ADAPTATION FUND

# CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

## PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title of Project/Programme:** | GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions |
| **Country:** | Nepal |
| **Thematic Focal Area:** | Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems<br>Food Security<br>Ecosystem-Based Adaptation |
| **Type of Implementing Entity:** | National Implementing Entity |
| **Implementing Entity:** | National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal |
| **Executing Entities:** | Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment and National Trust for Nature Conservation |
| **Amount of Financing Requested:** | 9,927,750 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent) |

**Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only):** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Amount of Requested financing for PFG:** 150,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed:** Yes ☒ No ☐

*NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities*

**Stage of Submission:**

☒ This concept has been submitted before

☐ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 7/9/2026

**Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.**



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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **ADB** | Asian Development Bank |
| **AF** | Adaptation Fund |
| **AFB** | Adaptation Fund Board |
| **BRCRN** | Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal |
| **CBO** | Community-Based Organization |
| **CCKMC** | Climate Change Knowledge Management Center |
| **CCMD** | Climate Change Management Division |
| **CFUG** | Community Forest User Group |
| **CN** | Concept Note |
| **DRR** | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| **EbA** | Ecosystem-based Adaptation |
| **EC** | Estimated Cost |
| **EIA** | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| **E&S** | Environmental and Social |
| **ESMF** | Environmental and Social Management Framework |
| **ESMP** | Environmental and Social Management Plan |
| **ESP** | Environmental and Social Policy |
| **EWS** | Early Warning System |
| **FAO** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| **FPIC** | Free and Prior Informed Consent |
| **FTE** | Full-Time Equivalent |
| **GCF** | Green Climate Fund |
| **GDP** | Gross Domestic Product |
| **GESI** | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion |
| **GRM** | Grievance Redress Mechanism |
| **HEC** | Human Elephant Conflict |
| **HWC** | Human–Wildlife Conflict |
| **IE** | Implementing Entity |
| **IEE** | Initial Environmental Examination |
| **IP&LCs** | Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities |
| **M&E** | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| **MEL** | Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning |
| **MoAFE** | Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment |
| **MoALD** | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development |
| **MoU** | Memorandum of Understanding |
| **NAP** | National Adaptation Plan |
| **NbS** | Nature-based Solutions |
| **NBSAP** | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| **NDC** | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| **NGO** | Non-Governmental Organization |
| **NTFP** | Non-Timber Forest Product |
| **NTNC** | National Trust for Nature Conservation |
| **PES** | Payment for Ecosystem Services |
| **PFG** | Project Formulation Grant |
| **PMU** | Project Management Unit |
| **Q4I-MMEL** | Quality for Impact – Monitoring, Measurement, Evaluation and Learning |
| **SME** | Small and Medium-sized Enterprise |
| **SRF** | Strategic Results Framework |
| **ToC** | Theory of Change |
| **UNCBD** | United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity |
| **UNCCD** | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| **UNFCCC** | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |



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## Project/Programme Background and Context

1. **Problem Statement**: Koshi Province, a climatically and ecologically diverse region of Nepal, is experiencing intensifying climate-driven risks, ranging from erratic rainfall and glacial lake outburst floods to prolonged droughts and ecosystem degradation. These hazards are exacerbated by deforestation, unsustainable land use, declining water availability and limited institutional capacity. The intersection of fragile ecosystems, climate-sensitive livelihoods and deep-rooted social inequalities particularly affecting women, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized rural populations, makes Koshi one of Nepal's most vulnerable provinces to climate change. Without urgent and integrated adaptation action, the province's resilience, biodiversity and development gains will continue to erode.
2. **National Context**: Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan country with altitudes ranging 60–8848 masl. It hosts a wide range of ecosystems and communities with about 80% of the population in rural areas and 69% depending on subsistence agriculture (NSO 2023; Climate Risk Country Profile: Nepal 2021). Although Nepal has seen economic improvements with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita reaching USD 1467 in 2023/24 (MoF 2025), climate vulnerability remains a significant barrier to sustainable development. Agriculture and forestry contributed around 24.7% of GDP in 2023/24 (MoF 2025).
3. Land cover is dominated by forests (43.38%) followed by cropland (22.59%) and grasslands (14.71%) (FRTC 2024). Protected areas cover 23.39% and 10 wetlands are designated as RAMSAR sites across six provinces, totaling over 60,000 ha (MoFE 2018). Despite these protections, wetlands and ecosystems are increasingly degraded due to encroachment, unsustainable extraction, invasive species and land-use changes, especially in peri-urban and agricultural zones (MoFE 2018).
4. Climate data shows Nepal's average maximum temperature increased by 0.056 °C/year 1975–2014 (DHM 2017). Projections indicate a rise of 0.9–1.1 °C by 2045 and up to 1.8 °C by 2065, with precipitation projected to increase 2–6% in the medium and 8–12% in the long term (MoFE 2019). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates annual climate-related losses could reach 2.2% of GDP by 2050 and nearly 9.9% by 2100 (ADB 2020).
5. **Koshi Province Context**: Koshi Province spans 25,905 km² (17.6% of Nepal's land area) from lowland Terai (70 masl) to Himalayan peaks over 8000 masl. It has 14 districts and a population of 4.96 million, with 67% relying on agriculture as primary or secondary livelihood (KPCC 2024). The poverty rate (17.19%) is slightly below the national average, and the province remains highly climate vulnerable.
6. Land use is dominated by forests (48.96%) and agriculture (31.90%) (KPCC 2024). Over 1350 lakes and ponds exist, including RAMSAR-listed Gokyo, Maipokhari and Koshitappu wetlands. However, these ecosystems are under pressure from land conversion, grazing and pollution, which reduce their ability to buffer floods, recharge groundwater and sustain livelihoods. Koshi has 42 of Nepal's 47 potentially dangerous glacial lakes and districts such as Morang, Jhapa and Sunsari are ranked as 'very high' or 'high' for climate-induced disaster risk. According to the national vulnerability index, 10 of its 14 districts are categorized as 'highly vulnerable' (Table 1, MoFE 2021). The Green Koshi project will focus on 5 districts in the Chure-Terai region of Koshi Province: Udayapur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa and Ilam (Figure 1).

**Table *1*. Overall vulnerability index of Koshi Province, Nepal (Source: MoFE 2021)**

| | Vulnerability ranking | District |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Very High (0.778–1.0) | Sankhuwasabha |
| 2 | High (0.623–0.777) | Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Ilam, Khotang, Okhaldhunga, Solukhumbu, Taplejung, Terhathum, Udayapur |
| 3 | Moderate (0.502-0.622) | Morang, Panchthar |
| 4 | Low (0.179–0.501) | Jhapa, Sunsari |



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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | Very Low (0.0–0.178) | - |

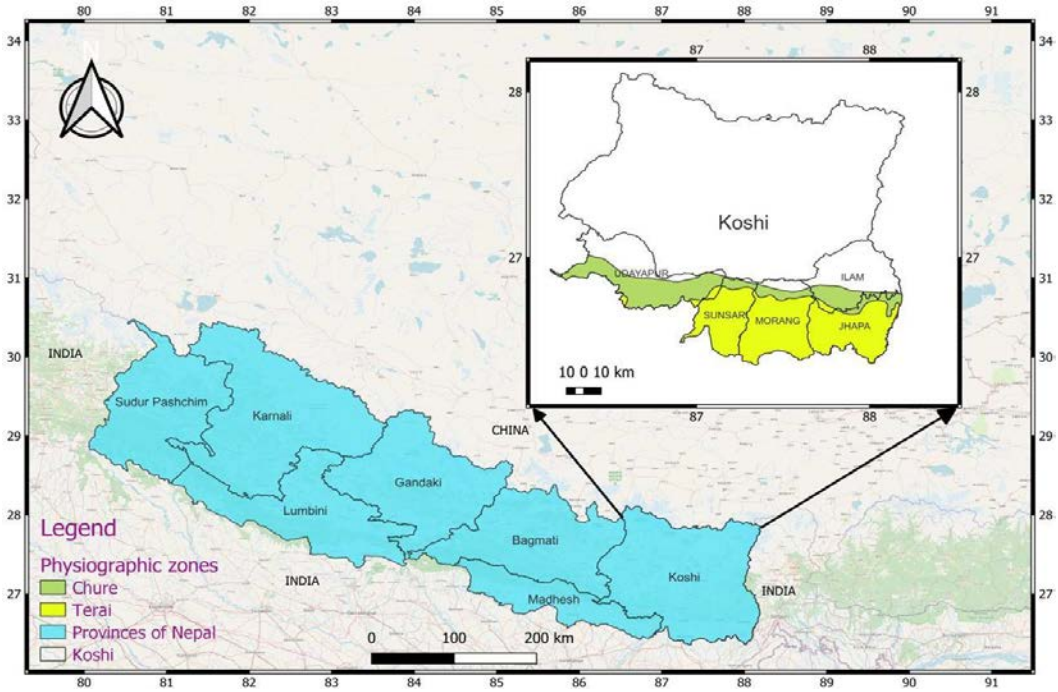



**Figure 1. Map of Nepal showing proposed project location: Terai-Chure landscape in Koshi Province, Eastern Nepal**

7. **Socio-ecological vulnerabilities**: Climate impacts are not felt equally. Dalits, Indigenous Peoples, women and land-poor farmers often lack access to land, water, information and finance (MoFE 2020a). Women disproportionately bear the burden of water collection and household food security. Social inequalities intersect with ecological vulnerabilities, further limiting the capacity of disadvantaged groups to adapt.

8. The degradation of natural ecosystems has led to reduced soil fertility, increased landslide risks and water scarcity. Shrinking wetlands threaten biodiversity and wetland-based livelihoods, such as fishing, reed harvesting and eco-tourism (MoFE 2018). Fragmented elephant habitats have intensified human–wildlife conflict, endangering lives and property.

9. **Rationale for intervention**: Koshi's vulnerability stems from the interplay of ecological fragility, high dependency on natural resources and institutional gaps in managing climate risk. While national and provincial policies prioritize adaptation, implementation remains constrained by limited resources and technical capacity at the local level.

10. There is a critical opportunity to deploy Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as cost-effective, inclusive and scalable responses. Integrated watershed management, wetland rehabilitation, agroforestry and community-based conflict mitigation can restore degraded ecosystems while directly enhancing food and water security. NbS-based enterprise development offers livelihood diversification pathways, particularly for women, youth and Indigenous communities.

## Project/Programme Objectives

11. The **project objective** is to enhance the climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Koshi Province by reducing exposure and sensitivity to climate-related hazards and strengthening adaptive capacity through integrated nature-based solutions, early warning systems, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

12. The project supports the Adaptation Fund (AF) Strategic Objectives by: (i) reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts through ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; and (ii) increasing the adaptive capacity of communities, institutions and ecosystems to respond to climate variability and extremes.

13. This project objective is pursued through the following three **specific objectives**: (1) restore and sustainably manage climate-vulnerable landscapes and reduce exposure to climate-related hazards; (2) diversify and



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strengthen gender-responsive, climate-resilient livelihoods; and (3) strengthen institutional and community capacity, knowledge systems and policy frameworks for NbS.These objectives are operationalized through five components:

- Integrated watershed management, restoring and managing wetlands, and nature-based tourism promotion
- Climate-resilient agroforestry systems promotion and human–elephant conflict mitigation
- Enterprise promotion and value-chain development for improved livelihoods
- Capacity strengthening of institutions and communities
- NbS mainstreaming and integrating in national, sub-national, and local policies, plans and programmes

**14. Long-Term Impact**: Increased climate resilience and ecological integrity in Koshi Province through inclusive NbS that restore landscapes, strengthen institutions and secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

**15. Theory of Change narrative**:

**(i)** **Main problem and causes:** Climate risks in Koshi Province arise from increasing hydro-climatic extremes interacting with ecosystem degradation, livelihood fragility and governance gaps, with women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and land-poor farmers disproportionately affected.

**(ii)** **Main objective and specific objectives:** The overall objective is to enhance the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Chure–Terai landscape of Koshi Province, through **three outcomes**:

- Restored and better-managed landscapes with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence;
- More diversified, climate-resilient livelihoods for smallholders and local communities; and
- Stronger, more inclusive institutions that plan, finance and implement evidence-based, gender-responsive NbS.

**(iii)** **Components:** These outcomes are pursued through five components that operationalise two main change pathways:

- Ecosystem restoration and resilient livelihoods (Components 1–3); and
- Inclusive NbS governance and institutional capacity (Components 4–5).

**(iv)** **Outcomes and outputs:**

- Activities under Components 1–2 deliver outputs on watershed and wetland restoration, early warning and human–elephant conflict mitigation.
- Components 2–3 generate outputs on climate-resilient agroforestry, NbS-based enterprises and value chains.
- Components 4–5 deliver outputs on awareness, skills, tools, policies, plans, budgets and multi-stakeholder platforms for NbS.

Together, these outputs are expected to reduce exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards, diversify and stabilise climate-resilient livelihoods and embed NbS in decision-making, thereby achieving the three outcomes and contributing to the long-term impact of enhanced resilience of communities, ecosystems and local economies in Koshi Province.

**(v)** **Risks and assumptions:** Key assumptions include sustained government commitment and co-financing, continued willingness and agency of local communities, especially women, Indigenous Peoples and marginalised groups to participate and adopt NbS, and political stability. Key risks, such as delays in approvals, competing land-use pressures and extreme climate events, will be managed through the environmental and social management framework, gender and Indigenous Peoples' measures, and flexible, adaptive management. The Theory of Change diagram is included in Annex D. A complete overview of numbered and costed project activities is included in Annex F.

**16.** The project prioritizes no-regrets, ecosystem-based adaptation measures that remain beneficial under multiple climate futures, such as restoring forests and wetlands, improving soil and water management, local biodiversity and diversifying livelihoods. These measures are complemented by risk-informed planning, early warning systems and conflict-mitigation tools that reduce losses from floods and human–elephant



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interactions under more extreme climate conditions. If the planned outputs are delivered, the combined effect of restored ecosystems, diversified and more climate-resilient livelihoods and stronger, more inclusive institutions is expected to lead to the impact of enhanced resilience of communities, ecosystems and local economies in Koshi Province to current and future climate variability and change.

## Project/Programme Components and Financing

**17.** The project adopts a landscape-scale approach to deliver multiple, measurable adaptation benefits through concrete activities targeting smallholders, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs), women and youth. Key adaptation activities include reforestation and bioengineering for slope stabilization; agroforestry models for livelihood, agro-biodiversity, water and food security; community-led wetland restoration; development of NbS-based enterprises; and human–elephant conflict mitigation through NbS technologies, habitat connectivity and early-warning systems. A summary of project components, outputs, outcomes, and activities is presented in Table 2 below. All output-level allocations and Estimated Cost (EC) values are concept-stage estimates and may be refined at full proposal stage based on detailed implementation and reporting architecture. See Annex F for costed activities.

**Table 2. Project/ Programme Components and Financing**

| Project/ Programme Components | Expected Concrete Outputs | Expected Outcomes | Amount US$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Integrated watershed management, restoring and managing wetlands, and nature-based tourism promotion | **Output 1.1**: Gender-responsive local adaptation actions identified and implemented to promote NbS, including ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction.<br>**Output 1.2**: Degraded and critical watersheds and wetlands, including elephants' corridors and habitats are identified and prioritized for restoration by applying an evidence-based landscape approach.<br>**Output 1.3**: Nature-based tourism and cultural heritage potential assessed and revitalized to support sustainable livelihoods. | **Outcome 1**<br>Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence. | 2,125,000<br>790,000<br>85,000 |
| Total Component 1 | | | 3,000,000 |
| 2. Climate-resilient agroforestry systems promotion and human–elephant conflict mitigation | **Output 2.1**: Climate-resilient agroforestry systems co-designed, demonstrated and scaled with smallholders.<br>**Output 2.2**: Community-based early warning systems and measures reducing climate risks and human–elephant conflict in target areas. | **Outcome 1**<br>Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence.<br>**Outcome 2**<br>Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. | 1,824,750<br>425,000 |
| Total Component 2 | | | 2,249,750 |
| 3. Enterprise promotion and value-chain development for improved livelihoods | **Output 3.1**: Inclusive and climate-resilient SMEs and value chains for agroforestry and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) developed and promoted with strong participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.<br>**Output 3.2**: Ecosystem services and carbon benefits of agroforestry systems assessed to | **Outcome 2**<br>Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. | 1,075,000<br>125,000 |



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|---|---|---|---|
| | inform sustainable financing and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. | | |
| Total Component 3 | | | 1,200,000 |
| 4. Capacity strengthening of institutions and communities | **Output 4.1:** Climate change adaptation and NbS awareness materials, training curricula, trainings and exchange activities developed and delivered for government, Non Government Organizations (NGOs), IP&LCs, private sector, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and community institutions.<br>**Output 4.2:** Participatory NbS planning tools, technical support packages, gender-responsive monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) tools and documented good practices developed and applied to support local adaptation planning and implementation. | **Outcome 3**<br>Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies. | 700,000<br><br><br><br>100,000 |
| Total Component 4 | | | 800,000 |
| 5. NbS mainstreaming and integrating in national, sub-national, and local policies, plans and programmes. | **Output 5.1**: Sub-national and local policies, plans and budgets reviewed and updated to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities to support the global goals for adaptation.<br>**Output 5.2**: A nested multi-stakeholder platform established or strengthened to coordinate, advocate for, and monitor the integration of NbS in planning and budgeting processes. | **Outcome 3**<br>Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies. | 515,500<br><br><br><br>515,500 |
| Total Component 5 | | | 1,031,000 |
| Total Project/Programme Components | | | 8,280,750 |
| 6. Project/Programme Execution cost | | | 869,250 |
| 7. Total Project/Programme Cost | | | 9,150,000 |
| 8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable) | | | 777,750 |
| **Amount of Financing Requested** | | | **9,927,750** |

## Projected Calendar:

**Table 3. Project Calendar**

| Milestones | Expected Dates |
|---|---|
| Start of Project/Programme Implementation | March 2028 |
| Mid-term Review (if planned) | March 2030 |
| Project/Programme Close | March 2033 |
| Terminal Evaluation | June 2033 |



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## PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

**A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.**

**18.** The GREEN-Koshi project adopts an integrated landscape approach that combines ecological restoration, climate-resilient livelihoods, institutional capacity strengthening and policy mainstreaming. The design intentionally links NbS with ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) outcomes, addressing the complex drivers of vulnerability across ecological and socio- economic systems. For each component below, the relevant Adaptation Fund Outcome(s), project Outcome(s), Outputs, corresponding numbered Activities and key quantified targets are presented. Output-level budgets are indicated to substantiate the requested funding; detailed activity-level costs are provided in Annex F.

