

WWF Nepal – Terai Arc Landscape Stakeholder Engagement Plan

March 2022

Background

The TAL program operates with a holistic approach for ecosystem conservation through multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination at federal, provincial, and local levels. The TAL strategy aims to enhance governance mechanisms at each level through institutional arrangements across stakeholders working in the landscape. It starts with participatory planning through the inclusion of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), implementation based on community ownership, and monitoring of progress and process engaging multiple stakeholders. The Terai Arc Landscape is home to 7.5 million people, predominantly ethnic groups, and Indigenous communities. There are 45 different ethnic groups and Indigenous communities, such as Tharu, Chepang, Bankariya, Bote, Majhi, Danuwar, and Sonaha (TAL Strategy 2015-2025).

In the formation of the first strategic plan for the TAL, WWF Nepal was a core partner of the government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Environment or MoFE (the then called Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation) in identifying and analyzing key stakeholders. The TAL program is governed by a Program Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary, MoFE, which reviews and approves the broader policy related issues that guide program design and implementation. A Program Executive Committee co-chaired by the Director Generals (DGs) of Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), along with representatives of MoFE and WWF, designs, plans, and reviews the execution of the program. Under these governance bodies, the Program Coordination Committee, State Coordination Committee, and project level mechanisms facilitate the implementation of the program on-the-ground. Also, at site level are Protected Area (PA) coordination mechanisms chaired by the Chief Conservation Officers of the respective PAs. Implementation partners include PA offices, Divisional Forest offices, Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), Buffer Zone User Committees (BZUCs) and Users' Network, and other NGOs.

The WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) reflects WWF's full commitment to international human rights instruments including the UNDRIP and ILO 169. In particular, WWF's standards on *Community [Stakeholder Engagement](#)* and *[Disclosure](#)* commit WWF to engage with stakeholders as follows:

- Stakeholder identification, analysis and engagement begins as early as possible in the design of activities, is carried out on a continuous basis, and as new environmental or social risks may arise.
- WWF aims to identify and analyze the socio-political-economic situation of project-affected people, and local organizations that represent them. This includes analysis of rights, claims and relations of differing stakeholders, and initial stakeholder views on conservation aims, which help to inform the design of activities and course corrections.
- Stakeholder engagement is carried out in a culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory, inclusive and gender-responsive manner. For projects that may affect the rights, interests, lands, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples, their Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) is ensured. (See also [Standard on Indigenous Peoples](#)).
- Engagement actions are targeted to the audience and consider the different access and communications needs of various groups and individuals, especially those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, such as women, youth, people with disabilities, and ethnic minority groups.
- Stakeholder consultations are based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, objective, and easily accessible information in a reasonable timeframe that allows for adequate participation.
- As part of consultations, information on activities and their risks will be disclosed through the landscape risk categorization memo, Environmental and Social Mitigation Framework (ESMF), this Stakeholder Engagement Plan and, in the future, annual safeguards compliance memos. These documents will be disclosed for at least 45 days for purposes of consultation and feedback.

Stakeholders Consulted

WWF's Stakeholder Engagement standard reflects WWF's commitment to meaningful, effective, and informed stakeholder collaboration with potentially affected communities in the design, implementation, evaluation, and learning process of projects to improve social and environmental outcomes. WWF is committed to ensuring that the stakeholder consultations are truly representative and inclusive.

Stakeholder consultation was carried out along with environmental and social mitigation framework planning process. Inputs into the development of stakeholder engagement plan were gathered through consultations with key interested actors in the TAL. A diverse cross-section of IPLCs were identified through mapping exercises for participation in the consultations, including Indigenous Peoples, highly vulnerable and other marginalized groups. Groups engaged in the development of this plan included WWF Nepal, TAL filed Program staff, members of the TAL Project Coordination Committee, Park Wardens and staff, District level Forest Department offices, Local Government officials, Buffer Zone User Groups and Committees, Community Forest User Groups, Community Forest Coordination Committees, Bote Indigenous Peoples Representatives, Associations (National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Federation of Community Forest User Groups, Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association), the Dalit Network, and Civil Society Organizations. The consultations provided needed information in elaborating and explaining the risks, assessing the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures, and generating new insights.

