The project supports the intervention identified in those plans.</p>	

<p>a way agreed with them and is culturally appropriate and gender inclusive?</p>		<p>In most cases, the primary beneficiaries of the project are indigenous nationalities. For example, to improve the resiliency of Mushahar indigenous community, separate interventions were implemented.</p> <p>The program provides support to Indigenous communities for cultural promotion such as through their homestay enterprises. The program also supports empowerment of Tharu woman with specific income generating activities such as turmeric farming.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusion of WWF Safeguards Reviewer</b></p>			
<p><b>Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD</b> <b>What are the main impacts (positive and negative) for IPs in the project area?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b><i>There are 9 indigenous communities in the Terai Arc Landscape and they are among the potentially affected peoples. There are no truly anticipated negative impacts on these communities, but further engagement does require additional sensitivity, consideration, and respect in WWF- Nepal's engagement. Per review of the Involuntary Resettlement standard, no anticipated restriction of access is anticipated but due diligence in ensuring this is necessary.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Are mitigation measures plans prepared? Have they been disclosed?</b></p>	<p><b><i>No mitigation plans have been prepared nor are they required. However, as part of the documentation on the community forest management framework referenced in the Involuntary Resettlement section, WWF- Nepal should provide particular attention for documenting how the framework operates in particular regarding indigenous peoples. Specifically, documentation should explain how IPs are included in discussions and what their role is in decision-making. It would particularly be useful to provide an explanation as to how this process constitutes the "consent" of these communities, should restrictions at a future date necessitate full FPIC from these communities.</i></b></p>		
<p><b>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been developed, implemented, or considered in project design and budgeted? If so, what are they?</b></p>	<p><b><i>These communities are already engaged in the project work and the community mechanisms governing community forests. There is active consultation and discussions with these communities.</i></b></p>		

	Landscape/ Seascape Lead		WWF Safeguards Reviewer
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	Answer question, provide further detail where relevant	Comments, additional considerations
<b>Standard on Natural Habitat</b>			
1. Are any project activities proposed within or adjacent to <b>areas of high biodiversity value or critical habitats</b> , including legally protected areas, areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities? Is there a risk of causing adverse impacts to biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems? Consider activities such as infrastructure works (e.g. watch tower, facilities, access roads, small scale water infrastructure) or ecotourism activities and impacts from inadequate waste disposal, disturbance of nesting sites, slope erosion through hiking trails etc. Consider both construction and use phases.	Yes	<p>Most of the project interventions are in high biodiversity areas and critical corridors including protected areas.</p> <p>There is no risk of adverse impacts on biodiversity as the project is designed to conserve and manage biodiversity.</p> <p>Small scale infrastructure works (forest roads, outpost/guard posts, watch towers) are constructed by implementing authorities based on their approved management plans. Protected area management plan is approved after it is screened through initial environmental examination (IEE) process. For certain adverse impacts, such as pollution by tourism and visitor disturbances to wildlife, protected areas have codes of conduct which they monitor and enforce. Program support helps to ensure that those code of conducts are followed.</p> <p>Nature guides, waste management, hospitality, language trainings and exposure visits and basic amenities/facilities improvement support are provided by the Program to the homestay communities in an effort to extend best practices to communities and community forests.</p>	WWF-Nepal obviously carries out work in areas of high biodiversity value. The location alone is insufficient to trigger this safeguard.
2. Is there a risk of significant adverse impacts on biodiversity <b>outside above described areas</b> (PA etc.), through infrastructure development, plantation development (even small scale) or other activities e.g. through the removal of vegetation cover, creation of soil erosion and/or debris deposition	No	The Program supports similar activities as those described above for areas outside of formal protected areas.	

downslope, or other disturbances? Consider both construction and use phases.			
3. Is there a risk that the project might create other pathways for spreading invasive species (e.g. through creation of corridors, import of commodities, tourism or movement of boats)?	No	Program interventions support removal and management of invasive species in corridors and critical areas.	
4. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water flows through extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water (e.g., through dams, reservoirs, canals, levees, river basin developments, groundwater extraction) or through other activities and as such alter existing stream flow and reduce seasonal availability of water resources?	No	The Program does not support large infrastructure works in the landscape. However, small-scale water supply facilities through ground water extraction is supported for households and wildlife by installation of tube wells and construction of water holes. The Program also supports creation of recharge ponds to maintain ground water.	
5. Is there a risk that the project affects water quality of surface or groundwater (e.g., contamination, increase of salinity) through irrigation/ agricultural run-off, water extraction practices, influence of livestock or other activities?	No	There is no risk to water quality of surface or groundwater. The Program does not promote use of chemicals, but rather works on reducing pollution in surface water and encourages individual households to adopt integrated pest management to reduce contamination.	
6. If the project promotes the use of resources from natural habitats (such as timber or non-timber forest products), is there a risk that this might lead to unsustainable use? How will this be prevented?	Yes	The program promotes sustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products. There is a potential risk of unsustainable extraction of resources, but the program supports the preparation of business and operational plans to ensure sustainable harvest. The program also supports building the capacity of communities (through local resource persons and regular trainings and coaching) and government for sustainable production and supply.	WWF has put in place project activities that support sustainable harvesting of timber and NTFPs. Unless it is only through WWF's intervention that communities are having access to or the ability to harvest products, this risk is not specific to WWF's activities. To the contrary, WWF's