**19. Component 1:** Integrated watershed management, restoring and managing wetlands, and nature-based tourism promotion. AF Outcome supported: AF Outcome 5 – Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress. Project Outcome 1: Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence. Output 1.1 (US$2,125,000; Activities 1.1.1–1.1.4) supports participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments, design and implementation of watershed NbS, and community operation, maintenance and monitoring, with the majority of the budget reflecting the labour- and material-intensive nature of on-the-ground bioengineering, planting and check-dam works, complemented by technical design and community training costs. Output 1.2 (US$790,000; Activities 1.2.1–1.2.4) maps, assesses and restores degraded watersheds and wetlands, targeting at least 20 sub-watersheds and 15 degraded wetlands under restoration or improved participatory management, with costs driven mainly by habitat rehabilitation and small-scale civil works, supported by assessment, planning and local governance strengthening. Output 1.3 (US$85,000; Activities 1.3.1–1.3.3) assesses and revitalizes nature-based tourism and cultural heritage potential, targeting at least 15 small-scale climate-resilient tourism facilities, services or products, reflecting light-touch technical assistance and facilitation rather than physical works. Together, these interventions contribute to reduced climate-related water and disaster risk for approximately 400,000 people.

**20. Component 2:** Climate-resilient agroforestry systems promotion and human–elephant conflict mitigation. AF Outcomes supported: AF Outcomes 6 and 1. Project Outcomes 1 and 2: reduced climate-related hazards and more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihoods. Output 2.1 (US$1,824,750; Activities 2.1.1–2.1.4) co-designs and scales climate-resilient agroforestry through nurseries, extension, demonstration plots and farmer-to-farmer learning, bringing at least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems, with nursery infrastructure/planting material and field extension services accounting for the bulk of costs, consistent with the scale of area targeted. Output 2.2 (US$425,000; Activities 2.2.1–2.2.5) maps human–elephant conflict and climate-risk hotspots, strengthens community-based early-warning systems, conducts preparedness activities, implements non-lethal mitigation measures and integrates these into local DRR and land-use plans, targeting a ≥20% reduction in reported human–elephant conflict incidents, with early-warning equipment (sensors, sirens, communication tools) as the largest single cost item, alongside community training and lower-cost mitigation and planning measures.

**21. Component 3:** Enterprise promotion and value-chain development for improved livelihoods. AF Outcome supported: AF Outcome 6 – Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas. Project Outcome 2: Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. Output 3.1 (US$1,075,000; Activities 3.1.1–3.1.5) supports market and value-chain analysis, business development, processing and storage facilities, and market and finance linkages, targeting at least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups and at least 100 FTE jobs, with small-scale processing and storage infrastructure the principal cost driver, reflecting the capital needs of value-chain development. Output 3.2 (US$125,000; Activities 3.2.1–3.2.3) assesses ecosystem services, carbon benefits and the economic performance of NbS and identifies sustainable finance pathways, comprising primarily analytical and advisory work (methodology development, cost-benefit analysis, finance mechanism design) rather than physical investment, and identifying at least one Payment for Ecosystem



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Services (PES), climate-finance or green-finance mechanism. Together with Components 1 and 2, these interventions contribute to an expected 15–20% increase in household income among participating households.

**22.** **Component 4:** Capacity strengthening of institutions and communities. AF Outcomes supported: AF Outcomes 2 and 3. Project Outcome 3: Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies. Output 4.1 (US$700,000; Activities 4.1.1–4.1.3) develops and delivers NbS and climate-adaptation curricula, training, exchanges and communication materials, reaching approximately 1,500 people, with training delivery, travel and logistics the dominant cost, reflecting the scale of direct participant engagement. Output 4.2 (US$100,000; Activities 4.2.1–4.2.4) provides participatory planning tools, technical support, gender-responsive MEL tools and documentation of good practices, consisting of lower-cost, facilitation- and advisory-based support. The component will support application of NbS tools and guidance by 12 government institutions, 50 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs.

**23.** **Component 5:** NbS mainstreaming and integrating in national, sub-national and local policies, plans and programmes. AF Outcomes supported: AF Outcomes 2 and 7 – Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures. Project Outcome 3: Institutions and communities better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development. Output 5.1 (US$515,500; Activities 5.1.1–5.1.3) reviews policies and plans, supports NbS integration and promotes climate-responsive budgeting, driven mainly by technical assistance and advisory support for policy drafting and budget integration, rather than capital works. Output 5.2 (US$515,500; Activities 5.2.1–5.2.3) establishes or strengthens a multi-stakeholder platform, develops a tracking system and facilitates policy dialogue, with platform operation and facilitation costs the largest share, alongside lighter-cost system development and knowledge events.

**24.** Increased resilience through the combined components:

- Risk-informed NbS investments (Components 1–2) restore watersheds/wetlands and reduce hazard impacts (flood/erosion/water stress), while also reducing Human Elephant Conflict (HEC)-related livelihood shocks through mapping, Early Warning System (EWS), and non-lethal measures.
- Livelihood diversification and value-chain strengthening (Components 1–3) reduce household sensitivity to climate variability by spreading risk across agroforestry, Non-Timber Forest Products , and climate-sensitive tourism, backed by enterprise support and finance pathways.
- Sustained capacity and institutions (Components 4–5) ensure adaptation is not one-off: stakeholders can plan, finance, monitor, and scale NbS over time through training, MEL, budget integration, and coordination platforms.
- See Annex D for a visual presentation of the theory of change, Annex E for the project results chain including impact, outcomes, outputs and activities and Annex F for a list of costed activities.

**25.** The project will include Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs) for selected site-specific NbS investments because final micro-sites and intervention packages cannot be responsibly fixed at concept stage without updated climate-risk, vulnerability, ecological, land-tenure, social-inclusion and safeguard information. In the Chure–Terai landscape, flood exposure, erosion risks, wetland degradation, human–elephant conflict patterns and community readiness vary significantly across municipalities, CFUGs, wetlands and settlement clusters. Predetermining all sites before detailed field screening and Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)-aligned consultation could result in maladaptation, including investment in lower-risk sites, exclusion of highly vulnerable groups, inappropriate technical designs, unresolved land or resource-use issues, or interventions that do not reflect local ecological and social conditions. The USP modality therefore provides three benefits: first, it enables the project to target the most climate-exposed and socially vulnerable communities using current field evidence; second, it allows investments to be sequenced according to safeguards clearance, community readiness and implementation capacity; and third, it permits technical tailoring of NbS measures to local biophysical and socio-economic conditions while remaining within the approved project objective, components, outputs and budget envelope. These benefits outweigh the potential risks of non-compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy because no USP will proceed without prior application of eligibility criteria, exclusion criteria, climate-risk screening, environmental and social risk screening, gender and inclusion screening, FPIC-aligned consultation where Indigenous Peoples and local communities are affected, and formal approval under the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)/Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) procedures. USPs with



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unacceptable environmental or social risks, unresolved land or tenure issues, inadequate consultation, or risks that cannot be mitigated through site-specific management measures will be excluded or redesigned before implementation.

**B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

**26.** Overall, approximately 387,810 people will directly benefit from the project, of whom more than 50% are women, with proportional representation of Indigenous Peoples (43.8%), Dalits (8.8%), and other marginalized groups. An estimated 1,939,050 people will benefit indirectly from improved ecosystem services, reduced disaster risk, enhanced livelihoods, and strengthened institutional capacity. The estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (gender-disaggregated) for each project outcome is presented in the table below. These estimates are indicative and appropriate to the concept note stage. Some overlap across outcomes is expected, as individuals may benefit from more than one outcome.

**Table 4: Estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries disaggregated by gender**

| **Outcome 1: Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct beneficiaries | 112657 | 120028 | 232685 |
| Indirect beneficiaries | 563286 | 600144 | 1163430 |
| ***Total*** | ***675943*** | ***720172*** | ***1396115*** |
| **Outcome 2: Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Direct beneficiaries | 75105 | 80019 | 155124 |
| Indirect beneficiaries | 422464 | 450108 | 872572 |
| ***Total*** | ***497569*** | ***530127*** | ***1027696*** |
| **Outcome 3: Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Direct beneficiaries | 65716 | 70017 | 135733 |
| Indirect beneficiaries | 328583 | 350084 | 678667 |
| ***Total*** | ***394299*** | ***420101*** | ***814400*** |

**27.** The project will enhance climate resilience while ensuring that adaptation benefits are equitably shared among women, men and marginalized communities. It recognises that climate risks disproportionately affect women, Indigenous Peoples, marginalised groups and poor households due to unequal access to resources, decision-making processes and livelihood opportunities. Project interventions will apply equity-based targeting, informed by social and climate vulnerability assessments conducted during the project preparation stage. These assessments will identify the most climate-exposed and socially disadvantaged groups, including women-headed households, smallholder farmers, Indigenous and forest-dependent communities, landless households and other vulnerable groups, ensuring that adaptation benefits are allocated based on vulnerability and need.

**28.** Access to project-supported training, livelihood support and nature-based enterprises will follow transparent

and inclusive selection criteria, with targeted measures to support youth-, women-led and community-based initiatives. The project will implement a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system to track participation, benefit distribution and changes in adaptive capacity using sex- and socially disaggregated indicators. The project aligns with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and Action Plan and will develop a detailed Gender Action Plan at the full proposal stage to guide implementation and ensure accountability for equitable and gender-responsive outcomes.

29. **Economic Benefits.** The project will generate significant economic benefits by enhancing climate-resilient livelihoods, creating employment, and reducing economic losses from climate-induced hazards. Through the promotion of agroforestry, ecosystem restoration, watershed and wetland management, eco-tourism and NbS-based enterprises, direct beneficiary households are expected to increase annual incomes by approximately 15–20 percent through improved productivity, diversified income sources, and enhanced market access. Restoration and bio-engineering activities, including watershed and wetland rehabilitation, nursery establishment, and maintenance of ecosystem infrastructure, are projected to generate at least 100 full-time equivalent jobs through 20 NbS enterprises. In addition, flood, landslide, and erosion mitigation measures are expected to reduce climate-related economic losses to crops, infrastructure, and natural assets, contributing to greater income stability, lower recovery costs, and improved economic resilience at household and local government levels.

30. **Environmental Benefits.** The project will deliver substantial environmental benefits by restoring ecosystem functions, improving water security, and enhancing biodiversity across the proposed project intervention sites of Koshi Province. Integrated watershed and wetland management will improve groundwater recharge, regulate surface water flows, and enhance water quality, contributing to improved water security for approximately 400,000 people. The establishment of 1,000 hectares of climate-resilient agroforestry systems and the restoration of ecological corridors will stabilize degraded landscapes, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and strengthen habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience. These interventions will also contribute to climate regulation through increased carbon sequestration and reduced disaster risks, while community-based coexistence strategies are expected to reduce human–elephant conflict by approximately 20 percent in targeted areas. Restored habitats and corridors using native species will improve ecological connectivity. The project will create carbon co-benefits through reforestation, agroforestry and wetland restoration.

31. **Social Benefits.** The project will generate strong social benefits by strengthening community governance, enhancing social inclusion, and building adaptive capacity among vulnerable populations. It helps reduce climate risks for approximately 400,000 people. By prioritizing women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, the project will promote inclusive participation in NbS enterprises, training, and local planning processes, with at least 20 percent representation in livelihood and employment opportunities. Approximately 1,500 individuals-including local officials, farmers, forest users, and entrepreneurs will be trained in NbS, eco-tourism and climate adaptation, with at least 40% women's participation in training and community processes. The integration of indigenous and local knowledge with technical approaches will enhance culturally appropriate and sustainable adaptation outcomes. Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and marginalized groups participate in planning, implementation and benefit-sharing through FPIC-aligned processes

**Table 5: Summary of Estimated Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits**

| Benefits | Project Component | Estimated Benefits | Alignment with AF Results Framework |
|---|---|---|---|
| Economic Benefits | 1 | ~400,000 people experience reduced losses from floods, erosion, droughts and human–wildlife conflict through restored watersheds, wetlands and early warning systems | AF Outcomes 1 and 5 |
| | 2 | ≥1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems, supporting diversified and resilient income sources | AF Outcome 6 (Indicator 6A) |
| | 1, 2, 3 | 15–20% increase in household income among participating households from agroforestry, NTFPs, | AF Outcome 6 (Indicator 6B) |



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| | | ecotourism and NbS-based value chains | |
| | 3 | ≥20 NbS-based enterprises supported; ≥100 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs created, with ≥20% women, youth and Indigenous Peoples | AF Outcome 6 |
| Social Benefits | 1 | Reduced exposure to floods, landslides, erosion and water stress for ~400,000 people | AF Outcome 1 |
| | 4 | ~1,500 people trained (disaggregated by gender and social group) in climate adaptation, NbS, ecosystem governance and DRR | AF Outcome 3 / Output 3.1 |
| | 1, 2, 3, 4 | ≥40% women participation in training and community processes; increased leadership roles in CFUGs, watershed and livelihood institutions | AF Gender Policy |
| | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and marginalized groups participate in planning, implementation and benefit-sharing through FPIC-aligned processes | AF ESP: Access and Equity |
| | 1, 2, 3 | Improved food and nutrition security | AF Outcome 6 |
| Environmental Benefits | 1 | ≥20 sub-watersheds and ≥15 degraded wetlands restored and sustainably managed | AF Outcome 5 (Indicator 5) |
| | 1, 2 | Improved water regulation, groundwater recharge, reduced sedimentation and erosion across Chure–Terai landscapes | AF Outcome 5 |
| | 2 | Restored habitats and corridors using native species; improved ecological connectivity and human–wildlife coexistence | AF ESP: Biodiversity |
| | 1, 2 | Climate benefits through reforestation, agroforestry and wetland restoration (non-monetized co-benefit) | AF Co-benefits |

**Note:** The 20% participation target for women, youth and Indigenous groups in livelihood, employment and enterprise opportunities is a conservative minimum benchmark informed by the preliminary gender analysis, stakeholder consultations and baseline social and institutional constraints in the project locations. These include unequal access to land, finance, technologies, business networks, market information, mobility, formal decision-making spaces and time due to unpaid care responsibilities. The target should therefore be understood as a minimum floor rather than a ceiling. The project will seek to progressively exceed this threshold through targeted beneficiary selection, women-focused capacity support, gender-responsive implementation and sex- and socially disaggregated monitoring and evaluation.

32. **Linking activities to benefits.** These benefits are directly linked to the proposed activities. Early warning systems reduce exposure to climate-related hazards by enabling timely response, thereby lowering economic losses and safeguarding lives. Ecosystem restoration and agroforestry reduce sensitivity to floods, droughts and erosion while improving ecosystem productivity and services. Climate-resilient livelihood interventions enhance adaptive capacity by diversifying income sources and reducing dependence on climate-sensitive activities. Institutional strengthening ensures that these benefits are sustained and scaled beyond the project period.

33. **Actions to avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the AF ESP and the AF Gender Policy.** The project will apply the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP) and Gender Policy throughout design, implementation, and monitoring to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential negative impacts while maximizing equitable and sustainable adaptation benefits. All proposed activities will undergo environmental and social screening to identify risks related to land use, biodiversity disturbance, water access, labor conditions, and social exclusion, with site-specific mitigation measures incorporated into implementation plans. Ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, and infrastructure interventions will prioritize native species, avoid critical habitats, and apply low-impact, nature-based techniques to prevent soil disturbance, invasive species introduction, and downstream hydrological impacts. FPIC will be ensured for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with transparent consultations conducted prior to any land-use change or corridor restoration. The project will adopt gender-responsive design by ensuring meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in decision-making bodies, targeting at least 20 percent representation in training, employment, and enterprise support, and scheduling activities in ways that do not

increase unpaid care burdens. Safeguards will be applied to prevent elite capture, labor exploitation, and inequitable benefit distribution through clear beneficiary selection criteria, fair wage standards, and gender-responsive grievance redress mechanisms accessible at community and municipal levels. Gender and social disaggregated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators will be used for monitoring and Mid-term and terminal evaluations aligned with AF requirements. Monitoring, adaptive management, and independent reporting will be used to ensure compliance with AF ESP and Gender Policy requirements and to promptly address any unforeseen environmental or social risks during implementation.

34. **Environmental Risk Management.** All proposed activities will undergo environmental and social screening in accordance with AF ESP to identify and categorize risks related to land use change, biodiversity disturbance, soil erosion, water access, and occupational health and safety. Site-specific ESMPs will be developed and integrated into implementation plans where risks are identified. Ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, and infrastructure interventions will prioritize native and climate-resilient species, avoid critical and protected habitats, and apply low-impact, nature-based solutions to prevent soil degradation, invasive species introduction, and downstream hydrological impacts. Construction and restoration activities will follow best practices for waste management, erosion control, and water protection to minimize temporary and cumulative environmental impacts.
35. **Social Safeguards and Community Rights.** FPIC will be ensured for Indigenous Peoples and affected local communities prior to any land-use change, ecosystem restoration, or infrastructure development. Transparent, inclusive consultations will be conducted at all project stages, with information shared in accessible formats and local languages where necessary. Clear and equitable beneficiary selection criteria will be applied to prevent elite capture and ensure fair access to project benefits, particularly for vulnerable households.
36. **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.** The project will adopt a gender-responsive design consistent with the AF Gender Policy by ensuring meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in planning, governance, and implementation structures. At least 40 percent women's participation will be targeted in training and community processes, while at least 20 percent participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups will be targeted in livelihood, employment and enterprise-support activities. Activities will be scheduled and designed to avoid increasing unpaid care and domestic workloads, and to enhance women's access to resources, skills, and decision-making power. Capacity-building activities will integrate gender awareness and prevention of gender-based discrimination and harassment.
37. **Labor Standards and Grievance Redress.** Fair wage standards, safe working conditions, and non-discriminatory labor practices will be applied for all project-supported employment. A gender-responsive, accessible grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be established at community and municipal levels to address complaints related to environmental impacts, social exclusion, labor conditions, or gender-based concerns in a timely and confidential manner.
38. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management.** Environmental and social safeguards compliance will be monitored using gender- and socially disaggregated indicators aligned with AF requirements. Mid-term and terminal evaluations will assess compliance with AF ESP and Gender Policy, including the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Adaptive management and independent reporting will be used to promptly address any unforeseen environmental or social risks identified during implementation.

## C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme:

39. **Cost-effectiveness rationale: maximizing resilience gains per dollar.** The project adopts a cost-effective adaptation strategy by prioritizing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) over conventional grey infrastructure. NbS interventions deliver equal or superior climate-resilience benefits at substantially lower lifetime costs by addressing climate risks at their ecological source. Investment decisions are guided by evidence-based criteria, including cost per hectare restored, expected reductions in erosion, flood peaks and drought stress, livelihood co-benefits, low operation and maintenance requirements, and the potential for sustainable revenue generation through agroforestry, ecosystem services and nature-based tourism. By sequencing

interventions to first restore degraded upstream watersheds and wetlands—where preventive impacts are highest, the project reduces downstream expenditures on embankment repairs, dredging, disaster response and recovery, resulting in high marginal returns on public investment.