Acronyms

BZ	Buffer Zone
BZCF	Buffer Zone Community Forest
BZMC	Buffer Zone Management Committee
BZUC	Buffer Zone User Committee
BZUG	Buffer Zone User Group
CBAPU	Community-based Anti-Poaching Unit
CIB	Central Investigation Bureau
CBO	Community-based Organization
CF	Community Forest
CFCC	Community Forest Coordination Committee
CFUG	Community Forestry User Group
CFOP	Community Forest Operational Plan
CoC	Code of Conduct
DFO	Divisional Forest Office
DG	Director General
DNPWC	Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation
DoFSC	Department of Forest and Soil Conservation
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESSF	Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework
FPCR-N	Forum for Protection of Consumer's Rights, Nepal
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
IP	Indigenous People
IPLC	Indigenous People and Local Communities
MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission, Nepal
NTFPs	Non-timber Forest Products
OP	Operational Plan
PA	Protected Area
RRT	Rapid Response Team
SoP	Standard operating Procedures
TAL	Terai Arc Landscape
URSA	Universal Rangers Support Alliance
WCCC	Wildlife Crime Coordination Committee
WCCB	Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder Groups	Level and Sector	Rights-holder or duty-bearer?	Stakeholder Interests in the Landscape	Historical Engagement with WWF and Issues Raised
<p><i>Federal government entities (Ministry of Forest and Environment, MoFE, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, DNPWC, and Department of Forest, and Soil Conservation, DoFSC)</i></p>	<p>National government</p>	<p>Duty-bearer</p>	<p>These federal entities have an interest in an enabling environment for institutionalizing landscape programs across the federal, provincial, and local levels. MoFE is apex body with the mandate to look after, and with significant interest in, forest and biodiversity conservation in Nepal.</p> <p>TAL interventions inside protected areas and buffer zones are led by DNPWC and those outside protected areas coordinated by DoFSC. These are also the regulating bodies responsible for mobilizing law enforcement institutions (CIB, Nepal Army) related to conservation law enforcement.</p>	<p>Before 1993, WWF coordinated with MoFE, DNPWC and DoFSC on an as-needed basis, particularly on a project basis.</p> <p>MoFE and WWF Nepal have had a longstanding programmatic relationship currently guided by a scope of cooperation (SoC) outlining landscape conservation works across the country. Updated every 5 years, the SoC outlines programmatic scoping including the proposed budget for TAL in said period, institutional arrangements, and financial commitments. MoFE formulated the first long-term TAL Strategy in 2004-2014 with technical and financial support from WWF. Learning from first strategic plan implementation, MoFE formulated the second TAL strategy and action plan 2015-25.</p> <p>DNPWC and DoFSC are lead executive agencies along with their district/PAs based official units. This structure helps to take advantage of complementary institutional capabilities of DNPWC, DOFSC and WWF in the landscape program development and implementation.</p> <p>The first SOC between MoFE and WWF Nepal was signed in 2006 and has been updated 3 times since then. WWF signed the current SoC in January 2022 for the period 2022-2027. Based on experience, WWF and MoFE developed a joint implementation modality in which the government takes the lead in the on the ground implementation, whereas WWF deputizes co-manager and finance personnel.</p> <p>Key issues raised by DNPWC, DoFSC during program meetings have included building wildlife management capacity outside of protected areas and on making HWC management program more effective.</p>
<p><i>Provincial Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest, and Environment (MoITFE)</i></p>	<p>Provincial level government</p>	<p>Duty-bearer</p>	<p>MoITFE has the mandate to make province-level policies and to do provincial level planning. They have an interest in enabling corridor and connectivity restoration, wildlife protection, human-wildlife conflict management and sustainable forest management outside of PAs.</p>	<p>The provincial Ministry of Forests and Environment¹ is de-facto member of the Project Steering Committee (formed at central level under the chair of secretary of MoFE) in the TAL program.</p> <p>WWF began engagement with MoITFE in 2019, after the formalization of the provincial government in 2019. Prior to its formation, WWF Nepal used to work</p>

¹ State Ministry may have different name e.g., in Lumbini state.