			<p>project work is mitigating an existing threat.</p> <p>However, if the potential for harvesting (in any fashion) only takes places with WWF's direct facilitation/ intervention, then WWF would need to document their approach to capacity building around sustainable practices and monitoring.</p>
7. Will the project involve the application of pesticides, fungicides or herbicides (biocides) or of integrated pest management?	No	Program interventions do not include promotion of pesticides, fungicides or herbicides. The Program supports communities for application of integrated pest management.	
8. Is there a risk that the project could give rise to an increase of incoming migration and population increase, which could put a strain on the existing natural resource base?	No	Since the program supports small scale development interventions, there is no risk these would give rise to significant incoming population migration. However, because of productivity of land and easy access and availability of state services, there is increasing trend of in-migration in TAL area	
<b>Conclusion of WWF Safeguards Reviewer</b>			
<b>Policy should be triggered? Yes / No / TBD If yes, explain</b>	No	Unless the threat of harvesting and exploitation of timber and NTFPs existing only as a direct result of WWF's project activities or if the activities greatly magnifies the risk, there is no need to trigger this safeguard.	
<b>Are any Environment Management Plan/s need to be prepared?</b>			
<b>Are these management plans part of the project design and is there sufficient budget for their implementation</b>			

	Landscape/ Seascape Lead		WWF Safeguards Reviewer
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	Answer question, provide further detail where relevant	Comments, additional considerations
<b>Standard on Community Health and Security</b>			
1. Is there a risk that the project would stir or exacerbate conflicts among communities, groups or individuals (e.g. by increasing resource competition when promoting economic opportunities, strengthening rights of selected groups)?	No	<p>No risk of conflict has been observed over the life of the program despite positive benefits from the program being targeted to indigenous communities and marginalized groups in promoting economic opportunities. Positive discrimination in benefit sharing is done as per the legal provisions contained in the community forest guideline, which allocates 35% of community forest user group income for poor, woman, Dalits, indigenous nationalities.</p> <p>The program encourages strong community engagement in decision making processes related to resource use and in the identification of economic opportunities and selection of beneficiaries with meaningful participation of all households. In order to avoid any risk of elite capture, the program encourages processes such as endorsement of annual plans of CBOs by their general assemblies and conducting public hearings and public auditing annually to review program results.</p>	
2. Is there a risk of violence directed toward project-affected communities? Consider in particular risks prevalent in a conflict or post-conflict context and dynamics of recent or expected migration (e.g. displaced people).	No	No risk of violence is perceived.	
3. Is there a probability that the project creates conditions (e.g., stagnant water bodies) that expose the community to health issues such as water-borne, water-based, vector-borne diseases, and communicable diseases?	No	There is no probability that the program will cause community exposure to health issues through changes in water infrastructure or management such as water-borne, water-based, vector-borne diseases, and communicable diseases.	

		The Program supports introduction of small water holes and recharge ponds in buffer zones. These impoundments are small scale and their location (for construction) is determined by the community. They are generally located far from the settlement area.	
4. Does the project increase risk of human-wildlife conflicts including the risk of injury or loss of human life?	Yes	<p>Program interventions are focused on increasing populations of endangered wildlife species. In the long run, this will increase the risk of incidences of human/wildlife conflicts in corridors and buffer zones.</p> <p>The program has designed and implemented preventive measures (e.g. predator proof corral, fences, trenches) and curative measures (national and local relief funds and scholarships for the children of the HWC victims) to support communities to mitigate and cope with such conflicts. The program has also supported the right to education by providing school bus transport to children to ensure their safety while going to school through prime wildlife habitat.</p> <p>The program also has been supporting and training community-based Rapid Response Teams as first line responders in cases of human/wildlife conflict.</p> <p>The program conducts periodic monitoring of the effectiveness of such measures and designs new interventions to address context specific risks.</p>	<p>Increasing populations of key wildlife species inherently increases the potential for Human Wildlife Conflict. WWF-Nepal has carried out work focused on increasing these wildlife populations hand-in-hand with a host of actions to mitigate the threats it creates. The sustainability of these efforts is important given the enduring nature of these potential impacts.</p>
5. Does the project directly or indirectly engage or work with security personnel (including forest guards) that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	Yes	<p>The program directly and indirectly works with security personnel. It primarily supports forest guards and law enforcement agencies to strengthen their capacity on wildlife management, tourism promotion and crime control.</p> <p>All enforcement actions by different agencies are carried out under Forest Act and National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. Department of Forests and</p>	<p>Engagement and support to law enforcement personnel does create a body of risk for communities and requires WWF's due consideration and oversight to ensure</p>