40. **Sustainability, avoided losses, and long-term economic value.** The project's cost-effectiveness is further enhanced by its strong environmental, institutional and social sustainability. NbS interventions rely on natural regeneration processes and community-managed maintenance systems, significantly lowering long-term financial burdens compared to capital-intensive grey infrastructure. At the same time, NbS generate recurring revenue streams, including agroforestry value-chain profits, eco-tourism revenues, payments for ecosystem services and community enterprise earnings, which can be reinvested into ecosystem management and adaptation activities. Socially, the integration of NbS with community-based early warning systems and non-lethal human–elephant conflict mitigation reduces recurrent economic losses, injuries, fatalities and retaliatory actions avoiding substantial future costs to households and government authorities. During the Project Formulation Grant (PFG) phase, a full cost–benefit analysis will be undertaken to compare NbS and grey infrastructure alternatives over a 20–30-year horizon, incorporating avoided damages, ecosystem service values, and resilience gains to demonstrate robust net present value and benefit–cost ratios. Following project completion, routine maintenance and continuation of NbS interventions will be financed through a combination of local government budget allocations, revenues generated from NbS-based enterprises and tourism activities, and community-managed funds linked to ecosystem services, thereby eliminating reliance on external grant financing.

41. **Scalability, learning, and synergies with existing programmes.** The project is designed to be scalable and catalytic, increasing cost-effectiveness beyond the initial investment. NbS are mainstreamed into provincial and local plans, budgets, disaster-risk-reduction strategies and land-use frameworks, creating institutional pathways for replication without long-term reliance on external financing. Knowledge products, such as field manuals, policy briefs, and NbS investment cases, will support uptake by other provinces and federal ministries. Community-to-community learning exchanges and strengthened agroforestry and wetland-based value chains further enable demand-driven scaling. The project builds on and complements existing initiatives, notably the GCF-funded Building a Resilient Chure Region in Nepal, leveraging institutional experience, avoiding duplication and maximizing synergies. Alignment with the Chure–Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan and the Koshi Province Second Periodic Plan enhances efficiency, coordination and long-term impact.

42. **Alignment with Adaptation Fund results and economic evidence.** The project is fully aligned with the Adaptation Fund's objective of reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity. It contributes directly to AF Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, covering reduced exposure to climate hazards, strengthened institutional capacity and awareness, increased ecosystem resilience, diversified climate-resilient livelihoods, and improved policies and planning frameworks. Empirical evidence underscores the project's strong value for money: reforestation and bio-engineering measures typically cost USD 1,500–2,000 per hectare, substantially less than hard infrastructure, while wetland restoration in Nepal and South Asia yields benefit–cost ratios between 2.1 and 4.5. NbS investments have been shown to generate benefits worth two to five times their initial costs over a 20-year period when ecosystem services and avoided damages are included. By reducing future public expenditure on disaster response and infrastructure repair while strengthening inclusive, NbS-based value chains, the project delivers high economic, social and environmental returns, making it a highly cost-effective adaptation investment.

**D. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programmes of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.**

43. The project is fully aligned with Nepal's national and sub-national climate adaptation and sustainable development priorities. It responds directly to the country's commitments under national policies and international frameworks, ensuring coherence with ongoing development efforts. The formal collaboration with technical partner, CIFOR-ICRAF, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Development (MoALD), which outlines strategic areas of collaboration, including agroforestry, watershed management, sustainable land use and climate adaptation, strongly supports direct oversight of links to Government policies and programmes during the participatory design stage of the project.

**44.** **National alignment**: The project is consistent with Nepal's 16th Five-Year Plan (2024/25–2028/29), which emphasizes environmentally friendly, green and climate-resilient development pathways. The Plan advocates for integrating climate adaptation measures into all sectors, promoting clean energy, sustainable land use and green growth; objectives that this project operationalizes through ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient agroforestry and community- based adaptation. The project also supports the National Climate Change Policy (2019), which seeks to enhance the adaptation capacity of vulnerable communities, strengthen ecosystem resilience and promote green economic growth. By focusing on NbS, the project contributes directly to the policy's strategic outcomes related to ecosystem restoration, disaster risk reduction and community empowerment.

**45.** The project also aligns with **Nepal's Third NDC under the UNFCCC**, which prioritizes ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated watershed management, forest restoration and climate-resilient livelihoods. The project's focus on agroforestry systems and wetland restoration responds directly to Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets related to the forestry, agriculture and water sectors.

**46.** The **National Adaptation Plan (NAP) (2021–2050),** which was endorsed by the Government of Nepal in 2023**,** further guides the project's approach. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) prioritizes ecosystem-based adaptation, integrated watershed management and gender-responsive planning, all of which are central elements of GREEN-Koshi, which will contribute to NAP priority sectors, such as forests, agriculture, water resources and biodiversity, while also supporting disaster risk reduction efforts.

**47.** The project is also in harmony with the objectives of the upcoming **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2026–2030) and Nepal's Long-Term Strategy for Net- Zero Emissions,** both of which call for ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and enhanced community stewardship of natural resources.

**48.** Further, it is consistent with **sectoral strategies**, such as the National Forest Policy (2019), which promotes agroforestry and private forest development, and the National Agriculture Policy (2004), which highlights sustainable natural resource management as a core pillar for agricultural resilience.

**Table 6. Overview of national policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment**

| Policy/plan/strategy | Main objective | Relevance of the proposed project |
|---|---|---|
| 16th Five-Year Plan (2024/25–2028/29) | Achieving "Good Governance, Social Justice and Prosperity" through structural transformation. It emphasizes environmentally friendly, green and climate-resilient development pathways. | The proposed project is aligned with the 16th Plan, under outputs 1 to 5, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| National Climate Change Policy 2019 | Building a climate-resilient society to promote socio-economic prosperity, enhancing adaptation capacity for vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and fostering a low-carbon development pathway. | The proposed project is aligned with the National Climate Change Policy 2019, under outputs 1.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025-2035 | Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, transition to green energy, and enhance climate adaptation and resilience. | The proposed project is aligned with the third Nationally Determined Contribution, under outputs 1 to 5, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| National Adaptation Plan 2021-2050 | Reducing vulnerability to climate change by building resilience and adaptive capacity and integrating climate change adaptation into all levels of government planning and policies. | The proposed project is aligned with the National Adaptation Plan under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| Long-Term Strategy for Net-Zero Emissions 2021 | achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 through promoting clean energy like hydropower, solar, and biogas; decarbonizing the transportation sector with electric vehicles and railways; enhancing sustainable agriculture practices; maintaining and increasing forest cover; and strengthening international cooperation. | The proposed project is aligned with the Long-Term Strategy for Net-Zero Emissions under outputs 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |



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| National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030 | Conserve, restore, and sustainable manage Nepal's biodiversity and contribute to green, resilient and inclusive development. | The proposed project is aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| National Forest Policy 2019 | Achieve sustainable forest management, improve forest productivity, and enhance national prosperity through forest resources. | The proposed project is aligned with the National Forest Policy 2019 under outputs 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan 2017–2037 | Attain ecological balance, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable livelihood enhancement through an integrated and multi-stakeholder approach. | The proposed project is aligned with the Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |

**49.** Sectorally, the project relates to the plans and strategies related to water, agriculture and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) presented below.

**Table 7. Overview of relevant sectoral policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment**

| Policy/plan/strategy | Main objective | Relevance of the proposed project |
|---|---|---|
| National Water Resources Policy 2020 | Achieve economic prosperity through multipurpose, coordinated and sustainable use of water. | The proposed project is aligned with the National Water Resources Policy 2020 under output 1.2, contributing to outcome 1. |
| National Wetland Policy 2012 | Protect and manage wetlands and make sustainable and wise use of wetland resources. | The proposed project is aligned with the National Wetland Policy 2012 under output 1.2, contributing to outcome 1. |
| Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035) | A self-reliant, sustainable, competitive and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihoods and food and nutrition security. | The proposed project is aligned with the Agriculture Development Strategy under outputs 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 contributing to Outcomes 1 and 2. |
| Industrial Policy 2011 | Contribute to national economy through sustainable broad-based industrial coordinated and collaborative cooperative partnership development of public, private sectors to support poverty alleviation. | The proposed project is aligned with the Industrial Policy 2011 under output 3.1, contributing to Outcome 2. |

**50.** Sub-national alignment. At the provincial level, the project aligns closely with the Second Periodic Plan (2024/25– 2028/29) of Koshi Province, which prioritizes climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, disaster risk reduction and the mitigation of climate change impacts. The plan also underscores the promotion of greenery and nature-based tourism, areas directly targeted by the GREEN-Koshi interventions. Additionally, the project is consistent with the Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Koshi Province, which highlights the restoration of degraded ecosystems, mainstreaming of NbS into development planning and capacity strengthening for adaptation governance. At a more localized level, the project complements the objectives of the Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan (2017–2037), which focuses on ecosystem conservation, risk-informed land-use planning and improved governance of natural resources in the fragile Chure and Terai landscapes.

**Table 8. Overview of relevant provincial policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment**

| Policy/plan/strategy | Main objective | Relevance to the proposed project |
|---|---|---|
| Second Periodic Plan (2024/25-2028/29) of Koshi Province | Make the province happy and prosperous. It prioritizes climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, disaster risk reduction and the mitigation of climate change impacts. The Plan also underscores the promotion of greenery and nature-based tourism. | The proposed project is aligned with the Second Periodic Plan (2024/25-2028/29) of Koshi Province under Outputs 1.1–5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Koshi | Restore degraded ecosystems, mainstream NbS into development planning and capacity building for adaptation governance. | The proposed project is aligned with the Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Koshi Province under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, |



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| Province, 2024 | | 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |

**51. International agreements.** By addressing ecosystem degradation, promoting climate-resilient livelihoods and empowering vulnerable groups, the project contributes to Nepal's international commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

**Table 9. Overview of relevant international conventions, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment**

| Policy/plan/strategy and years of implementation | Main objective | Relevance of the proposed project |
|---|---|---|
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992 | Stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that prevents 'dangerous' human-induced interference with the climate system. | The proposed project is aligned with the UNFCCC under outputs 1.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 | Conserve biological diversity, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. | The proposed project is aligned with the UNCBD under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3. |
| UN Convention to Combat Desertification 1992 | Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas through integrated action and international cooperation to achieve sustainable development. | The proposed project is aligned with the UNCCD under outputs 1.1, 1.2, contributing to outcome 1. |

**52. Poverty reduction and gender strategies.** The project supports Nepal's poverty reduction goals by diversifying livelihoods and improving resilience among rural and marginalized populations. It also addresses gender inequalities by ensuring that women, Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups are actively engaged and benefit equitably from project activities, in line with national policies. The project is strategically aligned with Nepal's national, provincial and local development priorities and global climate commitments. It provides a coherent, integrated approach to sustainable development and climate adaptation, ensuring that project outcomes contribute meaningfully to both national goals and international frameworks.

## E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

**53.** The project will comply with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund. All activities will adhere to the Environmental and Social Principles of the Fund. It will also adhere to National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)'s ESMF which focuses on promoting environmentally sound and sustainable conservation while its Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy aims to address social disparities and ensure inclusive participation in conservation efforts. The project will strictly adhere to national regulatory requirements for environmental and social protection during implementation. It will also follow gender-related policies and legislation for a gender-responsive agenda.

**54. National Legal and Technical Standards: Environmental Protection Act (2019) and Environmental Protection Rules (2020)**: All activities will be screened to determine whether Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are required. The project will secure relevant environmental clearances prior to implementation.

**55. Forest Act (2019)**. Restoration and agroforestry activities on community and public lands will comply with forest management regulations and the operational plans of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs).

**56. Local Government Operation Act (2017)**. Activities will be integrated into the annual plans and budgets of local governments through participatory planning processes.

## Table 10. Comprehensive National Technical Standards and Compliance Requirements

| *National Standard / Regulation* | Objective of the Standard | Relevance to Proposed Project Activities | Key Compliance Requirements (Steps to Achieve Compliance) | Competent Authority | Project Compliance Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *1. Environment Protection Act (2019) and Environment Protection Rules (2020)* | Ensure environmental protection through mandatory environmental assessment and regulatory approval | Applies to all subprojects including ecosystem restoration, infrastructure, and water-related interventions | • Screen each USP using national Environmental and Social (E&S) screening criteria • Conduct IEE/EIA as required by Schedule thresholds • Obtain environmental clearance before implementation • Implement mitigation and monitoring measures | Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment and Provincial Environment Ministries | Mandatory applied to all subprojects prior to execution |
| *2.Forest Act (2019) Forest Regulations (2022)* | Ensure sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and regulated use of forest land | Community forestry strengthening, afforestation, watershed and habitat restoration | • Obtain approval where activities occur in forest land • Coordinate with CFUG operational plans • Use native species and follow restoration guidelines • Undertake compensatory measures if required | Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, Division Forest Offices, CFUGs | Integrated into nature-based solutions design |
| *3. National Drinking Water Quality Standards (NDWQS 2005)* | Safeguard public health through regulation of drinking water quality | Protection of springs, wetlands, and community water systems | • Conduct water quality testing • Establish sanitary protection zones • Monitor compliance with physical, chemical, and biological parameters | Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management | Will be applied to all water-related interventions |
| *4. Water Resources Act (1992)* | Ensure equitable, sustainable, and regulated use of water resources | Water conservation, recharge protection, and watershed-based adaptation | • Secure permissions where water abstraction/use is involved • Maintain environmental flows • Protect catchment areas from degradation | Department of Water Resources and Irrigation | Embedded in watershed management planning |
| *5. Pesticide Management Act (2019)* | Regulate import, sale, and safe use of pesticides | Climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry support | • Use only registered inputs • Promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) • Train farmers on safe handling and alternatives | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development | Compliance ensured through extension support |
| *6. Seed Act (1988, as amended)* | Ensure quality control of seeds and planting materials | Climate-resilient crop and agroforestry promotion | • Use certified or approved seed varieties • Follow national varietal approval system | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development | Applied to livelihood interventions |
| *7. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017)* | Establish institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and resilient recovery | Risk-informed planning, ecosystem-based DRR, and early warning support | • Align activities with Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plans • Coordinate with local disaster management committees • Integrate hazard risk assessments into design | Ministry of Home Affairs and Local Governments | NbS interventions contribute to hazard mitigation |
| *8. Local Government Operation Act (2017)* | Enable decentralized governance and local-level planning authority | Municipal-led adaptation planning and implementation | • Secure municipal approvals • Integrate activities into annual and periodic plans • Ensure community consultation and oversight | Municipal and Rural Municipal Governments | Ensure federal governance alignment |
| *9. Labor Act (2017) and Labor Regulations (2018)* | Protect workers' rights, safety, and welfare | Construction, restoration works, and community-based labor engagement | • Apply occupational health and safety standards • Ensure fair wages and non-discrimination • Provide safety training and grievance mechanisms | Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security | Required during implementation |
| *10. National Building Code (NBC)* | Ensure structural safety and disaster-resilient construction | Small-scale climate-resilient infrastructure (water structures, facilities, | • Prepare certified engineering designs • Apply seismic and safety provisions • Conduct construction supervision and quality assurance | Department of Urban Development and Building Construction | Mandatory for all infrastructure works |



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**57. Alignment with Adaptation Fund safeguards.** An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed during the full proposal stage. It will include screening tools aligned with the Adaptation Fund's 15 ESP principles; define risk classification thresholds and mitigation protocols; be updated based on IEE/EIA findings as required; ensure FPIC for Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups; grievance redress mechanism protocols and roles at community, local government and implementing entity levels; training modules for local government and civil society partners on safeguard compliance, grievance handling, and inclusive stakeholder engagement; an Environmental and Social Risk Screening Summary.

## F. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.

**58.** GREEN-Koshi has been designed to be complementary and synergistic, filling both geographic and thematic gaps through (i) targeting a defined set of districts and sites not covered by the same combination of interventions; (ii) focusing on integrated outcomes that combine nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction (including early warning), and climate-resilient livelihoods; and (iii) applying structured coordination with Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE)/Climate Chnage Management Division (CCMD), provincial/local governments and project stakeholders to harmonise workplans, avoid double-financing, and build on existing investments. There is no duplication of activities between GREEN-Koshi and other identified initiatives, including the GCF-funded Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN).

**59.** The main project in the area targeting conservation and livelihood resilience in the Koshi region is the GCF-funded project, BRCRN. Beyond BRCRN, the federal government's Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board and Koshi Province's Ministry of Tourism, Forests and Environment have been implementing regular annual activities for conservation and management of forests and watershed management. These efforts are, however, not sufficient in terms of area coverage and budget required. Additionally, these efforts remain fragmented and lack an integrated, resilience-focused approach at landscape scale.

**60.** GREEN-Koshi is uniquely positioned to build on these foundations by mainstreaming climate adaptation through NbS, institutionalizing inclusive planning processes and bridging the financing and capacity gaps at the subnational level. Some areas of GREEN-Koshi overlap geographically with the intervention zone of the BRCRN project, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). BRCRN focuses primarily on addressing climate-induced challenges in the Chure hills by promoting climate-resilient land-use practices, forest conservation and institutional capacity-building to reduce deforestation and climate vulnerability. Beyond the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded Building a Resilient Chure Region in Nepal (BRCRN) project, which will conclude in May 2027, no other ongoing or planned projects with overlapping geographic coverage or intervention scope were identified in the proposed project area, and GREEN-Koshi has been designed to complement BRCRN by addressing remaining geographic and thematic gaps without duplication.

**Table 11. Snapshot of GCF funded project: Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Project title | • Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal |
| Donors/Funding Entity | Green Climate Fund |
| Main project interventions | • Support integrated river system-level planning among sub-national government, community-based organizations (CBOs) and other partners, and strengthen their capacities to monitor natural resources and climate change impacts to inform future planning and investment decisions;<br>• Support CBOs to directly adopt and invest in climate-resilient sustainable natural resource management approaches by providing training, expert guidance and inputs, materials, tools and equipment needed to overcome barriers to adoption; and<br>• Strengthen extension services and awareness to support sustained and widespread adoption of project promoted practices. |
| Timeline and specific | • Timeline: May 2020-May 2027 |



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| | |
|---|---|
| location within country | • Location: 26 river systems of Churia Hills of Koshi, Madhesh and Bagmati Provinces of Nepal comprising of 121 municipalities. The 26 river systems cover a combined area of 702,011 ha and approximately 3.2 million population. The Churia hills are located between the mid hill areas to the north and the plains in the south of Nepal (Terai), where the Churia hills perform critical ecological and socio-cultural functions both upstream and downstream. |
| Target population | • *Direct beneficiaries* – At least 200,681 households with approximately 963,268 people will directly benefit from the project. At least 50% of beneficiaries will consist of women with proportional representation of indigenous peoples (31%), Dalits (13%) and other marginalized groups.<br>• *Indirect beneficiaries* – In total 3,216,248 people will indirectly and directly benefit from the project. |
| Implementing Entity | • Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment with Technical Assistance of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. |
| Lesson learned, where applicable | • Raising awareness and building the technical capacity of local communities, and government officials on sustainable natural resource management.<br>• Integrated planning across river systems.<br>• Community-based approaches adopted for addressing complex problems of Churia conservation.<br>• High satisfaction rates of project beneficiaries for riverbank stabilization and afforestation interventions.<br>• Resilient infrastructure has been found effective.<br>• Equal participation of indigenous peoples and traditionally excluded castes and ethnicities in Nepal in project activities |
| Overlaps and synergies with the proposed project, including how the proposed project will build upon interventions of existing and previous projects | • BRCRN covers 26 Churia river systems, including 17 in Koshi Province. Some Chure areas therefore overlap geographically with the broader GREEN-Koshi landscape, but GREEN-Koshi extends into the Terai and will avoid duplication through site-level screening and coordination. GREEN-Koshi also adds interventions not covered by BRCRN, including human–wildlife conflict mitigation, wetland management, community-led ecotourism, and NbS-based enterprise development and market linkages. BRCRN will conclude in May 2027. |

**61.** Beyond the initiatives listed above and those already referenced in the concept note narrative, no other active or recently completed projects were identified through initial desk review and stakeholder consultations as implementing the same combination of interventions (NbS + early warning/DRR + livelihoods + institutional strengthening) in the same target sites within Koshi Province; this will be reconfirmed and documented during full proposal development and inception coordination.