				<p>with district level authorities. Key issues raised by MoITFE / Provincial government relate primarily to program coordination and leveraging of resources.</p> <p>WWF also has some engagement with the tourism ministry (Ministry of culture, tourism and civil aviation) at the federal level.</p>
<p><i>Conservation Law Enforcement Agencies</i></p> <p>(e.g., CIB - the Nepal Police- and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau - WCCB)</p>	National government	Duty-bearer	<p>CIB has a division, Environmental Crime, with the specific authority to investigate wildlife crime in Nepal. CIB has an interest in seeing wildlife crime reduced throughout Nepal.</p> <p>WCCB facilitates inter-agency collaboration for collective action on wildlife crime control at district level and protected areas.</p>	<p>WWF has given grants to CIB since 2014. The latest MoU was signed between CIB and WWF in April 2021. That MoU formalizes the comprehensive, long-term partnership existing between the CIB and WWF to curb wildlife crimes in Nepal. Under the MoU, WWF provides supports to the Environmental Crimes division of CIB to control wildlife crime. CIB capacity to investigate and prosecute crimes related to the illegal killing and trade of endangered wildlife is strengthened through this support. WWF provides financial and technical support to the CIB for capacity building and innovation through improved technologies for effective wildlife crime control.</p> <p>WWF has been supporting WCCB with institutional support to lead inter-agency collaboration (e.g., DNPWC, Protected Area offices, Division Forest offices). WWF began this engagement in 2010 with WCCB. The WCCB secretariat organizes regular meetings (monthly, biannual, and annual) in which WWF participates. During these meetings members discuss requirements, concerns, and priorities. Based on these discussions, WWF attempts to find resources to support WCCB priorities.</p>
<p><i>Southeast Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</i></p>	Regional government	Duty-bearer	<p>DNPWC/MOFE hosts the secretariat of SAWEN, which seeks to facilitate inter-government collaboration for collective action on wildlife crime at regional scale. There are 8 south Asian countries in this forum.</p>	<p>SAWEN has been supported by WWF on capacity building and regional networking. WWF was engaged with SAWEN since its establishment (2010). Recognizing WWF Nepal as one of the leading conservation organizations, SAWEN invites WWF to attend their meetings.</p>
<p><i>Protected Area Office (PAOs) and Division Forest Offices (DFOs)</i></p>	Protected Area / District level government offices	Duty-bearer	<p>PAOs are federal representations with designated authority to operate in PAs and buffer zones. Their mandate and key interests related to wildlife protection, sustainable habitat management and HWC management. DFOs have jurisdictional authority to manage resources outside of PAs, and they carry out this mandate under the leadership of MoITFE at the Provincial level. DFOs operate in national forests and community forests and have interests in wildlife protection and forest management. PAOs and DFOs implement a range of conservation interventions – habitat management, protection of plant and animals, human-wildlife conflict management. PAOs and DFOs support biodiversity conservation interventions implemented through community-based organizations.</p> <p>All front-line staff engaging communities work under the supervision of PAOs and DFOs. PAO and DFOs are relatively powerful relative to community members, whose collective rights to forest resource collection and use may be affected if the enforcement work carried out by PAO and DFO staff fails to</p>	<p>PAOs (PNP, CNP, BNP, BaNP, ShNP and KCA) have received financial and technical assistance from WWF since it began working in Nepal.</p> <p>WWF started its work with PAs in Nepal since 1967. After the establishment of the WWF Nepal office in 1993, we started working with PAOs and DFOs.</p>