		<p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife lead the enforcement actions under these acts. Program support goes directly to National Parks and District/Division Forest Offices. National Parks and District Forest Offices mobilize that support and channel it to other law enforcement agencies (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Nepal Army assigned to protected areas) for the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training on biodiversity conservation and safety from wildlife, legal provisions for forest and wildlife resource management, human rights-based approach and social policies.</li> <li>2. Mobilization support: vehicle, fuel, maintenance and logistics during travel.</li> </ol> <p>Program resources supporting informant networks are managed by the Protected Areas and District Forest Offices themselves.</p> <p>Program resources supporting community-based forest guards are managed by the community forest user groups themselves.</p> <p>To minimize the risk to safety of communities and/or individuals and staff, training on Human Rights Based Approach, National commitments on social policies and WWF's social policies has been conducted. In addition, training on occupation health and safety, including wildlife behaviour, is also supported by the program in support of the welfare of rangers and security personnel.</p> <p>Program support is tailored to the different categories of rangers and the different functions they perform. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Civilian rangers: the program supports training on habitat management, species conservation, tourism</li> </ol>	<p>that its support enables effective law enforcement and protection of human rights.</p> <p>In its description of project activities, WWF-Nepal identifies two areas of work that require consideration of risks mitigation. First, WWF-Nepal provides a variety of support in the form of training, capacity, and equipment to a variety of types of rangers. It is essential that these forms of support enable greater safety for those engaged in enforcement and greater cohesion to human rights and humane treatment of local communities, including but not limited to vulnerable groups and IPs. Appropriate mechanisms for doing this include integration of property safety training as well as training in human rights, non-violent tactics, conflict resolution into the broader training package for rangers.</p>
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		<p>management, buffer zone management and park-people relationships.</p> <p>b. Nepal army staff assigned to protected areas receive training on biodiversity conservation and park-people relations.</p> <p>c. Community volunteer rangers are recruited by community forests and receive program support for training on forest and wildlife survey and monitoring, forest operational plan preparation, and participatory natural resources management.</p>	<p>Support for efforts that facilitate improved relations between rangers and the community would also be beneficial.</p> <p>The second risk area is WWF-Nepal's support for informant mechanisms. These efforts need to be done carefully and in compliance with both Nepal's legal framework and with relevant WWF guidelines. Efforts need to be carried out to ensure protection of informants, including confidentiality, and that the system does not create conflict within the community.</p>
<p>6. Is there a risk that the project exposes communities to both accidental and natural hazards, particularly where structural elements of the project or program are accessible to members of the affected community, or where their failure could result in injury to the community? Consider also examples such as small-scale infrastructure or other built facilities (watch tower, water infrastructure etc.), as well as changing flows into dams or other water infrastructure.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The program does not support large scale infrastructure work. It does provide support for construction of guard posts, watch towers, community shelter houses, and office buildings of CBOs.</p> <p>The program has a mandatory requirement for the executing agency/institutions to employ certified construction experts in the infrastructure design and construction phases. It also monitors the use of safety and security measures during the construction.</p> <p>For any small infrastructure support provided to the communities such as wood processing units (e.g. community sawmill), fire control equipment and tree harvesting equipment - training on occupation health</p>	

		and safety and safety equipment is provided. The program also has a good partnership with trade union groups for the promotion of wider awareness and capacity development on occupation health and safety.	
7. Is there risk that the project will reduce local air quality through the generation of dust, burning of wastes, or using fossil fuels and other materials in improperly ventilated areas?	No	The program does not support interventions which contribute significant production of dust and smokes that reduce local air quality.	
<b>Conclusion of WWF Safeguards Reviewer</b>			
<b>Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD</b> <b>What are the main impacts in the project area?</b>	Yes	The provision of training, and various types of capacity including planning and material equipment to law enforcement inherently provides opportunities for abuse. Additionally, WWF-Nepal needs to provide strict review and due diligence over support to informant operations and ensure they comply with local laws and WWF procedures related to collection of information.  There is also a risk of heightened possibility of Human Wildlife Conflict created by supporting a growing wildlife population.	
<b>Are mitigation measures plans prepared? Have they been disclosed?</b>		WWF has already created extensive mitigation measures around Human Wildlife Conflict and given some consideration to support for law enforcement. Further documentation and planning is required and would need to be disclosed.	
<b>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been developed, implemented, or considered in project design and budgeted? If so, what are they?</b>		WWF has integrated Human Wildlife Conflict into its existing project portfolio and fully budgeted these efforts. Additional considerations and measures to mitigate threats from support for law enforcement support will likely need to be added. Changes to training curricula in particular are essential.	