**62.** Furthermore, the project will establish practical mechanisms to avoid duplication throughout the project period: **(i) Geographic targeting and site registry:** a centralized, site-level registry of supported villages, CFUGs, wetlands, and structures will be maintained and systematically cross-checked against records held by MoAFE, FAO, and provincial and local governments; **(ii) Coordination and joint planning:** quarterly coordination meetings with MoAFE/CCMD, relevant provincial ministries, and other project PMUs will be conducted to align workplans, share implementation updates, and prevent overlap or double financing; and **(iii) Screening at the activity approval stage:** all proposed sub-activities will be screened to confirm that they are not supported by other funding sources, with screening results formally documented as part of ESMF implementation records.

**63. Geographical coverage:** While BRCRN operates only in the Chure hills, GREEN-Koshi adopts a broader landscape approach, covering both the Chure and Terai, maintaining ecological connectivity from upland watersheds to downstream wetlands and farmlands areas not covered by BRCRN.

**64. Implementation Logic:** BRCRN applies a river system-based planning model, focused on individual watersheds. GREEN-Koshi employs integrated landscape management recognizing interdependence of ecosystems, communities and climate risks across administrative and ecological boundaries.

**65. Thematic Scope:** GREEN-Koshi includes components not addressed under BRCRN, such as: Human–



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wildlife conflict mitigation, especially in biodiversity corridors with elephant movement; Community-led ecotourism development, linked to wetland restoration and conservation livelihoods; NbS-based enterprise development and market links, with strong focus on gender equality and Indigenous Peoples' participation.

**66.** **Coordination with BRCRN and other actors** will be ensured through joint technical platforms, shared stakeholder engagement processes and alignment with provincial development priorities. Lessons from BRCRN, particularly on forest governance and climate-informed planning, will inform GREEN-Koshi's design and adaptive management. The Adaptation Fund's support will enable Nepal to extend resilience outcomes beyond the reach of existing initiatives, addressing critical gaps in biodiversity protection, human–wildlife coexistence, eco-livelihoods and the inclusion of underrepresented groups.

## G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

**67.** Component 5 includes a dedicated learning and knowledge management sub-component responsible for consolidating, synthesising, and disseminating lessons learned and evidence generated across all project components. This component strengthens both change pathways of the project by enabling continuous learning on ecosystem restoration and resilient livelihoods, as well as on inclusive climate governance. Through this role, Component 5 ensures that learning and knowledge generated by the project are systematically captured, shared through platforms such as the Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre, and used to inform policy, planning and scaling of NbS beyond the project period.

**68.** The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), as the Executing Entity, will coordinate the tracking of experiences and lessons learned, with CIFOR-ICRAF serving as a key executing partner responsible for technical leadership on learning design, evidence synthesis, and quality assurance, in close collaboration with provincial and local government partners.

**69.** Learning will be co-created with communities, government institutions, and technical partners through training, exchange visits, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and participatory monitoring. The project will integrate Indigenous and local knowledge by creating dedicated spaces for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to document and share their ecological practices, climate coping strategies, and stewardship approaches. These insights will enrich the co-design of NbS and ensure that adaptation measures are culturally grounded and context appropriate. The learning process will also be gender-responsive, ensuring equitable participation of women, particularly Indigenous and marginalized women, who hold critical experiential knowledge. Training material, case studies, and participatory planning tools will reflect gender-differentiated climate risks, roles, and adaptation strategies. Women's leadership in community learning platforms will be actively supported.

**Table 12. Roles and responsibilities for Learning and Knowledge Management**

| Institution | Role in Learning & Knowledge Management |
|---|---|
| NTNC (Executing Entity) | Overall coordination and oversight of learning and knowledge management; convening learning reviews; ensuring integration of lessons into implementation and reporting. |
| MoAFE / CCMD | Facilitate national-level uptake of learning; link project knowledge to national policy processes; support hosting, updating and dissemination through national platforms such as the Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC). |
| CIFOR-ICRAF (Key Executing Partner) | Technical leadership on learning and knowledge management; design of the learning framework; synthesis of evidence and lessons; development of policy briefs, case studies and technical notes; quality assurance and linkage to regional and global knowledge platforms. |
| Provincial and Local Governments (Koshi Province) | Provide implementation insights and data; participate in learning reviews; apply lessons to planning and budgeting processes; support sub-national dissemination. |
| Multi-stakeholder NbS Platforms | Serve as forums for peer learning and policy dialogue; validate lessons and good practices; support scaling and replication discussions. |



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**70.** The Green Koshi will establish a structured learning and knowledge management system to generate, curate and disseminate evidence and lessons for scaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and climate-resilient development.

**71. Type of information collected.** The project will collect and document: (i) technical and scientific information (baseline assessments, NbS design and restoration methods, agroforestry and ecosystem management practices, early warning system configurations); (ii) operational and implementation knowledge (community-based management approaches, maintenance protocols, cost–benefit insights, value-chain development lessons); (iii) policy and planning knowledge (policy briefs, planning and budgeting tools, lessons for mainstreaming NbS into local, provincial and national plans); (iv) monitoring, evaluation and learning data (quantitative indicators, qualitative outcome stories, gender- and inclusion-disaggregated evidence); and (v) indigenous and local knowledge, documented in culturally appropriate formats.

**72. The Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC)** will serve as the central national hub for knowledge dissemination. All validated project knowledge products (guidelines, briefs, case studies, digital learning materials) will be curated and hosted through CCKMC. Dissemination will follow a multi-platform approach, combining CCKMC with linked government and partner portals, a learning management system for modular e-learning, and in-person channels such as stakeholder dialogues, community exchanges and policy roundtables. All platforms will reference and feed into CCKMC to ensure coherence and avoid duplication. The project will strengthen CCKMC's capacity to curate knowledge, manage repositories and host online learning modules, ensuring wide dissemination to provincial and local governments, community groups, and civil society.

**73.** Collaboration with CCKMC will be formalized through an institutional agreement or memorandum of understanding, clarifying roles related to content hosting, quality control, data governance, and dissemination. The project budget includes dedicated allocations for learning and knowledge management, covering content development, digital integration, dissemination events and technical support to CCKMC. Anchoring knowledge assets and Communities of Practice within CCKMC will ensure sustainability and continued use beyond the project period.

**74. A Community of Practice** will be embedded into this infrastructure to support ongoing reflection, knowledge exchange and lesson generation. Methods such as outcome harvesting and most significant change may be used to structure evidence-based learning. Lessons learned will be tracked through structured reflection sessions, facilitated multi-stakeholder learning events and digital analytics (e.g. views, downloads). These lessons will inform adaptive management throughout implementation and will be synthesized annually for wider national and regional sharing.

**75.** To ensure sustainability beyond the project period, the knowledge products, digital repositories and Communities of Practice will be anchored within CCKMC and relevant provincial platforms. This will allow continued use of learning materials, replication of NbS models and long-term uptake of inclusive climate governance practices across Nepal.

**76. Design of the Strategy:** Once this project concept moves to full development, a strategy will be elaborated across five pillars. (i) **Situational analysis of the Koshi landscape:** This will provide an overview of available knowledge, data and institutions and lead to the creation of a publicly accessible and interactive Knowledge House. (ii) **Comprehensive stakeholder analysis:** Including identification of stakeholder roles in NbS design and implementation, their existing knowledge levels and desired competencies. This includes particular attention to integrate Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' knowledge into all stages of capacity development and knowledge generation. (iii) **Identification of learning needs**: Insights gathered from the stakeholder analysis will guide the identification of learning needs and help determine the knowledge, skills and attitudes (competencies) required for stakeholders to contribute effectively to the project's objectives. This includes particular attention to gender-responsive learning and knowledge management. (iv) **Learning needs assessment; & (v) Conversion into learning modules**: The results of the learning needs assessment will guide the collaborative learning process and lead to the production of crisp, modular learning content accessible online, offline or in blended formats.



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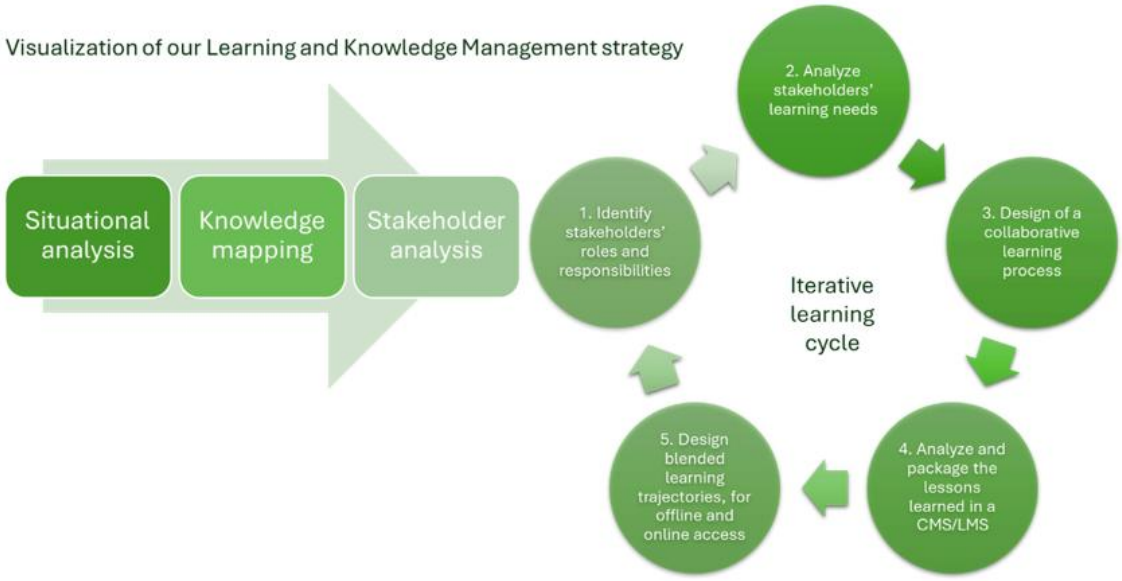



**Figure 2. Visualization of learning and knowledge management strategy**

77. **Digital Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Support:** In collaboration with the CCKMC, the project will design and maintain a digital infrastructure for knowledge curation, storage, learning product development, and dissemination. This will be based on a publicly accessible Content Management System paired with an open Learning Management System. Knowledge products (articles, briefs, videos, stories) will feed into micro-learnings and modular e-courses.

78. **Sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned**: The project will establish a learning and knowledge management infrastructure that consolidates knowledge products, learning materials and documented lessons into an accessible system. This will include technical briefs, guidelines, manuals, case studies, micro-learnings and modular e-courses, enabling wide dissemination within Nepal and to broader regional audiences. Capacity development for CCKMC staff will ensure they can manage this system effectively, while project learning specialists will support the design, packaging and scaling of learning products. Progress will be monitored through participation records for in-person events and digital analytics for online platforms. Metrics such as views, downloads and completion rates will help assess user engagement, while short assessments embedded in micro-learnings will track improvements in stakeholder capacities. To evaluate the effectiveness of the learning strategy, the project will systematically analyze lessons learned and facilitate regular reflection with stakeholders and partners. Guiding questions, such as what has been learned, how behaviours are changing and which underlying assumptions support long-term change will be used to promote deeper 'triple-loop' learning. Communication experts from CCKMC and CIFOR-ICRAF will support dissemination through web-based stories, social media, and other outreach tools. Adequate budget provisions are allocated to ensure that learning, capacity development, and knowledge management function as core drivers of project impact and sustainability.

79. Lessons generated through the project will inform adaptive management during implementation and guide future programming in similar landscapes. By prioritizing inclusive knowledge generation and broad dissemination, the project will strengthen its own effectiveness while contributing to a robust evidence base on the role of NbS in strengthening climate resilience. The insights produced will support the scaling of successful practices across Nepal and offer valuable reference points for other climate-vulnerable regions. Ultimately, this learning approach will deepen local ownership of adaptation, enhance community and institutional capacities, and contribute to behavioural change. The resulting model of restored ecosystems, resilient livelihoods, and strengthened governance will serve as a replicable framework for landscape-based learning within Nepal and beyond.



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## H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

**80.** This project concept is grounded in preliminary consultations with a diverse set of stakeholders, including local government representatives, CFUGs, NTNC field staff and research partners who bring extensive experience in participatory, inclusive approaches to climate adaptation and natural resource governance in Nepal and globally as documented in the below table (photographs of meetings included in Annex C).

**Table 13. Summary of stakeholder consultations**

| Participant | Date and location | Issues discussed/ decisions reached | Interest incorporated | Gender Considerations |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Government<br>1. Suman Subedi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment<br>2. Ms. Deepal Oli, Undersecretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment<br>*Male:1. Female:1* | July 2025, Kathman-du | **Issues discussed:**<br>(i)Escalating climate risks in Koshi Province affecting watersheds, wetlands and climate-sensitive livelihoods<br>(ii)Limited integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into sub-national planning and budgeting<br>(iii)Need to align proposed interventions with NAP, NDC 3.0 and Climate Change Policy<br>(iv)Importance of embedding gender equality and social inclusion in adaptation programming<br>**Agreements reached:**<br>(i)Agreement to prioritize NbS as a core adaptation approach under the proposed project<br>(ii)Agreement to integrate project outputs into national and provincial policy and planning processes<br>*(iii)Agreement that MoAFE/CCMD will support coordination, policy linkage and knowledge dissemination*. | Inputs informed Output 5.1 (integration of NbS into policies and plans) and Output 5.2 (multi-stakeholder platform).<br>Alignment with national policies embedded across Components 1–5. | Gender equality highlighted as a core requirement. Incorporated through Output 1.1 (gender-responsive local adaptation actions), Output 3.1 (inclusive SMEs) and Activity 4.2.3 (gender-responsive MEL tools). |
| Koshi Provincial Government<br>1. Dr. Indra P Sapkota-Director, Forest Directorate<br>2. Mr. Megha Raj Rai, DFO, Jhapa<br>3. Mr. Rishi Parajuli, Asst. Foredt Officer, Jhapa<br>4. Mr. Rabindra Subedi, Chief of Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project, Jhapa<br>*Male: 4*<br>*Female: 0* | March 2025, Jhapa | **Issues Discussed**<br>(i)High climate vulnerability of the Chure–Terai landscape and increasing risks to forests, agriculture and water systems<br>(ii)Limited provincial and municipal budget allocation for climate adaptation and NbS<br>(iii)Need for coordination between provincial line agencies and local governments<br>**Agreements Reached**<br>(i)Agreement to prioritize NbS-based watershed and landscape restoration as a provincial adaptation priority<br>(ii)Agreement that provincial forest and agriculture agencies will coordinate with municipalities during implementation<br>(iii)Agreement to support integration of project activities into district-level planning and implementation mechanisms | Inputs informed Component 5 by defining coordination roles for provincial and district-level agencies.<br>Provincial priorities were integrated into Outputs 1.2 (landscape prioritization) and 4.2 (institutional capacity strengthening). | (i)Provincial stakeholders acknowledged unequal access of women and marginalized groups to extension services and adaptation finance.<br>(ii)Addressed through Output 4.2 (capacity strengthening with inclusive targeting) and Output 3.1, which prioritizes women-led and inclusive enterprises. |
| Local Government<br>1. Ms. Khadga Maya Parajuli, Deputy | March 2025, Jhapa | **Issues Discussed** | (i)Inputs directly informed Activity 1.1.2, ensuring | Women municipal representatives highlighted |



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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor, Arjundhara Municipality<br>2. Sunil Niraula, Administrative Officer, Bhadrapur Municipality<br>*Male: 1*<br>*Female: 1* | | (i)Insufficient municipal budget to independently finance climate-resilient infrastructure and ecosystem restoration<br>(ii)Increasing climate risks affecting vulnerable households, agriculture and water access<br>(iii)Need for external technical and financial support aligned with municipal priorities<br>**Agreements Reached**<br>(i)Agreement to integrate project-supported NbS activities into annual municipal plans and budgets<br>(ii)Agreement to provide local coordination, facilitation and institutional support during implementation<br>(iii)Agreement to align project activities with municipal disaster risk reduction and land-use plans | municipal priorities guide NbS site selection.<br>(ii)Municipal integration is reflected across Outputs 1.1, 2.2 and 5.1, strengthening local ownership. | disproportionate impacts of floods and water stress on women's unpaid labor. Addressed through Output 1.1 (gender-responsive local adaptation actions) and scheduling of trainings to reduce time burdens under Component 4. |
| CFUGs<br>1. Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai<br>2. Mr. Shanti Chimariya<br>3. Mr. Bhola Neupane<br>4. Ms. Shanti Sharma<br>5. Mr. Balkrishna Sapkota<br>6. Ms. Laxmi Karki<br>7. Ms. Kalpana Rai<br>*Male: 4*<br>*Female: 3* | March 2025, Jhapa | **Issues Discussed**<br>(i)Increasing exposure to floods, erosion and declining forest productivity<br>(ii)Limited livelihood diversification options under climate stress<br>(iii)Need for community-led ecosystem restoration and external support<br>**Agreements Reached**<br>(i)Agreement to support community-led NbS implementation within community forests<br>(ii)Agreement to participate in restoration, monitoring and maintenance activities<br>(iii)Agreement to collaborate with municipalities and project partners during implementation | Inputs guided selection of intervention sites under Output 1.2 and community-led restoration under Activities 1.1.3–1.1.4.<br>Livelihood concerns directly informed Output 3.1 on NbS-based enterprises. | Women CFUG members highlighted time constraints and limited leadership roles. Addressed through Output 1.1 (gender-responsive planning), leadership opportunities under Component 4, and women-targeted enterprise support under Output 3.1. |
| **Total**<br>*Male: 12*<br>*Female: 6* | | | | |

**81.** Stakeholder consultations were operational in nature and directly informed project outputs, activities and institutional arrangements. Agreements reached during consultations shaped site selection, coordination mechanisms, gender-responsive livelihood design and policy integration, ensuring that stakeholder inputs are embedded in implementation rather than remaining advisory.