			fully adhere to the existing policies and guidelines on forest and wildlife protection. In the context of the community forest operational plan preparation, PAOs and DFOs facilitate participatory processes – including extensive consultation with forest-dependent and Indigenous Peoples – such as forest mapping and finalizing of forest protection, management, and utilization provisions. During implementation, PAOs and DFOs have the primary responsibility to manage HWC affecting communities, i.e., to take timely action to mitigate the conflict situation and avoid potential retaliation from other stakeholders including locals.	
<i>Local Government Unit (Municipality)</i>	Local government	Duty-bearers	Local governments are primarily concerned and interested about development agendas.	WWF engagement with local government is not formally started and it is yet to formalize. However, WWF does some engagement of local governments on issues of common interest.
<i>Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Organizations (CSOs/IPOs, such as FECOFUN, NEFIN, HIMAWANTI)</i>	National-level non-governmental civil society organizations.	Neither duty-bearers nor rights-holder, although they have a responsibility to respect human rights	These CSOs and IPOs represent collective voices and interests of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) among policy/decision-makers and other influential stakeholders at the central level. Their primary mandate and interest is to defend IPLC rights over their territories and natural resources therein, including resource management and use.	Generally, WWF Nepal supports CSOs with institutional capacity building. For the last decade, FECOFUN was consortium partner for the Hariyo Ban Program funded by USAID and managed by WWF to support sustainable forest management work and biodiversity conservation through local CSO capacity development and community mobilization through a framework of inclusion and social justice. On a case-by-case project basis, FECOFUN is a sub-grantee NGO partner on the ground focusing on implementing community forest policy and advocacy work, including Indigenous Peoples’ rights.
<i>Community-based organizations (CBOS, such as BZUCs, CFUGs)</i>	Local level civil society organized in government-recognized institutions.	The institutions are duty-bearers, and their members are rightsholders	<p>CBOs that are working in conservation are interested in sustainable management of natural resources and equitable benefit sharing. These CBOs support the wellbeing of communities and sustainable use of ecosystem services. CBOs have a democratically elected executive body, so they are accountable towards their communities’ households. Conservation CBOs’ specific mandates vary, but broadly they seek to implement conservation interventions to create community stewardship of natural resources.</p> <p>For example, CBAPUs are interested in the voluntary engagement of youth in awareness on anti-poaching, habitat monitoring as citizen scientists, as rapid-response team (RRT) members in community-based relief mechanisms and helping community members keep calm so to avoid any retaliation to wildlife in HWC cases. CBAPUs are relatively dependent upon more powerful stakeholders, such as government and non-government organizations with which they collaborate, to address in a timely fashion community safety and security issues created by HWC cases.</p>	<p>BZUCs, CFCCS and CFUGs have been continuous partners in WWF’s conservation program implementation on the ground since 2001. As sub-grantees, they work on implementing key areas of work, such as forest management, livelihood programs in indigenous communities, HWC mitigation activities, and conservation awareness.</p> <p>WWF encourages community ownership through regular institutional capacity development support, including but not limited to supporting cross-learning across CBOs in the Terai Arc Landscape.</p>
Indigenous peoples	Indigenous communities	Rights-holders	IPs are interested in their well-being and sustainable livelihoods, which in large part depends upon securing access to resources and customary rights over the forest and other natural resources to sustain their livelihood and economy.	WWF Nepal has been engaging with indigenous communities since establishment.