**82.** NTNC's longstanding work in engaging Indigenous Peoples, women's cooperatives and marginalized farming communities has informed the project's approach to locally led adaptation, agroforestry-based livelihoods and participatory ecosystem restoration. NTNC's action research and facilitation tools have proven effective in aligning stakeholder priorities while fostering equity, transparency and sustainability. In addition, the proposal builds on consultations with key Government actors, including senior officials NTNC, Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board, Koshi Province Forest Directorate and Division Forest Offices in the proposed project area. These discussions emphasized the urgency of addressing interconnected challenges of water stress, land degradation, biodiversity loss and livelihood vulnerability, particularly in the Terai–Chure interface zones. Stakeholders highlighted the need for integrated, landscape-scale solutions that are both climate-resilient and socially inclusive. In response, the preliminary project design presented herein incorporates multi-stakeholder platforms and community governance mechanisms to ensure ownership, transparency and accountability.



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**83.** A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the full proposal phase to expand outreach and ensure meaningful participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, youth and other marginalized groups throughout implementation. Engagement processes will be guided by principles of FPIC, participatory planning and social inclusion in alignment with both national policy and Adaptation Fund safeguards.

## I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

**84.** The funding requested from the Adaptation Fund reflects the full cost of delivering concrete, climate-driven adaptation outcomes under the GREEN-Koshi project and is directly aligned with the output-level budget allocations presented in Table 2. Component and output budgets are structured to cover the complete adaptation cycle, including climate risk and vulnerability assessments, technical design and implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), community engagement, capacity strengthening, safeguards compliance, monitoring and long-term functionality of adaptation measures. Larger allocations to Components 1–3 reflect the scale and capital intensity of ecosystem restoration, agroforestry and human–elephant conflict mitigation measures required to reduce exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards and to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods at landscape scale. Proportionate investments in institutional capacity strengthening and policy mainstreaming (Components 4–5) ensure that adaptation benefits are sustained, replicated and scaled beyond the project period. Overall, the requested funding represents a cost-effective and balanced investment across physical, social and institutional dimensions of adaptation, commensurate with the level of climate risk faced by vulnerable communities in Koshi Province. Proposed costs are estimates and may be adjusted during the full project preparation phase. A detailed breakdown of costed activities is provided in Annex F.

**85.** All components and activities required to achieve the project's adaptation objective are fully costed and covered by the Adaptation Fund request. Without external financial support, the target communities, local governments and key institutions in Koshi Province would not have the resources or capacity to implement the necessary ecosystem-based adaptation measures at the scale, coverage and technical rigour required to address escalating climate risks. Public and private financing mechanisms for NbS remain nascent in Nepal and despite strong policy commitments including the NAP, NDC 3.0, and National Climate Change Policy (2019), the fiscal space of provincial and municipal governments is severely constrained.

**86.** Local governments face competing development priorities, low discretionary budgets and limited access to climate finance, leaving them unable to undertake large-scale watershed restoration, wetland rehabilitation, agroforestry systems expansion, or human–wildlife conflict mitigation without external support. The requested Adaptation Fund resources will therefore enable the project to cover the entire cost of adaptation, including the following linked intervention areas:

**87. Ecosystem restoration**: Reforestation, watershed rehabilitation, wetland restoration and slope stabilization through NbS directly reduce climate risks such as floods, droughts, sedimentation and erosion. These interventions increase water retention, restore ecological buffers, and strengthen landscape-scale resilience; benefits that cannot be achieved without climate finance.

**88. Climate-resilient livelihoods**: The development of agroforestry systems, climate-resilient value chains and NbS-based enterprises diversifies incomes and strengthens local economies against climate shocks. These livelihood transformations require initial financing for nurseries, inputs, training and enterprise incubation; costs that cannot be shouldered by vulnerable households or local governments alone.

**89. Capacity strengthening and institutional strengthening**: Training local governments, community-based organizations, CFUGs and Indigenous communities is essential to ensure long-term adaptation governance. Funding is required for curricula development, extension services, technical support, monitoring systems and early-warning capacities.

**90. Policy integration and knowledge dissemination**: Mainstreaming NbS into local and provincial policies and budgets, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms and developing knowledge products and learning systems requires external support in the short term to generate long-term institutional sustainability. National institutions including MoAFE, MoALD, provincial ministries and local governments will play critical roles in sustaining



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outcomes, but they lack the financial capacity to launch such large-scale, integrated adaptation programmes without the Adaptation Fund. The Fund's investment is therefore not supplementary; it is indispensable to ensuring that vulnerable groups particularly women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and smallholders receive tangible, measurable adaptation benefits. Moreover, the Fund's support ensures that adaptation results are long-lasting and transformative. By restoring ecosystems, reducing exposure to climate hazards, strengthening adaptive capacities and embedding NbS within Government systems, the project creates structural change that will continue beyond its lifetime. This reduces future dependence on external assistance and positions the province and nation to scale NbS-based adaptation independently. In summary, the requested Adaptation Fund resources represent the full cost of adaptation required to implement concrete, on-the-ground NbS interventions; build and sustain climate-resilient livelihoods; strengthen institutions to manage climate risks; and mainstream adaptation into long-term governance systems. This investment will deliver enduring benefits for both people and ecosystems in Koshi Province while significantly advancing Nepal's national adaptation and development priorities.

### J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.

**91.** Sustainability is a central pillar of the GREEN-Koshi project with the design incorporating long-term mechanisms to ensure that ecological, social, financial and institutional benefits continue beyond project completion. The project adopts a multi-dimensional sustainability approach that is institutional, financial, environmental, social and knowledge-based, supported by clear exit pathways and capacity-retention measures.

**92. Institutional sustainability:** The project embeds NbS into the core planning, regulatory and budgeting processes of provincial and local governments. Through participatory planning, legal support and creation of standard operating procedures, NbS will be mainstreamed into annual and 5-year plans, DRR strategies, land-use plans and sectoral budgets. Capacity retention mechanisms are integral to project design and include a training-of-trainers approach, institutional embedding of NbS tools and guidelines within provincial and municipal systems, and phased handover of responsibilities to local governments, CFUGs and wetland management committees. Skills developed under the project will be applied through formal roles within existing institutions, ensuring continuity beyond project closure. Capacity-retention mechanisms, including formal training modules, on-the-job learning and the adoption of NbS tools and guidelines ensure that local officials and community institutions retain knowledge after project closure. A phased handover strategy will gradually transfer responsibilities for watershed management, early-warning systems and agroforestry extension to municipalities, CFUGs and wetland committees. Institutional continuity is further reinforced through the NTNC's Field Office and existing CIFOR-ICRAF MoU with MoALD, which provides a platform for ongoing collaboration in agroforestry, capacity development, and ecosystem management.

**93. Financial sustainability:** The project cultivates long-term financing mechanisms rooted in community enterprises, eco-tourism revenue, agroforestry value chains and emerging instruments, such as ecological fiscal transfers. Livelihood and enterprise models are designed to generate sustained income streams that fund ongoing maintenance of nurseries, wetland systems, agroforestry plots and monitoring activities. Local governments will establish budget lines for operation and maintenance of EWS and NbS assets, supported by provincial climate finance allocations. PES schemes are included on an exploratory and pilot basis to assess their technical, economic and institutional viability rather than as guaranteed financing mechanisms. The project will undertake ecosystem service valuation, cost–benefit analysis and stakeholder willingness-to-pay assessments to determine whether PES models are feasible and scalable in the Koshi context.

**94.** Post-project operation and maintenance arrangements have been considered. Local governments will integrate maintenance of early warning systems and NbS assets into annual plans and budgets, while CFUGs, wetland committees and producer groups will manage restored ecosystems and livelihood assets through existing governance structures and revenues generated from enterprises, eco-tourism and value chains.

**95.** Capacity retention measures are defined at concept note stage through institutional strengthening, training-of-trainers, local platform support and integration of operational practices into local systems, while long-term post-project maintenance will be implemented through competent local government structures and routine service



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arrangements. At concept note stage, financial sustainability arrangements with local governments are not yet fully formalised; however, they have been agreed in principle through consultations and will be concluded as a defined future action during full proposal preparation/inception through written arrangements specifying O&M financing commitments, budget-line integration, responsible entities and implementation timelines. Progress on formalisation will be tracked through agreed milestones and reported through project governance and implementation reporting.

**96. Environmental sustainability:** The project restores and protects ecosystems that generate long-term climate resilience benefits, such as clean water supply, reduced erosion, enhanced soil fertility and enhanced biodiversity. All restoration interventions prioritize native species, ecological connectivity and landscape-scale approaches to ensure enduring environmental performance. Community institutions will receive training on adaptive ecosystem management, including habitat-health monitoring, sustainable harvesting regimes and enforcement of community rules, ensuring continued stewardship after project completion.

**97. Social sustainability:** The project strengthens social institutions and promotes inclusive governance models that ensure lasting local ownership. CFUGs, wetland committees, producer cooperatives and women-led enterprises will take central roles in planning, implementation and monitoring, embedding stewardship responsibilities within local structures. Targeted capacity development for women, Indigenous Peoples and youth enhances long-term leadership in conservation and NbS-based livelihoods. By reducing human–elephant conflict through ecological interventions and EWS strengthening, the project also lowers the long-term social and economic burden on communities, preventing cycles of conflict that undermine resilience.

**98. Knowledge and learning sustainability:** All project-generated tools, manuals, protocols, monitoring systems and best practices will be documented and integrated into national and subnational knowledge platforms. The Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC), hosted under the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE), will serve as the national repository for climate knowledge. The project will contribute technical content, data, learning products, and capacity support, while CCMD will retain responsibility for managing, updating, and sustaining the national knowledge platforms beyond the project period. Community-to-community exchanges, youth storytelling, joint monitoring missions, and policy dialogues will institutionalize continuous learning and knowledge sharing. Together, these mechanisms will ensure that knowledge remains accessible, scalable, and relevant well beyond the life of the project, with CCMD leading long-term platform ownership and updates.

## K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

**99. Environmental and Social Risk Category:** Based on the environmental and social screening conducted in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy, the project is classified as Category B. The project is expected to have moderate, site-specific environmental and social risks that are not irreversible and can be readily mitigated through the implementation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including screening, mitigation, monitoring and grievance redress measures. All USPs identified during implementation will be screened, categorised and approved in line with AF ESP and GP requirements and will also be subject to the project ESMP, including preparation and implementation of any site-specific safeguard instruments required by screening outcomes, prior to implementation

**100.** The GREEN-Koshi project has been designed to deliver primarily positive environmental and social impacts by restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening community resilience and enhancing local capacities. However, recognizing that even well-intentioned adaptation projects can carry risks, a preliminary assessment has been undertaken. This aligns with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy and will be further deepened during the full proposal development. Environmental impacts and risks: The project is expected to generate substantial environmental benefits, including improved watershed and wetland health; increased biodiversity and habitat restoration; enhanced soil stability and fertility; and greater carbon sequestration through forest cover expansion.

**101.** **Key environmental risks** include disturbance to local biodiversity during reforestation or wetland



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restoration, especially if non-native species are introduced or if ecological functions are altered without proper planning; soil erosion or disturbance during land preparation for agroforestry or slope stabilization; and unintended ecological consequences, such as the spread of invasive species, if not proactively managed. These risks will be addressed through a robust Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be developed in the next phase. The ESMF will include context-specific screening tools; species selection protocols prioritizing native biodiversity; application of land restoration best practices; and monitoring indicators for environmental impacts. Ongoing environmental monitoring and community-based feedback mechanisms will support adaptive management.

**102.** **Social impacts and risks**: Socially, the project aims to generate transformative benefits by enhancing livelihood security through climate-resilient agroforestry and nature-based enterprises; empowering women, Indigenous Peoples and youth; and reducing human–wildlife conflict through participatory mitigation strategies.

**103.** **Key social risks**: Exclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g. Dalits, landless households, women) if participation processes are not inclusive or accessible; escalation of human–wildlife conflict, particularly if elephant habitat corridors are poorly designed or early-warning systems are inadequate; and resource-access disputes or grievances related to changes in land use or benefit-sharing arrangements.

**104.** To mitigate these risks, the project will ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle, with specific strategies to include women (preliminary gender analysis included in Annex B), Indigenous peoples and marginalized groups; apply FPIC principles; establish a gender-sensitive grievance redress mechanism at both community and institutional levels; and implement stakeholder training in early-warning systems and risk response protocols, particularly in areas prone to Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC). This will be complemented by awareness campaigns and contingency planning, in partnership with local forest and wildlife authorities.

**105.** **Safeguards compliance and ESMF Development:** All project activities will be screened against the Adaptation Fund's 15 environmental and social principles. Identified risks will be addressed through tailored mitigation plans embedded in project design. The project will also adhere to Nepal's Environmental Protection Act (2019) and relevant forest land-use and biodiversity-related policies and regulations. Relevant national approvals and environmental clearances will be obtained where required. A comprehensive ESMF will be finalized during the full proposal stage. It will guide safeguard risk screening and classification; mitigation planning and implementation; monitoring and evaluation, including periodic safeguard audits; and stakeholder-informed adaptive management, based on real-time feedback.

**106.** By proactively addressing these potential risks, the GREEN-Koshi project will uphold the highest environmental and social safeguards. This approach enhances the integrity, equity, and long-term sustainability of its adaptation outcomes.

**107.** Based on the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy screening, the project is classified as Category B, as it involves moderate, site-specific environmental and social risks that are reversible and can be readily mitigated through an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

**108.** All identified environmental and social risks (in table 14 below), including indirect and cumulative impacts, will be further assessed and managed through the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be finalized during full proposal development

**Table 14. Environmental and social risk screening**



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| Checklist of environmental and social principles | No further assessment required for compli-ance | Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance |
|---|---|---|
| *Compliance with the Law* | | **Low:** Potential direct impacts could arise if project activities proceed without required permits, approvals or compliance with evolving national, provincial or local environmental and social regulations. Potential indirect impacts could include implementation delays or reduced institutional trust if compliance requirements are not clearly followed. Potential cumulative impacts could arise if multiple small activities are implemented without systematic legal screening. No significant transboundary impacts are expected because activities are localized within Koshi Province. **This risk will be mitigated by** systematic legal screening of all activities, continuous consultation with competent authorities, and obtaining all required permits and approvals before implementation. |
| *Access and Equity* | | **Moderate:** Potential direct impacts include unequal access to project-supported training, livelihood assets, restoration benefits, early-warning services or enterprise opportunities if selection processes are not transparent. Potential indirect impacts include elite capture or reduced participation by poorer households, women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, landless households, persons with disabilities and remote communities due to social barriers, time constraints or limited access to information. Potential cumulative impacts could arise if repeated exclusion across several activities reinforces existing inequalities. No significant transboundary impacts are expected because activities are localized within Koshi Province and will be screened through the ESMF/ESMP. **This risk will be mitigated by** applying equity-focused targeting criteria, FPIC-aligned consultation processes, transparent beneficiary selection, grievance redress and disaggregated monitoring of benefit distribution. |
| *Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups* | | **Moderate:** Potential direct impacts include limited participation of Dalits, landless households, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, women-headed households and other vulnerable groups in decision-making and benefit-sharing if outreach and facilitation are inadequate. Potential indirect impacts include reinforcement of local power asymmetries or reduced adaptive capacity among groups already facing social and economic exclusion. Potential cumulative impacts could arise where the same groups are repeatedly underrepresented across restoration, livelihood, training and governance activities. No significant transboundary impacts are expected. **This risk will be mitigated by** proactive outreach, inclusive consultation processes, representation measures in community institutions, accessible communication, FPIC-aligned engagement where relevant, and safeguard monitoring using gender- and social-disaggregated indicators. |
| *Human Rights* | | **Low:** Potential direct impacts could occur if communities do not receive adequate information about project activities or if consultation processes do not allow meaningful participation. Potential indirect impacts could include reduced trust, grievances or perceived exclusion from decisions affecting local resource use. Potential cumulative impacts could arise if consultation gaps occur repeatedly across multiple sub-projects. No significant transboundary impacts are expected. **This risk will be mitigated by** applying FPIC principles where Indigenous Peoples and local communities are affected, ensuring inclusive consultations, disclosing information in accessible formats and maintaining an accessible grievance redress mechanism. |
| *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment* | | **Moderate:** Potential direct impacts include lower participation by women in training, planning, enterprises or leadership roles if project activities do not address mobility, time-use, care-work or social constraints. Potential indirect impacts could include reinforcing existing gender inequalities or increasing women's unpaid labour burden through restoration, livelihood or community-management activities. Potential cumulative impacts could arise if women are repeatedly underrepresented across project decision-making, implementation and benefit-sharing mechanisms. No significant transboundary impacts are expected. **This risk will be mitigated through** implementation of a Gender Action Plan, targets for women's participation and leadership, flexible scheduling, women-focused capacity support, gender-sensitive grievance mechanisms, and sex-disaggregated monitoring and evaluation. |
| *Core Labour Rights* | | **Low:** Potential direct impacts include occupational health and safety risks or inconsistent application of fair wage and labour standards in contracted or community labour. Potential indirect impacts could include reduced participation of poorer households if labour conditions are not transparent or equitable. Potential cumulative impacts could arise if multiple small works are implemented without consistent labour monitoring. No significant transboundary impacts are expected. **This risk will be mitigated by** enforcing compliance with national labour laws, applying fair wage standards, requiring safe working conditions, prohibiting child and forced labour, and monitoring occupational health and safety during implementation. |
| *Indigenous Peoples* | | **Moderate:** Potential direct impacts could occur where activities affect land use, ecosystem access, customary practices, Indigenous knowledge systems or local livelihood strategies. Potential indirect impacts could include weakening of customary decision-making or exclusion from benefit-sharing if Indigenous Peoples are not meaningfully engaged. Potential cumulative impacts could arise if multiple activities affect customary resource- |



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| | | use areas or cultural practices over time. No significant transboundary impacts are expected because project activities are located within Nepal, but Indigenous Peoples' cultural and customary rights within project areas will require careful screening. **This risk will be mitigated through** FPIC-aligned processes, culturally appropriate engagement, recognition of Indigenous knowledge systems, Indigenous representation in planning and monitoring, and exclusion or redesign of activities where consent, safeguards or mitigation requirements are not met. |
| *Involuntary Resettlement* | **X** | No further assessment required. The project does not involve land acquisition, physical displacement, or economic displacement. All activities are implemented on voluntarily provided land or existing community-managed areas. Therefore, no resettlement risks are anticipated. |
| *Protection of Natural Habitats* | **X** | No further assessment required. Project activities focus on restoration of degraded ecosystems and avoid conversion or degradation of natural habitats. Site selection criteria explicitly exclude ecologically sensitive core zones and critical habitats. |
| *Conservation of Biological Diversity* | **X** | No further assessment required. Project interventions are restorative in nature and prioritise native species, resulting in net positive biodiversity outcomes. Activities do not introduce practices associated with biodiversity loss. |
| *Climate Change* | **X** | No further assessment required. The project does not generate adverse climate impacts. All interventions enhance ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity, contributing positively to climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits. |
| *Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency* | **X** | No further assessment required. The project does not involve significant pollution-generating activities. Minor resource use associated with nurseries and small-scale works follows national environmental standards and good practice. |
| *Public Health* | **X** | No further assessment required. No material adverse public-health risks are anticipated. Activities are community-based and restorative, with expected positive effects through improved ecosystem services and livelihoods. |
| *Physical and Cultural Heritage* | **X** | No further assessment required. Activities do not involve disturbance of known physical or cultural heritage sites. Screening procedures will ensure avoidance of culturally significant areas. |
| *Land and Soil Conservation* | **X** | No further assessment required. Project activities enhance soil stability and land productivity through reforestation, agroforestry, and bioengineering measures, resulting in positive environmental effects |

# PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

## A. Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

**109.** The GREEN-Koshi project is fully aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework by directly contributing to reduced exposure to climate-related hazards, increased adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and strengthened institutional capacity for climate-resilient development. Implementation arrangements translate these results into practice through integrated Nature-based Solutions, early warning systems, climate-resilient livelihoods, and policy mainstreaming across local, provincial, and national levels. Project results will be monitored using Adaptation Fund core indicators and gender- and socially disaggregated data, in compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy. By embedding adaptation measures within existing planning and budgeting systems, the project ensures coherence with the Adaptation Fund's strategic objectives and measurable results.

**110.** The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), serving as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for the Adaptation Fund, will act as the Implementing Entity for the project. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE) has formally endorsed the initiative and will serve as a co-executing entity alongside NTNC, drawing on its extensive experience and strong collaboration with national stakeholders across the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society. CIFOR-ICRAF as the key executing partner, shall collaborate with MoAFE and NTNC in the field-level execution of Project activities pursuant to a formal agreement, and shall be responsible for implementing delegated activities, ensuring accountability, and managing and disbursing funds as delegated by NTNC.

**111.** **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**. The PSC will serve as the highest decision-making body, responsible for providing strategic direction, approving major project decisions, and ensuring alignment with national priorities. It will oversee project assurance functions, including monitoring and evaluation, performance



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oversight, accountability, and learning. The PSC will review and approve multi-year and annual work plans, monitor their execution, and assess progress. The committee will include representatives from relevant government ministries, Implementing Entity, key executing partners, community representatives and other project partners. One member will be selected to serve as the PSC Secretary.

**112. Project Management Unit (PMU).** The PMU will be jointly supported by MoAFE and NTNC and will oversee day-to-day project management and implementation. The NTNC Project Lead will mobilize technical experts, managers, and administrative staff to coordinate activities across project components. The PMU will report to the PSC and ensure that implementation adheres to approved work plans. NTNC, as the NIE, will manage overall project delivery, including coordination with the Adaptation Fund Board, supervision of project activities, budget oversight, fund disbursement, progress monitoring, and integration of lessons learned. The PMU will also lead Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in line with Adaptation Fund environmental and social safeguards, manage procurement, mobilize technical expertise, and implement risk mitigation measures.

**113. Operational Arrangements.** A strong governance structure will guide project implementation, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and coordinated action. The project will adopt an integrated, participatory, and locally driven approach that enables community-based organizations, NGOs, and local governments to access resources directly and influence decision-making over adaptation priorities and actions. Through this structure, the project will strengthen collaboration, improve communication, ensure compliance with policies and safeguards, and enable efficient resource allocation. By engaging government institutions, technical experts, and community representatives ensuring active participation of women and indigenous people, the project will advance climate resilience, support sustainable development, and empower vulnerable communities across the project landscape.

**Table 15. Alignment with the Result Framework of the Adaptation Fund**

| Project Objective(s)[1] | Project Objective Indicator(s) | Fund Outcome | Fund Outcome Indicator | Grant Amount (USD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Objective 1: Restore and sustainably manage climate-vulnerable landscapes in Koshi Province and reduce exposure to climate-related hazards through integrated watershed and wetland restoration, nature-based tourism, and community-based risk-reduction measures. | POI 1.1: At least 20 priority sub-watersheds and 15 degraded wetlands restored or under improved participatory management by Year 5.<br>POI 1.2: At least 15 small-scale climate-resilient nature-based tourism facilities or services operational in priority sites. | Outcome 5: Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress | Indicator 5 (Core Indicator 4): Ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management in response to climate variability and change. | 3,000,000 |
| | POI 1.3: Community-based EWS strengthened or established in identified climate and conflict hotspots.<br>POI 1.4: Number of people using climate-related threat and hazard information from project-supported systems (target to be confirmed during full proposal preparation).<br>POI 1.5: Approximately 400,000 people with reduced climate-related water and disaster risk.<br>POI 1.6: At least 20% reduction in reported human-elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas by Year 5. | Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats | Indicator 1: People using climate-related threat and hazard information. | 425,000 |
| Objective 2: Diversify and strengthen gender-responsive, climate-resilient livelihoods for | POI 2.1: At least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems by Year 5.<br>POI 2.2: Number of people adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient | Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income | Indicator 6A: People adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood practices. | 1,824,750 |



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| smallholders and local communities through agroforestry, NbS-based enterprises and value chains. | livelihood practices (target to be confirmed during full proposal preparation). | for vulnerable people in targeted areas | | |
| | POI 2.3: At least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups supported.<br>POI 2.4: At least 100 FTE jobs created, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.<br>POI 2.5: Participating households experience a 15-20% increase in household income.<br>POI 2.6: Number of households with increased income or avoided decrease in income (target to be confirmed).<br>POI 2.7: At least one PES, climate-finance or green-finance mechanism identified or supported. | Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas | Indicator 6B (Core Indicator 5): Households with increased income, or avoided decrease in income. | 1,200,000 |
| Objective 3: Strengthen institutional and community capacity, knowledge systems and policy frameworks to plan, implement, finance, monitor and scale gender-responsive Nature-based Solutions for climate adaptation. | POI 3.1: Approximately 1,500 individuals, disaggregated by gender and social group, trained in climate adaptation, NbS, ecosystem governance and disaster risk reduction.<br>POI 3.2: Number of targeted people demonstrating strengthened awareness of climate risks and appropriate responses (target to be confirmed). | Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes | Indicator 3A: People with strengthened awareness of climate change risks and how to better address them. | 700,000 |
| | POI 3.3: 12 government institutions, 50 CFUGs, 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs supported to apply NbS tools and guidance.<br>POI 3.4: Number of supported institutions demonstrating strengthened capacity to understand and address climate risks (target to be confirmed).<br>POI 3.5: At least one nested multi-stakeholder NbS coordination platform established or strengthened. | Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses | Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience. | 615,500 |
| | POI 3.6: At least 1 national and 5 sub-national/local policies, plans and/or budgets updated or developed to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities.<br>POI 3.7: At least one PAPA developed or updated with clear NbS provisions.<br>POI 3.8: Number of supported policies, strategies and/or plans adopted, implemented and/or enforced (target to be confirmed). | Outcome 7: Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures | Indicator 7: Policies, strategies, and/or plans adopted, implemented, and/or enforced that integrate climate risk and resilience considerations | 515,500 |
| **Total outcome level grant amount** | | | | 8,280,750 |

| **Project outcome(s)** | **Project outcome indicator(s)** | **Fund Output** | **Fund Output Indicator** | **Grant Amount (USD)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outcome 1. Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced | PRI 1.1: At least 20 priority sub-watersheds and 15 wetlands restored or under improved management by Year 5.<br>PRI 1.2: At least 15 nature-based tourism facilities/services operational in priority landscapes. | Output 5.1: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability | Indicator 5.1: Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management | 3,000,000 |



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| human–elephant co-existence. | PRI 1.3: Number of community-based EWS established or improved (target to be confirmed).<br>PRI 1.4: Approximately 400,000 people with reduced climate-related water and disaster risk.<br>PRI 1.5: At least 20% reduction in reported human-elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas. | Output 1.2: Targeted population groups covered by warning and advisory services for climate-related hazards and threats | Indicator 1.2A (Core Indicator 2): Early warning systems established or improved. | 425,000 |
| Outcome 2. Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. | PRI 2.1: At least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems by Year 5.<br>PRI 2.2: Number of people receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (target to be confirmed). | Output 6.1: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability | Indicator 6.1: People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk. | 1,824,750 |
| | PRI 2.3: At least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups supported.<br>PRI 2.4: At least 100 FTE jobs created, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.<br>PRI 2.5: Targeted households report increased and diversified climate-resilient income sources.<br>PRI 2.6: At least one PES/climate-/green-finance mechanism identified or supported. | Output 6.1: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability | Indicator 6.1: People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk. | 1,200,000 |
| Outcome 3. Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies. | PRI 3.1: Approximately 1,500 people, disaggregated by gender and social group, participate in training, exchanges and awareness activities on climate adaptation and NbS. | Output 3.1: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities | Indicator 3.1: People participating in activities to improve awareness of climate risks and how to address them. | 700,000 |
| | PRI 3.2: 12 government institutions, 50 CFUGs, 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs receive NbS capacity and technical support.<br>PRI 3.3: At least one nested multi-stakeholder platform established or strengthened. | Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks | Indicator 2.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience. | 615,500 |
| | PRI 3.4: At least 1 national and 5 sub-national/local policies, plans and/or budgets updated or developed to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities. | Output 7.1: Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans | Indicator 7.1A (Core Indicator 6): Policies, strategies, and/or plans developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk and resilience considerations. | 515,500 |
| **Total output level grant amount** | | | | 8,280,750 |

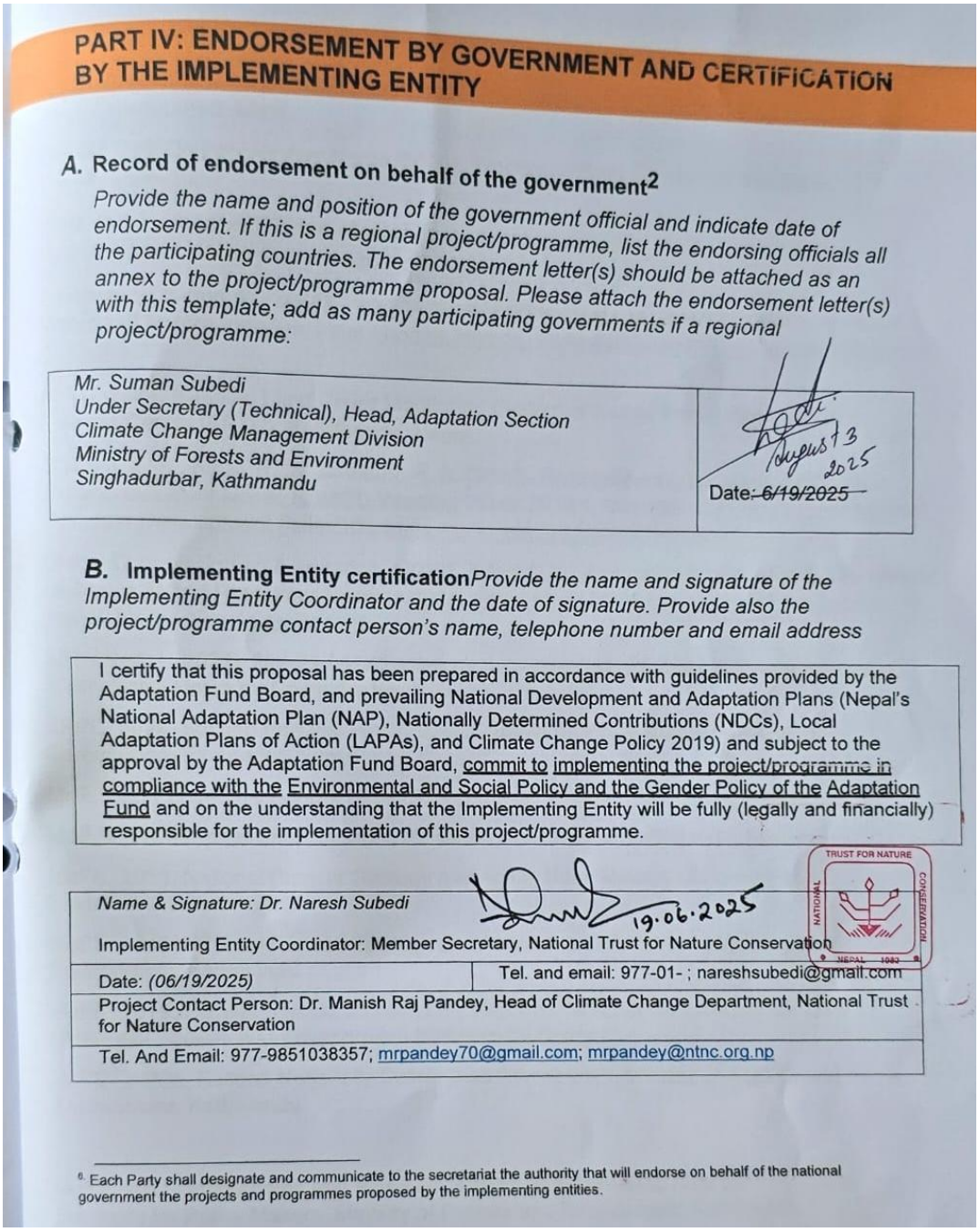


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Note: All project indicators with baseline and target values will be confirmed during the preparation phase.

# PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

## A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[2]



PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

**A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[2]**

*Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Mr. Suman Subedi*<br>*Under Secretary (Technical), Head, Adaptation Section*<br>*Climate Change Management Division*<br>*Ministry of Forests and Environment*<br>*Singhadurbar, Kathmandu* | August 13 2025<br>Date: ~~6/19/2025~~ |

**B. Implementing Entity certification** *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (Nepal's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs), and Climate Change Policy 2019) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Name & Signature: Dr. Naresh Subedi* 19.06.2025<br>Implementing Entity Coordinator: Member Secretary, National Trust for Nature Conservation | |
| Date: *(06/19/2025)* | Tel. and email: 977-01- ; nareshsubedi@gmail.com |
| Project Contact Person: Dr. Manish Raj Pandey, Head of Climate Change Department, National Trust for Nature Conservation | |
| Tel. And Email: 977-9851038357; mrpandey70@gmail.com; mrpandey@ntnc.org.np | |

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[6] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.



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Government of Nepal
# Ministry of Forests and Environment

P.O. Box No. 3987
Singh Durbar, Kathmandu

Ref. No. 30

**Letter of Endorsement by Government**

Date: August 3, 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: **Endorsement for the concept note proposal "GREEN Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions"**

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Nepal, I confirm that the above national concept note proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Nepal.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the concept note with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and executed by Ministry of Forests and Environment and National Trust for Nature Conservation.

Sincerely,

Suman Subedi
Designated Authority, Adaptation Fund
Under Secretary, Adaptation Section
Ministry of Forests and Environment
Email:s_subedi2003@yahoo.com
suman.subedi@nepal.gov.np

**Revised PFG Submission Form[1] (additions in red)**

**Project Formulation Grant (PFG)**

**Submission Date**: February 19, 2026

**Adaptation Fund Project ID**: AF00000474
**Country/ies**: Nepal
**Title of Project/Programme**: GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions
**Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE)**: National Implementing Entity (NIE)
**Implementing Entity**: National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal
**Executing Entity/ies**: National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)

## A. Project Preparation Timeframe

| | |
|---|---|
| **Start date of PFG** | 2026-11-01 |
| **Completion date of PFG** | 2027-10-31 |

## B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

The PFG will directly address issues raised in the Adaptation Fund's technical reviews of the concept note, including articulation of adaptation benefits, safeguards compliance, gender responsiveness and institutional arrangements.

| List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities | Output of the PFG Activities | US$ Amount | Budget note[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comprehensive stakeholder consultations and workshops | Detailed stakeholder engagement plan and consultation reports, including specific inputs from women, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups. | 30,000 | Costs will cover local consultations and workshops, translation into local languages and preparation of background material to discuss project ideas. |

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

| List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities | Output of the PFG Activities | US$ Amount | Budget note[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender and environmental and social risk analyses | A comprehensive Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Gender Action Plan (GAP) are developed and integrated into the full project proposal. | 20,000 | Funding will support the formulation of the ESMF and GAP, including screening tools and risk classification aligned with Adaptation Fund policies. (Will be implemented in collaboration with CIFOR-ICRAF) |
| Site-specific risk and vulnerability assessments | Detailed risk and vulnerability assessments for the five target districts (Udayapur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa, and Ilam). These assessments will identify specific hazards, vulnerabilities and hazard mitigation options. | 17,250 | This activity will support site-specific assessments to deepen the understanding of climate risks and vulnerabilities in the Chure-Terai region. (Will be implemented in collaboration with CIFOR-ICRAF) |
| Free, Prior, and Informed Consent consultations | Phased FPIC processes undertaken in parallel with final site selection to inform and validate the full project design, in line with Adaptation Fund ESP requirements. | 10,000 | This will cover costs related to culturally appropriate engagement processes and consultations to ensure the project design respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| Specific analyses for project design | A series of technical reports including: 1. Policy analysis to inform NbS mainstreaming. 2.Cost-effectiveness analysis of proposed NbS interventions. 3. Data inventories on land use, biodiversity and socio-economic baselines | 20,000 | This will fund specific analyses to support the project proposal, including policy reviews, cost-effectiveness studies of NbS compared to grey infrastructure and data analyses. (Will be implemented in collaboration with CIFOR-ICRAF) |

| List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities | Output of the PFG Activities | US$ Amount | Budget note[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Development of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plan and indicators | A complete M&E plan with clearly defined indicators, baselines and targets integrated into the project's logical framework. | 15,000 | Funding will support the identification of project-level indicators and the development of a participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system. (Will be implemented in collaboration with CIFOR-ICRAF) |
| Assessment of executing partner capacity | Capacity assessment of executing partners (local governments, CFUGs and community institutions) to inform implementation arrangements, risk mitigation measures and readiness. | 12,750 | This will cover the costs of assessing the capacity of executing entities and key community institutions to ensure effective project implementation. |
| Technical consultancies for project development | Finalized full project proposal document, including detailed activity plans, budget and risk mitigation strategies, developed with expert input. | 15,000 | This will cover costs for consultancies and contracts needed to develop specific project components, such as NbS designs and value-chain strategies. (Will be implemented in collaboration with CIFOR-ICRAF) |
| IE Fee / PFG management fee | Coordination, supervision, financial management, reporting and compliance support for PFG implementation. | 10,000 | The proposed cost will cover administrative, financial management, reporting and compliance support by the IE during PFG implementation. |
| **Total Project Formulation Grant** | | 150,000 | |

**Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:**

The NTNC, serving as both the Implementing Entity and an Executing Entity, will retain full fiduciary and oversight responsibility for the PFG and the subsequent project. In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE), and CIFOR-ICRAF as a key executing partner providing technical assistance, NTNC will support the project formulation activities in line with their respective technical expertise and institutional mandates.