Local communities	Local communities	Rights-holders	Local communities are interested in their well-being and sustainable economic development, access to resources, social and cultural needs. Local communities are also interested in use of natural resources.	Natural resource stewardship of local communities has been a crucial component of WWF's program implementation from the very beginning in Nepal. Since the establishment of WWF Nepal, local communities have been engaged in conservation work and especially with the rise of community centered conservation in the late 1990's. Their level of engagement and participation has evolved to a point where WWF is exploring models such as people managed "community-based conservation areas". WWF has been engaging with local communities throughout the project management cycle, including during problem identification, designing, and implementing activities, monitoring results and capturing learnings.
<i>Human rights organizations, (National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and Forum for Consumer Rights Protection-Nepal FPCR-N)</i>	National level government body and national non-governmental organizations	Duty bearers (NHRC) and neither duty-bearers nor rightsholders (other institutions, see left)	<p>The National Human Rights Commission was established as an independent statutory government body in 2000. The Commission is mandated to ensure the respect, promotion, and protection of human rights, launch inquiries and investigations into alleged human rights violations and can recommend legal or departmental action against human rights violators in Nepal. They share an interest in the realization of human rights for all Nepalese, including the most vulnerable Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, etc.</p> <p>Forum for Consumer Rights Protection-Nepal (FPCR-N) is a national non-government organization, which has been operating in Nepal since 1995 in the fields of consumer protection, fair and competitive market, good governance, and self-sustained economics. FPCR-N played a major role to ensure consumer rights in a human right and fundamental Rights in the constitution of Nepal. FPCR-N has been working in the fields of consumer protection, fair and competitive markets, good governance, and Nepal's self-sustained economy.</p>	<p>WWF Nepal made a proactive decision to engage with National Human Rights Commission since 2019 to work collaboratively to promote human rights-based approaches in conservation.</p> <p>Also in 2019, WWF began to engage with FPCR-N, and has an agreement to provide capacity building and training on right based approaches in the conservation sector.</p>
<i>Media organizations</i>	Press (civil society) at all levels	Neither duty-bearers nor rightsholders, although they have a responsibility to respect human rights	They key interest of the media is to provide information in a transparent manner to the public. Media organizations are powerful influencers who can help raise awareness on conservation issues important to WWF, including by sharing real-time information on HWC and wildlife poaching. In addition, the media helps to elevate peoples' voices to authorities (duty-bearers) and to disseminate WWF's and authorities' messages to the people.	Since the founding of WWF Nepal, WWF has collaborated with the media to successfully disseminate success stories and reporting on conservation issues. WWF often mobilizes the media for conservation awareness, covering conservation stories along with issues, opportunities, and outreach. In 1996, WWF launched a conservation award for journalists to recognize outstanding reporting on environmental and wildlife issues.
<i>Private sector companies (e.g., tourism sector)</i>	Local to national private sector	Neither duty bearers nor rightsholders, although they have a responsibility to respect human rights	The private sector is interested to run profitable businesses. Some businesses are more aligned with conservation values, such as ecotourism, non-timber products companies, and may have a particular interest in both environmental sustainability linked to financial sustainability.	WWF Nepal engages with the private sector mostly to promote sustainable livelihoods of natural resource dependent communities. We collaborate with this sector to promote green enterprises and alternative livelihood options. WWF has effectively leveraged private sector finance to support community-based livelihood programs, such as homestays, coffee enterprise, essential oil production. WWF is also collaborating with the private sector to promote youth-led green entrepreneurship opportunities which can be win-win situations for the communities as well as the private companies.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Groups	Level of Participation at which WWF will engage this group's members throughout the project cycle	Minimum Frequency of Engagement	Kind of information ² to be disclosed throughout the project cycle	How vulnerable / marginalized groups' rights / priorities inform WWF's approach with this stakeholder group, participate in activities and/or directly benefit from outcomes	Indicator(s) Associated with the Stakeholder Engagement Process and Outcomes	Means of Verification	Responsible WWF Party
<i>Federal government entities (Ministry of Forest and Environment, MoFE, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, DNPWC, and Department of Forest, and Soil Conservation, DoFSC)</i>	<p>Active participation (collaborate)</p> <p>For most projects that are implemented in TAL, WWF collaborates with DNPWC and DoFSC through letters of support and/or endorsement. WWF Nepal trains landscape support units under the planning, monitoring, and coordination division in MoFE to share best practices and institutionalize landscape management practices.</p> <p>The MoFE Secretary is the Chair and Planning Head of the Program Steering Committee (PSC), while the Director Generals of DNPWC and DoFSC are Co-Chairs of Program Executive Committee. Deputy Director Generals of DNPWC and DoFSC are Co-Chairs of the Program Coordination Committee (PCC), which is responsible for day-to-day operational management.</p> <p>At least two joint field monitoring visits are organized between WWF, DNPWC, DoFSC, and MoFSC each year to review implementation progress and plan for the coming year. Joint monitoring visits and PCC/PEC decisions are shared and feed into policy discourse on community based natural resource management in landscape.</p>	<p>As needed</p> <p>e.g., for MoFE at least once a year for PSC and PEC, twice a year; monthly for PCC</p>	All -1, 2 3, 4, 5 and 6	WWF Nepal, along with DNPWC and DoFSC through PCC and PEC, works to ensure the social policies and benefit-sharing mechanisms are implemented and functioning to deliver equitable benefits to vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as Indigenous Peoples (IP) and marginal communities. This happens through: PEC recommendations in project planning (resources, sites, threats to address in short-term/long term); and DoFSC and DNPWC informing WWF about any priorities and needs in landscape management, e.g., Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC).	# of decisions made in PSC, PEC, PCC to address integrated landscape management	<p>PSC/PEC/ PCC decision minutes</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p>	<p>Head of Conservation Program</p> <p>Landscape Lead</p>
<i>Provincial Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest, and Environment (MoITFE)</i>	<p>Active participation (collaborate)</p> <p>Provincial Director of Forests is Chair of Provincial Coordination Committee (PrCC), which coordinates the TAL program at Provincial Level. WWF engages with MoITFE in design phase, during implementation of activities and conducts joint monitoring of implemented activities on the ground.</p>	<p>At least twice a year for PrCC, and as needed</p>	All -1, 2 3, 4, 5 and 6	<p>MoITFE will inform WWF about priorities and needs if any in landscape management.</p> <p>PrCC gets updated on the ground implementation of activities.</p>		<p>Meeting minutes</p>	<p>Landscape Lead/ TAL Manager</p>

² WWF may disclose one or more of these six kinds of information to stakeholder groups: (1) landscape/project objectives, strategies and/or activities; (2) social policies/commitments and safeguards documents, e.g., the grievance mechanism; (3) activity risks and mitigation plans; (4) landscape/project data or metrics; (5) landscape/project results and lessons; and/or (6) policy or issue positions. For more information about WWF's disclosure commitments, see the disclosure requirements in the Stakeholder Engagement Standard.

<i>Conservation Law Enforcement Agencies</i> <i>e.g., CIB (Nepal Police) and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)</i>	Consultative (involve) WWF engages CIB to strengthen their capacities and provide equipment. WWF involves WCCB members in wildlife crime control by prioritizing intervention areas through an annual planning meeting and periodic meetings depending on the severity of crimes.	Yearly / planning review	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	WWF supports law enforcement training and awareness raising on IP and human rights, community volunteers' mobilization and their safety and security.	# of trainings, awareness raising and sharing meetings with law enforcement agencies and the % in which human rights were discussed	Meeting minutes Reports	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Lead/ ESSF Specialist
<i>Southeast Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</i>	Consultative (involve) Recognizing WWF Nepal as one of the leading conservation organizations, SAWEN invites WWF Nepal in their meeting. On some occasions, SAWEN requests technical and financial support from WWF Nepal.	Yearly planning review	1, 2, 5, 6	WWF supports law enforcement training and awareness raising on IP and human rights, community volunteers' mobilization and their safety and security.			Wildlife Crime control lead Support from landscape lead
<i>Protected Area Office (PAOs)/ Division Forest Offices (DFOs)</i>	Active (i.e., empower) Include DFOs/PAs to identify conservation issues on the ground from their front-line staff and their operational space. Strengthen their capacities to be able to cope with shocks, e.g., manage emergencies during HWC in coordination with communities, and consider community/IP rights while implementing forest and wildlife protection.	Quarterly, including yearly planning and review	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Front line protection staff from DFOs, PAS are vulnerable to wildlife, fire, and other unplanned incidents. WWF supports training, provision of field gear, technology transfers, awareness raising on IP and human rights, community volunteers' mobilization and their safety and security.	# of events and trainings and the % in which human rights were discussed	Meeting minutes, reports	Landscape lead
<i>Local government units</i>	Consultative (consult)	NA	1, 2, 3, 5, 6		NA		
<i>Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Organizations (CSOs/IPOs, such as FECOFUN, NEFIN, HIMAWANTI)</i>	Consultative (consult) Consult during project development process, particularly on community livelihood programs. Ensure their participation in the annual planning/review meeting.	Yearly planning/ review	1, 2,3, 5, 6	WWF engages CSOs/IPOs in awareness raising about community/social issues in forest and wildlife conservation. Sometimes, WWF seeks their collaboration in community-based conservation and policy formulation process, e.g., formulation and facilitation of the HWC compensation mechanism.		Meeting minutes	Landscape lead
<i>Community-based organizations (CBOs, such as BZUCs, CFUGs)</i>	Active (collaborate and empower). WWF collaborates BZUCs and CFUGs (as local implementing units) throughout the project cycle on	quarterly	1,2,3,4,5	WWF raises awareness amongst CBOs on policy provisions about mandatory pro-poor representation of IPs, women, and the ultra-poor in CFUGs, BZUCs and CFCCs. In this way, WWF	# of meetings between CBOs (BZUC, CFUG)	Meeting minutes	Landscape lead