The funding supports are required to address the technical, institutional, safeguards, and design gaps identified during the Adaptation Fund's review of the GREEN-Koshi CN and to ensure that the resulting full project proposal meets the Adaptation Fund's quality, policy, and compliance requirements. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, are necessary to ensure inclusive participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, and vulnerable groups and to validate proposed Nature-based Solutions in diverse ecological and socio-economic contexts. Site-specific climate risk and vulnerability assessments, together with targeted policy, cost-effectiveness, and baseline analyses, are essential to strengthen the climate rationale, demonstrate adaptation benefits, and support evidence-based selection of interventions across the five target districts.

In addition, dedicated resources are required to develop core compliance and implementation instruments, including an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Gender Action Plan (GAP), robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, and assessments of executing partner capacity. These activities will reduce implementation risks, clarify institutional arrangements, and ensure alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, Gender Policy, and Results Framework. The proposed funding amounts are proportionate to the project's geographic scope, technical complexity, and safeguards obligations, and reflect the costs of specialized expertise, field-based assessments, consultations, and coordination needed to deliver a high-quality, implementation-ready full project proposal in line with Adaptation Fund standards.

## C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

| Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name | Signature | Date (Month, day, year) | Project Contact Person | Telephone | Email Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dr. Manish Raj Pandey; National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) |  | 07-09-2026 | Lina Chalise | +977 9851038357 | mrpandey70@gmail.com / mrpandey@ntnc.org.np |

# Annex A. References


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# Annex B. Preliminary gender analysis and adaptation action plan

## 1. Context and purpose

- Identify key gender dimensions in the land-based sector, including agriculture and forestry in Koshi Province, Nepal.
- Aims to inform the design of a gender-responsive adaptation project.
- Highlights the roles, gaps and differentiated climate change impacts and proposed measures to promote equitable and inclusive participation and benefits for women, men and marginalized groups.
- Alignment: Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and Action Plan (2021-2026), The National Gender Equality Policy of Nepal 2021 and Nepal' NAP 2021-2050

## 2. Methodology

- Review of national gender policies and climate adaptation frameworks.
- Analysis of secondary literature on gender roles in forestry and agriculture in Nepal.
- Compilation of available sex-disaggregated information relevant to project design.

## 3. Gender roles in forestry and agriculture

*3.1 Agriculture*

- Agriculture remains the main livelihood source in Koshi (Timsina 2024).
- Lower hill areas are dominated by cereal crops; higher hill areas: cattle grazing, herbs and tourism.
- Agrarian pattern has changed, displacing traditional cereal crops practice to more commercial crops like vegetables and other high-value crops: cardamom, ginger, seed and fruits; affected by the community forest programme, road construction and introduction of improved agriculture development programme.
- Women contribute 60-70% of agricultural labour.
- Roles of women: subsistence crop production, seed selection, planting, maintenance, post-harvest processing, livestock care.
- Roles of men: control of land, cash-crop decisions, market transactions and mechanized operation.
- Increasingly abandoned, barren land due to out-migration of youth and men.
- Increasingly women's responsibility to manage farms and make agricultural decisions due to out-migration.
- Challenges: women's access to productive resources, credit, technologies and decision-making reminds limited.
- Roles of IPs and marginalized groups to be better determined.

*3.2 Forestry*

- The province is rich in community forests, which provide households with fuelwood, fodder and NTFPs.
- Men and women have different roles: Women tend to daily forest activities: collecting resources, maintaining nurseries; men dominate in decision-making in CFUGs.
- National policy requires 50% female participation in CFUG committees.
- Challenges: limited women's participation and leadership in CFUGs due to social norms, time burdens and limited access to information and education.
- Roles of IPs and marginalized groups to be better determined.

## 4. Gender gaps and barriers

**Table B1. Preliminary assessment of gender gaps and barriers**

| Dimension | Gap/issue | Implication for adaptation |
|---|---|---|
| Access to resources | • Limited number of women own productive land<br>• Limited access to education and capacity strengthening (training, extension service)<br>• Limited access to formal financial support (credit etc) | Reduces women's capacity to invest in climate-smart agriculture |
| Decision-making | • Few women in leadership of CFUGs compared to males<br>• Limited participation of women and marginalized groups in CFUGs | Limited women's influence over adaptation priorities and benefit sharing |
| Labour and time burden | Women dominate in multiple tasks in agriculture, forestry, households | Less time for capacity and adaptation training |
| Information and technology | Agriculture and forestry extension programmes tend to target males (head of household) | Women have lower access to climate information and technology |
| Income and markets | Women mainly engage in subsistence agriculture, with limited access to market and income information and control | Restricts ability to diversify and sustain adaptive livelihoods |

### 5. Gender-differentiated climate change impacts

- Koshi is highly prone to climate change, with intensifying climate exposure to agriculture and forestry productivity, including floods, droughts and landslides.
- Women's vulnerability increased: highly dependent on natural resources, with limited adaptative assets and capacity. Floods and landslides increase workload of women to secure water, food and fuel.
- Men's vulnerability: income loss (disrupted cash crops, instability of migration-related work).
- Different adaptation capacity: Men: more access to finance, information and alternative work; Women: mostly relay on informal networks and community support.

### 6. Opportunities for gender-responsive adaptation

The difference between climate change impacts on women and men needs addressing through gender-responsive planning to ensure equitable benefits for women and men from interventions.

GREEN-Koshi offers opportunities to strengthen gender quality while enhancing resilience.

**Table B2. Recommended actions**

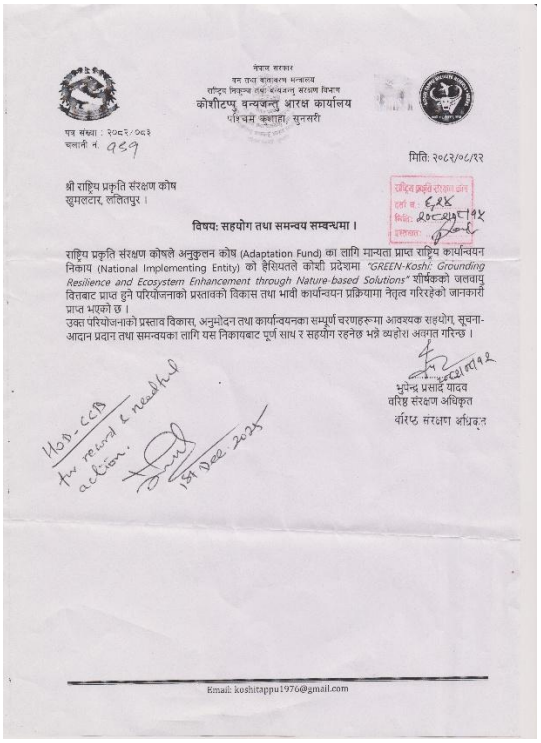
| Action area | Proposed measure | Expected result | Indicator |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deliver climate-resilient agroforestry training | Conduct training for women and marginalized groups on climate-resilient agroforestry | Improvement in women's capacity and skill to implement | % women trained<br>% women participating |
| Access nature-based tourism and cultural businesses | Facilitate access to financial support | Increased women's access to financial support to improve businesses | % women accessing financial support<br>% women initiating or participating in nature-based tourism and cultural businesses |
| Increase women' s participation in activities for climate-resilient agroforestry | Involve women in the establishment of agroforestry demo plots and monitoring | Increased women's leadership of agroforestry | % women leaders of agroforestry practices |
| Monitoring and evaluation | Collect and report gender-disaggregated data on participation and resilience outcomes | Evidence-based tracking of gender impact | All indicators disaggregated by gender |

**7. Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation will include gender-sensitive indicators, including % of women and men trained in climate-resilient agroforestry, % of women accessing financial support, increase in number of women with access to productive assets and income sources.

# Annex C. Selected visual documentation of stakeholder consultations

## I. Letter of Consent



नेपाल सरकार
वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय
राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभाग
कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष कार्यालय
पाँचमे कुवाहा, सुनसरी

पत्र संख्या : २०८२/०८३
चलानी नं. ९८९

मिति: २०८२/०८/१२

श्री राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष
खुमलटार, ललितपुर ।

विषय: सहयोग तथा समन्वय सम्बन्धमा ।

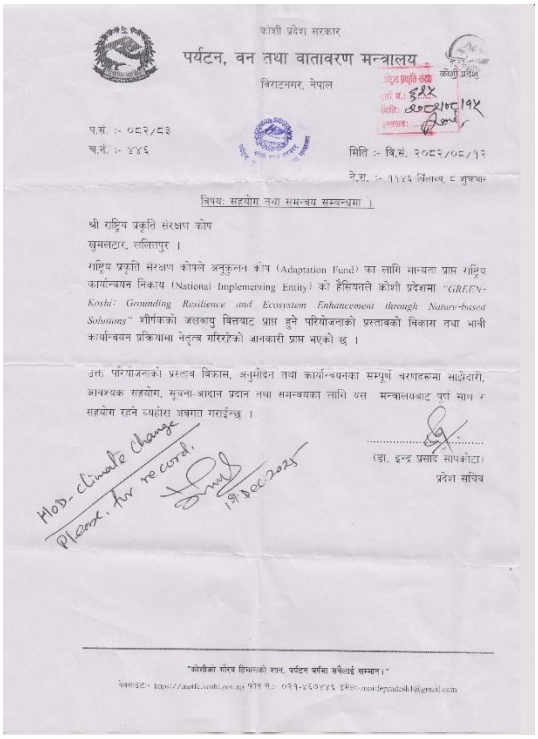
राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोषले अनुकूलन कोष (Adaptation Fund) का लागि मान्यता प्राप्त राष्ट्रिय कार्यान्वयन निकाय (National Implementing Entity) को हैसियतले कोशी प्रदेशमा *"GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions"* शीर्षकको जलवायु वित्तबाट प्राप्त हुने परियोजनाको प्रस्तावको विकास तथा भावी कार्यान्वयन प्रक्रियामा नेतृत्व गरिरहेको जानकारी प्राप्त भएको छ ।

उक्त परियोजनाको प्रस्ताव विकास, अनुमोदन तथा कार्यान्वयनका सम्पूर्ण चरणहरूमा आवश्यक सहयोग, सूचना-आदान प्रदान तथा समन्वयका लागि यस निकायबाट पूर्ण साथ र सहयोग रहनेछ भन्ने व्यहोरा अवगत गराईन्छ ।

भुवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव
वरिष्ठ संरक्षण अधिकृत

HOD- CCD
for record & needful
action.
13th Dec 2025

Email: koshitappu1976@gmail.com



कोशी प्रदेश सरकार
पर्यटन, वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय
विराटनगर, नेपाल

पत्र सं. :- ०८२/८३
च.नं. :- ४४६

मिति :- वि.सं. २०८२/०८/१२
ई.सं. :- ११४६ जिलाध्य ८ शुक्रबार

विषय: सहयोग तथा समन्वय सम्बन्धमा ।

श्री राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष
खुमलटार, ललितपुर ।

राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोषले अनुकूलन कोष (Adaptation Fund) का लागि मान्यता प्राप्त राष्ट्रिय कार्यान्वयन निकाय (National Implementing Entity) को हैसियतले कोशी प्रदेशमा *"GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions"* शीर्षकको जलवायु वित्तबाट प्राप्त हुने परियोजनाको प्रस्तावको विकास तथा भावी कार्यान्वयन प्रक्रियामा नेतृत्व गरिरहेको जानकारी प्राप्त भएको छ ।

उक्त परियोजनाको प्रस्ताव विकास, अनुमोदन तथा कार्यान्वयनका सम्पूर्ण चरणहरूमा साझेदारी, आवश्यक सहयोग, सूचना-आदान प्रदान तथा समन्वयका लागि यस मन्त्रालयबाट पूर्ण साथ र सहयोग रहने व्यहोरा अवगत गराईन्छ ।

(डा. इन्द्र प्रसाद सापकोटा)
प्रदेश सचिव

HOD- climate change
Please, for record.
13/12/2025

"कोशीको गौरव हिमालको शान, पर्यटन जगिमा बनैलाई सम्मान।"

**Unofficial Translation:**

The Ministry of Tourism, Forests and Environment of Koshi Province and the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, hereby notify the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) that it has taken due note of the formulation of the “GREEN–Koshi” Adaptation Fund Proposal under the leadership of NTNC.

The Ministry and Wildlife Reserve affirm its commitment to extend all necessary support, coordination, and facilitation throughout the proposal development and approval processes, as well as during the subsequent implementation phase of the project.

Furthermore, a handwritten directive has been issued requesting that this communication be duly registered by the Head of the Climate Change Department.

## II. Minutes from Focal Group Discussion

आज मिति २०८२।०८।१२ गते राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोषद्वारा अनुकुलन कोष (Adaptation Fund) का लागि मान्यता प्राप्त राष्ट्रिय कार्यान्वयन निकाय (National Implementation Entity) को हैसियतले कोशी प्रदेशमा "GREEN – Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature - based Solutions" शीर्षकको जनवायु वित्तबाट प्राप्त हुने परियोजनाको विकासको लागि स्थानिय स्तरमा सरोकारवालाहरुसँग राय, सुझाव तथा परामर्श सङ्कलन गर्ने उद्धेश्यले निम्न अनुसारको उपस्थितिमा बैठक बसी छलफल तथा निर्णय गरियो ।

उपस्थिति

१. श्री बुद्धि सागर पौडेल, महानिर्देशक, राष्ट्रिय निकुन्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभाग, काठमाडौं

२. श्री डा.इन्द्र प्रसाद सापकोटा, सचिव, पर्यटन वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय कोशी प्रदेश विराटनगर

३. श्री डा.नरेश सुवेदी, सदस्य सचिव, राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष

४. श्री भुपेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव, वरिष्ठ संरक्षण अधिकृत, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष कार्यालय

५. श्री मेजर रमेश गुरुङ, गुल्मपति, भिमकाली गुल्म, कुसाहा व्यारेक सुनसरी

६. श्री जंग बहादुर खड्का, अध्यक्ष मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र व्यवस्थापन समिति कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष

७. श्री नन्दीलाल चौधरी, अध्यक्ष तपेश्वरी मध्यवर्ती सामुदमयिक होमस्टे

८. श्री वीरेन्द्र गौतम, कार्यालय प्रमुख, राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष, कोशी संरक्षण केन्द्र

९. श्री अंकित पौडेल, रेन्जर , ~~अधिकृत~~, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष

१०. श्री केदार प्र. दास, रेन्जर , ~~अधिकृत~~, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष

११. श्री पुरुषोत्तम मुडवरी, व.भेटेरीनरी प्राविधिक, कोशी संरक्षण केन्द्र

१२. श्री जयकान्त चौधरी अध्यक्ष पूर्व पिपरा धनुहा घोघनडा समिति

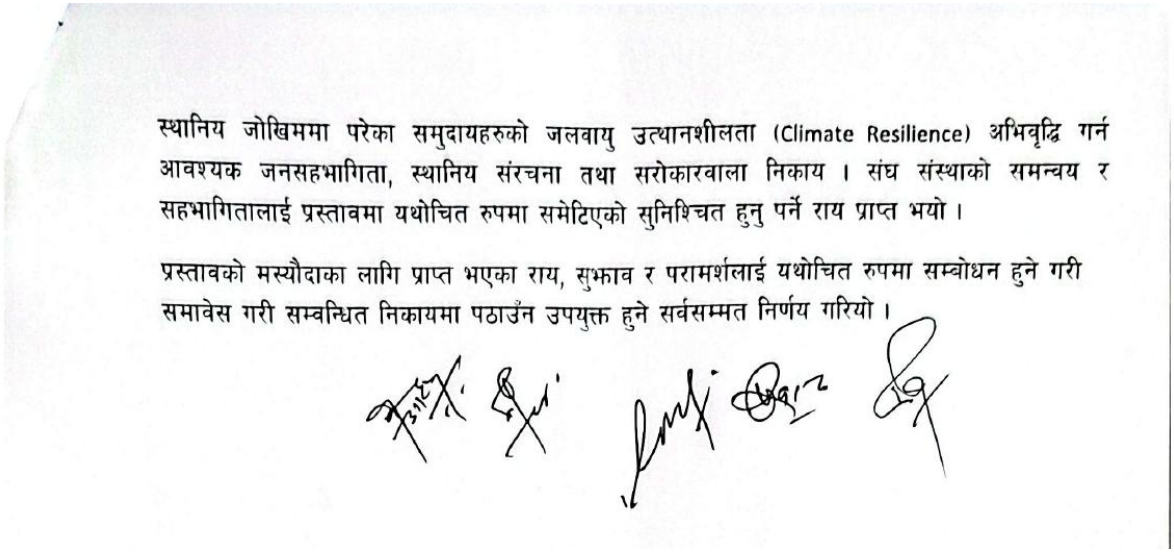
१३. श्री विवेक अधिकारी लेखा सहायक कोशी संरक्षण केन्द्र

१४. श्री लोक बहादुर लुम्बे भगा पाल्चिम कुसाहा सुनसरी

छलफलका विषय तथा निर्णय

**परियोजनाको प्रस्ताव सम्बन्धमा**

कोशी प्रदेश लक्षित निर्माणाधीन परियोजनाको प्रस्तावमा स्थानिय वासिन्दा तथा पारिस्थितिकीय प्रणालीमा देखिएका जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्बन्धि मुख्य मुद्धाहरु समेटिएकोप्रति बैठकमा अवगत भयो । सहभागीहरुबाट प्रस्तुत विषयवस्तु उपयुक्त रहेको राय प्राप्त भयो ।



स्थानिय जोखिममा परेका समुदायहरुको जलवायु उत्थानशीलता (Climate Resilience) अभिवृद्धि गर्न आवश्यक जनसहभागिता, स्थानिय संरचना तथा सरोकारवाला निकाय । संघ संस्थाको समन्वय र सहभागितालाई प्रस्तावमा यथोचित रुपमा समेटिएको सुनिश्चित हुनु पर्ने राय प्राप्त भयो ।

प्रस्तावको मस्यौदाका लागि प्राप्त भएका राय, सुझाव र परामर्शलाई यथोचित रुपमा सम्बोधन हुने गरी समावेस गरी सम्बन्धित निकायमा पठाउँन उपयुक्त हुने सर्वसम्मत निर्णय गरियो ।

**Unofficial translation:**

The consultation participants advised that the proposal should comprehensively incorporate the required elements of community engagement, local institutional arrangements, and coordination and collaboration with relevant government bodies and associations, with a view to enhancing the climate resilience of communities exposed to local risks.

It was unanimously resolved that the proposal shall be revised to appropriately address the feedback, suggestions, and inputs received during the consultations, and thereafter be submitted to the concerned authorities for further consideration.

## III. Photographs of consultation



Discussion 1 with Community Forest Users



Discussion 2 with Community Forest Users



Discussion 3 with Deputy Mayor and team



Discussion 4 with Forest Director, Koshi Province

# Annex D. Theory of Change

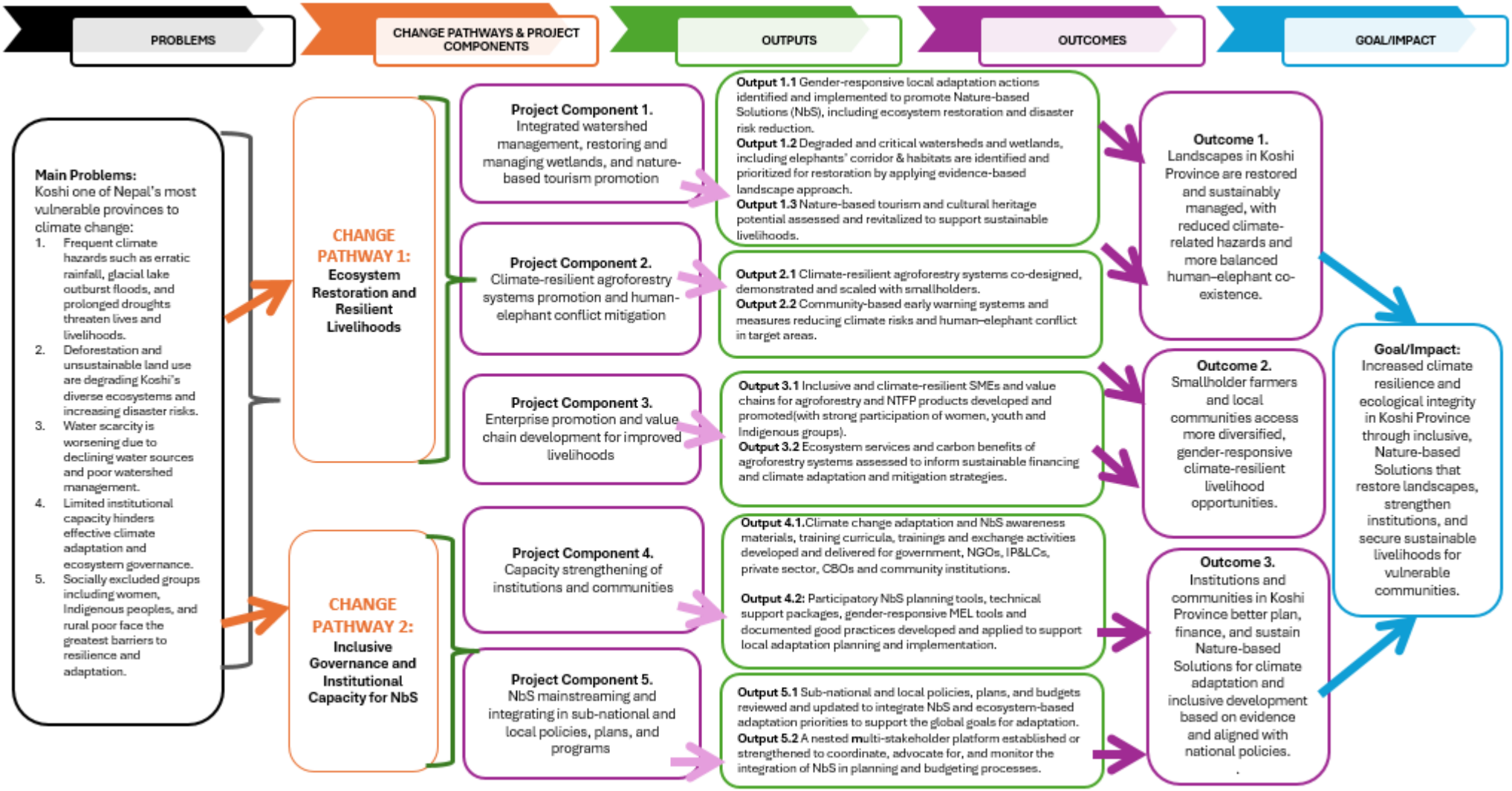



**Figure 3. Theory of Change Diagram**

## Annex E. Project impact, outcomes, outputs and activities

**Overall impact**: Increased climate resilience and ecological integrity in Koshi Province through inclusive NbS that restore landscapes, strengthen institutions and secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

Outcome 1. Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence. Target: Approximately 400,000 people experience reduced climate-related water and disaster risk due to NbS; at least 20 sub-watersheds and 15 degraded wetlands are assessed, prioritized, restored or placed under improved management; human–elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas reduced by approximately 20%.

Outcome 2. Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. Target: At least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems; at least 20 NbS-based enterprises supported; at least 100 full-time equivalent jobs created, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups; participating households experience a 15–20% increase in household income and report increased and diversified climate-resilient income sources.

Outcome 3. Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies. Target: Approximately 1,500 individuals trained on climate adaptation and NbS, disaggregated by gender and social group, with at least 40% women's participation in training and community processes; 12 government institutions, 50 CFUGs, 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs supported to apply NbS tools and guidance; NbS integrated into at least one national and five sub-national or local policies, plans or budgets; multi-stakeholder platforms established or strengthened.

Component 1. Integrated watershed management, restoring and managing wetlands and nature-based tourism promotion contributes to Outcome 1. The three outputs and associated activities contribute to restoring degraded ecosystems, reducing climate-related hazards and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Output 1.1: Gender-responsive local adaptation actions identified and implemented to promote Nature-based Solutions, including ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction. Target: Participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments completed; priority community vulnerability and NbS sites identified; gender-responsive watershed restoration and DRR actions implemented in selected micro-watersheds.

Activity 1.1.1: Conduct participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments to prioritise community vulnerability and NbS sites.

Activity 1.1.2: Design integrated ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction as part of managing critical watersheds.

Activity 1.1.3: Implement watershed restoration measures with community participation.

Activity 1.1.4: Train communities to operate, maintain and monitor watershed NbS.

Output 1.2: Degraded and critical wetlands and agro-biodiversity hotspots, including elephant corridors and habitats, identified and prioritized for restoration through an evidence-based landscape approach. Target: At least 20 sub-watersheds and 15 degraded wetlands assessed, prioritized, restored or placed under improved management.

Activity 1.2.1: Map and assess degraded, climate-vulnerable wetlands.

Activity 1.2.2: Co-design wetland restoration and protection plans with stakeholders.

Activity 1.2.3: Implement priority wetland restoration measures.

Activity 1.2.4: Strengthen community wetland management committees and rules.

Output 1.3: Nature-based tourism and cultural heritage potential assessed and revitalized to support sustainable livelihoods. Target: At least 15 small-scale climate-resilient nature-based tourism facilities or services operational in priority sites, supported by climate-sensitive business models and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Activity 1.3.1: Assess nature-based and cultural tourism potential around restored sites.

Activity 1.3.2: Develop small-scale, climate-sensitive tourism business models and products with communities.

Activity 1.3.3: Set up equitable tourism benefit-sharing for ecosystems and communities.

Component 2. Climate-resilient agroforestry systems promotion and human–elephant conflict mitigation contributes to Outcomes 1 and 2. The two outputs and associated activities contribute to reduced climate risks, improved livelihoods and safer human–elephant co-existence.

Output 2.1: Climate-resilient agroforestry systems co-designed, demonstrated and scaled with smallholders. Target: At least 1,000 ha brought under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems, supported by nurseries, extension services, demonstration plots and farmer-to-farmer learning.

Activity 2.1.1: Co-design climate-resilient agroforestry models with farmers and CFUGs.

Activity 2.1.2: Establish nurseries and supply climate-resilient planting material.

Activity 2.1.3: Provide on-farm extension on climate-smart and sustainable practices.

Activity 2.1.4: Set up agroforestry demo plots and farmer-to-farmer learning.

Output 2.2: Community-based early warning systems and measures reducing climate risks and human–elephant conflict in target areas. Target: Human–elephant conflict hotspots and risk zones mapped; community-based early warning systems and non-lethal mitigation measures implemented in target areas; approximately 20% reduction in human–elephant conflict incidents targeted.

Activity 2.2.1: Map human–elephant conflict hotspots and risk zones.

Activity 2.2.2: Design and install community-based early warning systems.

Activity 2.2.3: Run drills and awareness sessions on EWS and safe behaviour.

Activity 2.2.4: Implement non-lethal human–elephant conflict mitigation measures.

Activity 2.2.5: Integrate conflict and climate-risk measures into local DRR and land-use plans.

Component 3. Enterprise promotion and value-chain development for improved livelihoods contributes to Outcome 2.

Output 3.1: Inclusive and climate-resilient SMEs and value chains for agroforestry and NTFP products developed and promoted with strong participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups. Target: At least 20 NbS-based enterprises supported; at least 100 full-time equivalent jobs created, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.

Activity 3.1.1: Analyze markets and value chains for key agroforestry and NTFP products.

Activity 3.1.2: Support SMEs and producer groups to develop viable business models.

Activity 3.1.3: Provide business-development services to target SMEs and groups.

Activity 3.1.4: Support aggregation, processing and storage facilities for key products.

Activity 3.1.5: Facilitate market and finance linkages for NbS-based enterprises.

Output 3.2: Ecosystem services and carbon benefits of agroforestry systems assessed to inform sustainable financing and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Target: Ecosystem-service and carbon monitoring protocols developed; economic and financial performance of NbS assessed; pathways to climate, performance- and results-based finance identified for smallholders, including at least one PES, climate-finance or green-finance mechanism identified or supported.

Activity 3.2.1: Develop protocols to measure and monitor carbon and co-benefits in agroforestry.

Activity 3.2.2: Analyze the economic and financial performance of NbS, including trade-offs with conventional or grey infrastructure alternatives.

Activity 3.2.3: Identify pathways to access climate, performance- and results-based finance accessible by smallholders.

Component 4. Capacity strengthening of institutions and communities contributes to Outcome 3.

Output 4.1: Climate change adaptation and NbS awareness materials, training curricula, trainings and exchange activities developed and delivered for government, NGOs, IP&LCs, private sector, CBOs and community institutions. Target: Training curricula and communication materials developed; trainings, exchanges and exposure visits delivered to contribute to approximately 1,500 people trained, disaggregated by gender and social group, with at least 40% women's participation in training and community processes.

Activity 4.1.1: Develop NbS and climate-adaptation training curricula.

Activity 4.1.2: Deliver trainings, exchanges and visits on climate risks and NbS.

Activity 4.1.3: Produce and share communication materials on NbS practices.

Output 4.2: Participatory NbS planning tools, technical support packages, gender-responsive MEL tools and documented good practices developed and applied to support local adaptation planning and implementation. Target: NbS tools and technical support applied by 12 government institutions, 50 CFUGs, 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs, with gender-responsive MEL tools and good-practice documentation used in target areas.

Activity 4.2.1: Facilitate participatory planning integrating climate risks and NbS.

Activity 4.2.2: Provide technical support for NbS sub-project design and delivery.

Activity 4.2.3: Develop simple, gender-responsive MEL tools for adaptation outcomes.

Activity 4.2.4: Document and share NbS good practices and lessons.

Component 5. NbS mainstreaming and integration in sub-national and local policies, plans and programmes contributes to Outcome 3.

Output 5.1: Sub-national and local policies, plans and budgets reviewed and updated to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities to support the global goals for adaptation. Target: NbS integration supported in at least one national and five sub-national or local policies, plans or budgets, including at least one PAPA developed or updated with NbS provisions.

Activity 5.1.1: Review global and national policies and plans to identify NbS entry points.

Activity 5.1.2: Support integration of NbS into key policies, plans and regulations.

Activity 5.1.3: Support climate-responsive budgeting to increase NbS allocations.

Output 5.2: A nested multi-stakeholder platform established or strengthened to coordinate, advocate for and monitor the integration of NbS in planning and budgeting processes. Target: Nested multi-stakeholder platform established or strengthened; simple tracking system for NbS integration and performance operational; policy dialogues and learning events organized.

Activity 5.2.1: Establish or strengthen NbS multi-stakeholder coordination platforms.

Activity 5.2.2: Develop simple systems to track NbS integration and performance.

Activity 5.2.3: Organize policy dialogues and learning events on the scaling of NbS, including contributions to UN climate change conferences as part of global knowledge exchange and community learning.

## Annex F. Overview of costed project activities

| Activity | Budget (USD) | Rationale (Normative Basis) |
|---|---|---|
| Component 1 | | |
| 1.1.1: Conduct participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments to prioritise community's vulnerability and NbS sites | 155,487 | Field surveys, technical facilitation, local consultations |
| 1.1.2: Design integrated ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction as part of managing critical watersheds | 207,317 | Technical studies, engineering/ecological design |
| 1.1.3: Implement watershed restoration measures with community participation | 1,554,879 | Bioengineering, plantations, check dams, labour/material-intensive works |
| 1.1.4: Train communities to operate, maintain and monitor watershed NbS | 207,317 | Training events, materials, local capacity building |
| **Output 1.1. Total** | **2,125,000** | |
| 1.2.1: Map and assess degraded, climate-vulnerable wetlands. | 142,772 | Wetland inventory, GIS, ecological assessments |
| 1.2.2: Co-design wetland restoration and protection plans with stakeholders. | 95,181 | Stakeholder workshops, technical facilitation |
| 1.2.3: Implement priority wetland restoration measures. | 475,903 | Habitat rehabilitation, vegetation, small civil works |
| 1.2.4: Strengthen community wetland management committees and rules. | 76,144 | Institutional strengthening, local governance support |
| **Output 1.2. Total** | **790,000** | |
| 1.3.1: Assess nature-based and cultural tourism potential around restored sites. | 28,334 | Rapid market/tourism assessments |
| 1.3.2: Develop small-scale, climate-sensitive tourism business models and products with communities. | 42,500 | Business model design, product development |
| 1.3.3: Set up equitable tourism benefit-sharing for ecosystems and communities. | 14,166 | Community agreements, facilitation |
| **Output 1.3. Total** | **85,000** | |
| **Total Budget Component 1** | **3,000,000** | |
| **Component 2** | | |
| 2.1.1: Co-design climate-resilient agroforestry models with farmers and CFUGs. | 121,650 | Technical design, farmer consultations, model development |
| 2.1.2: Establish nurseries and supply climate-resilient planting material. | 790,725 | Nursery infrastructure, seedlings, tools, labour |
| 2.1.3: Provide on-farm extension on climate-smart and sustainable practices. | 628,525 | Extension staff, field visits, advisory services |
| 2.1.4: Set up agroforestry demo plots and farmer-to-farmer learning. | 283,850 | Demonstration sites, training events, materials |
| **Output 2.1. Total** | **1,824,750** | |
| 2.2.1: Map human–elephant conflict hotspots and risk zones. | 75,555 | Risk mapping, GIS, consultations |
| 2.2.2: Design and install community-based early warning systems. | 198,334 | Sensors, sirens, communication equipment |
| 2.2.3: Run drills and awareness sessions on EWS and safe behaviour. | 70,833 | Community training, simulation exercises |
| 2.2.4: Implement non-lethal human–elephant conflict mitigation measures. | 61,389 | Fencing, deterrent tools, local materials |
| 2.2.5: Integrate conflict and climate-risk measures into local DRR and land-use plans. | 18,889 | Planning workshops, technical facilitation |
| **Output 2.2. Total** | **425,000** | |

| Activity | Budget (USD) | Rationale (Normative Basis) |
|---|---|---|
| **Total Budget Component 2** | **2,249,750** | |
| **Component 3** | | |
| 3.1.1: Analyze markets and value chains for key agroforestry and NTFP products. | 65,151 | Market studies, value-chain diagnostics |
| 3.1.2: Support SMEs and producer groups to develop viable business models. | 93,074 | Enterprise design, advisory support |
| 3.1.3: Provide business-development services to target SMEs and groups. | 186,147 | Training, mentoring, technical assistance |
| 3.1.4: Support aggregation, processing and storage facilities for key products. | 698,052 | Small-scale infrastructure, equipment, installation |
| 3.1.5: Facilitate market and finance linkages for NbS-based enterprises. | 32,576 | Partnership facilitation, financial advisory |
| **Output 3.1. Total** | **1,075,000** | |
| 3.2.1: Develop protocols to measure and monitor carbon and co-benefits in agroforestry. | 33,165 | Methodology development, technical inputs |
| 3.2.2: Analyze the economic and financial performance of NbS, including trade-offs with conventional or grey infrastructure alternatives. | 58,035 | Cost-benefit analysis, modelling |
| 3.2.3: Identify pathways to access climate, performance and results-based finance accessible by smallholders. | 33,800 | Finance mechanism design, consultations |
| **Output 3.2. Total** | **125,000** | |
| **Total Budget Component 3** | **1,200,000** | |
| **Component 4** | | |
| 4.1.1: Develop NbS and climate-adaptation training curricula. | 37,234 | Curriculum design, expert inputs |
| 4.1.2: Deliver trainings, exchanges and visits on climate risks and NbS. | 580,851 | Training events, travel, logistics |
| 4.1.3: Produce and share communication materials on NbS practices. | 81,915 | IEC materials, knowledge products |
| **Output 4.1. Total** | **700,000** | |
| 4.2.1: Facilitate participatory planning integrating climate risks and NbS. | 46,154 | Workshops, facilitation, local engagement |
| 4.2.2: Provide technical support for NbS sub-project design and delivery. | 38,462 | Technical advisory, field support |
| 4.2.3: Develop simple, gender-responsive MEL tools for adaptation outcomes. | 7,692 | MEL framework design, tools development |
| 4.2.4: Document and share NbS good practices and lessons. | 7,692 | Case studies, dissemination |
| **Output 4.2. Total** | **100,000** | |
| **Total Budget Component 4** | **800,000** | |
| **Component 5** | | |
| 5.1.1: Review global and national policies and plans to identify NbS entry points. | 73,643 | Policy analysis, technical reviews |
| 5.1.2: Support integration of NbS into key policies, plans and regulations. | 220,928 | Technical assistance, consultations, drafting support |
| 5.1.3: Support climate-responsive budgeting to increase NbS allocations. | 220,929 | Budget analysis, advisory, capacity building |
| **Output 5.1. Total** | **515,500** | |
| 5.2.1: Establish or strengthen NbS multi-stakeholder coordination platforms. | 228,293 | Platform operations, facilitation, governance |
| 5.2.2: Develop simple systems to track NbS integration and performance. | 66,278 | Monitoring systems, technical setup |
| 5.2.3: Organize policy dialogues and learning events on | 220,929 | Events, knowledge exchange, |

| Activity | Budget (USD) | Rationale (Normative Basis) |
|---|---|---|
| the scaling of NbS, including contributions to UN climate change conferences as part of global knowledge exchange and community learning. | | documentation |
| **Output 5.2. Total** | **515,500** | |
| **Total Budget Component 5** | **1,031,000** | |
| **Total Project Activity Budget** | **8,280,750** | |