	problem identification, implementation, risk mitigation, monitoring, and evaluation. As a foundation for this collaboration, WWF exchanges with them around knowledge and results for local people and IPs in forest and wildlife conservation. WWF also empowers them through the provision of institutional support to enable the development of community leadership and Local Resource Persons specifically around CBNRM.			supports empowerment of these underrepresented groups so that they can better participate in the collaboration process, e.g., through general assemblies, public auditing, and executive committee meetings.			
<i>Indigenous peoples</i>	<p>Active participation (empower)</p> <p>WWF engages IPs throughout the project cycle, from assessing threats and opportunities of forest and wildlife conservation in landscape through capturing and sharing learnings. This involves active participation in project design to identify the needs of local communities who are most dependent on PAs/Forest Areas resources. Their voices are heard, and expectations are centrally considered in activity selection.</p> <p>WWF targets IPs for consultation during BZUC, CFUGs, CFCCs, other CBOs' general assemblies to ensure their voices are heard and to support evidence-based planning. E.g., Musahar-led and other IP-led BZUGs are always included in WWF consultations with BZUCs. WWF seeks to respect their traditional knowledge, practices, and innovations of relevance to addressing HWC, forest product supply, and community safety.</p> <p>Similarly, WWF includes IPs in focus-group discussions, key informant interviews, site visits and/or workshops as a key partner and beneficiary in project and program evaluations.</p>	At least quarterly	All (1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6)	<p>WWF Nepal engages with indigenous communities throughout the project. Additional efforts will be made to prioritize indigenous communities' engagement explicitly in annual planning process including in the monitoring and evaluation of projects and the overall program.</p> <p>For the most marginalized Ips, which include Sonaha, Bote, Musahar, Darai and Kuma, WWF makes special efforts to respect their rights in forest and river resources while implementing activities. For example, WWF seeks to support communities in culturally appropriate ways: Musahar communities- who are dependent on river resources/fishing - are supported with fishpond construction; while Bote communities are engaged in community-based homestay promotion in ways that boost their traditional food and dances.</p>	% change (# against baseline) in IP households receiving benefits from conservation interventions	<p>Meeting minutes</p> <p>Field visit reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p>	Landscape Lead with the support of ESSF specialist
<i>Local communities</i>	<p>Active participation (empower)</p> <p>Community-based conservation is a core approach in TAL work, particularly for communities living close to wildlife habitat and highly dependent on forest resources, so WWF Nepal continues its engagement with local communities throughout landscape activities. WWF engages local communities throughout the project cycle, from assessing threats and opportunities of forest and wildlife conservation in landscape through capturing and</p>	At least quarterly	All (1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6)	<p>WWF prioritizes engagement of marginalized groups in local communities explicitly in annual planning process through the final monitoring and evaluation of the program.</p> <p>WWF seeks to channel livelihood support to the most marginalized communities and groups through strengthening the institutional governance of local CBOs e.g., BZUCs and CFUGs.</p>	<p># of Indigenous executives of BZUCs and CFUGs (disaggregated by gender and age bracket) engaged in wildlife and forest protection and management</p> <p>% change (# against baseline) in IP households receiving</p>	<p>BZUC/ CFUG minutes</p> <p>Field visit reports</p> <p>Evaluation reports</p>	Landscape Lead with the support of ESSF specialist

	sharing learnings. This involves active participation in project design to identify the needs of local communities who are most dependent on PAs/Forest Areas resources. Their voices are heard, and expectations are centrally considered in activity selection.				benefits from conservation interventions		
<i>Human rights organizations (e.g, Amnesty International, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and FPCR-N)</i>	Consultative (involve) During the project design, WWF consults with human rights (HR) organizations to identify appropriate methods to raise awareness with conservation partners on human rights aspects, as per national policy and international HR law provisions.	Yearly	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	WWF consults with HR organizations for their expertise on human rights and social inclusion and seeks to apply these approaches in conservation initiatives to ensure respect for human rights of the most vulnerable groups in the landscape (see above).	# of meeting or consultations with HR organizations	Meeting minutes	ESSF specialist
<i>Media organizations</i>	Consultative (consult) WWF supports journalists in the dissemination of success stories. WWF also collaborates with them to provide information and contacts that enable more investigative stories from field.	Yearly	1, 2, 5, 6	WWF connects journalists with community members to amplify their voices through field visits. WWF shares information with representatives of the media about WWF Nepal's grievance mechanism; this strengthens the mechanism through which peoples' voices can reach WWF and other authorities.	# of WWF-supported media stories featuring IPLC voices	Reports	Landscape lead
<i>Private sector companies</i>	Active (collaborate) WWF carries out focus group discussions with private sector companies during the design process, particularly around livelihood improvement interventions and replication of successful community enterprises in community-private section collaboration. In addition, annual consultation meetings are held to identify potential support to HWC victims through enterprise establishment and development.	Yearly	1, 2, 3, 5	WWF engages with both companies and communities to raise awareness about the benefits of collaboration and to support networking amongst them, with the goal of increasing IPLC access to economic benefits through collaboration with and/or participation in the private sector.		Reports	Landscape lead