



PROJECT:

“Adapting to Climate Induced Threats to Food Production and Food Security in the Karnali Region of Nepal”

Project Inception Report

Inception Workshop Held: 26 October 2018, Surkhet, Karnali Province, Nepal

Submitted to:

Adaptation Fund Board

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List of Acronyms

ADB:	Asian Development Bank
AF:	Adaptation Fund
AFB:	Adaptation Fund Board
CBS:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CGIAR:	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
GLOFs:	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
GoN:	Government of Nepal
LPCU:	Local Project Coordination Unit
MoFE:	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MoU:	Memorandum of Understanding
NPC:	National Planning Commission
NAPA:	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NPSC:	National Project Steering Committee
PSU:	Project Support Unit
PPSU:	Provincial Project Support Unit
SOP:	Standard Operating Procedure
USD:	United States Dollar
WFP:	World Food Programme

Executive Summary:

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change and is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, ranking among the top 20 countries prone to multi-hazard risks. These include phenomena such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires, heat waves, cold waves, lightning storms, windstorms, droughts, epidemics and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Disasters and climate change effects can lead to severe socio-economic setbacks in a wide range of sectors. Particularly, climatic trends are expected to have a strong impact on all aspects of agricultural production and food security in Nepal. This includes crop production, seasonal variability of production, food availability, and food prices (especially of staples and livestock produce). Diet quality, caloric intake, and seasonality of food consumption could all be impacted by climate-related spikes in food prices and production-related availability. Hence, Nepal's food security is highly sensitive to climate change and climatic shocks. A decline in rainfall from November to April every year has affected winter and spring crops. Wheat and barley yields are particularly susceptible to variability in winter precipitation. Sowing and harvesting times have already shifted due to climate change. Under a lower winter rainfall regime, the western parts of Nepal are experiencing declines in wheat and barley yields, exacerbating food insecurity and poverty.

Nepal's Karnali districts have low population density and are remote and unconnected by infrastructure (roads and bridges). Some higher elevations are habitable only during the summer months. A vulnerability analysis conducted as part of the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) formulation in 2010 shows that the region is highly exposed to changing temperature and precipitation and all districts face the risk of drought. Some are highly exposed to landslides. All districts show very low adaptive capacity in terms of the robustness of markets and connectivity. Despite the low population density, one district (Mugu) ranks "very high" in overall vulnerability to climate change, while two districts (Kalikot and Dolpa) rank high and others (Jumla and Humla) rank moderate. However, the moderate districts are still vulnerable to changes in precipitation and temperature, and they are considered to be at risk of facing severe drought.

This project has therefore been designed to address these issues of poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and climate induced threats to food production and food security in the Karnali region. Entitled "Adapting to Climate Induced Threats to Food Production and Food Security in the Karnali Region of Nepal" it was submitted to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) by the Government of Nepal through the World Food Programme (WFP) in August 2013, and the funding was approved by AFB in May 2015. The operational agreement between Government of Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Environment and WFP Nepal was signed in May 2018 to implement the project. The project's goal is to increase adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable and food insecure poor households by improved management of livelihood assets and natural resources in the Karnali mountain districts of Nepal. The project has three objectives:

- Strengthened local capacity to identify climate risks and design adaptive strategies
- Diversified livelihood and strengthened food security for climate vulnerable poor households in target areas
- Increased resilience of natural systems that support livelihoods to climate change induced stresses

Approximately 10,850 climate vulnerable poor households (an estimated 65,800 people) in seven Rural Municipalities of three districts are expected to benefit over the four years of project implementation period through two programme components: develop local, district and national capacity to plan, implement and monitor adaptation and risk reduction actions, and build household and community resilience and increase adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable poor in targeted areas

of Mugu, Kalikot and Jumla districts. The Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and WFP are the executing entities and WFP is the multilateral implementing entity of the project. The total project budget is USD 10,277,160 (over 4 years) which includes USD 9,527,160 from the Adaptation Fund and WFP's contribution of USD 750,000.

Due to the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal at the same time of project approval, a significant delay occurred in project execution after its approval. This was further exacerbated by to the restructuring of state entities in Nepal following the promulgation of the new constitution in September 2015. An agreement (MoU) was finally signed between MoFE and WFP in May 2018 to operationalize the project and start with the implementation MoFE has established a National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) to provide overall strategic policy guidance, and coordination to the project. The first meeting of the NPSC approved the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), project governing structure and modality for project implementation in line with the new federal governance system of Nepal, and the first-year implementation plan.

Additionally, a Project Support Unit (PSU) has been established in MoFE and the recruitment of project staff is almost completed. Similarly, the Provincial Project Coordination Unit (PPCU) has been established for provincial level coordination of project-related activities and for coordination among the project districts (Mugu, Jumla and Kalikot), as required. The Local Project Coordination Units (LPCUs) will also be established at the Rural Municipality level in December 2018 for community level participatory project planning, implementation and multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration.

The project inception workshop has been completed with the participation of Federal and Provincial Minister for Forests and Environment, officials of Federal and Provincial Ministry, Chairpersons and chief administrative officers of seven Rural Municipalities from three districts (Jumla, Mugu and Kalikot), journalists and some other organizations. The Inception workshop endorsed the overall project strategy, project management structure, the SoP and first year's implementation plan that was put forward by the National Project Steering Committee. Activities included in the first-year implementation plan will now be implemented.

WFP will first conduct a baseline assessment to establish the necessary detailed baselines to measure indicators set out in the results framework. Monitoring and reporting will be carried out concurrently with project execution. Quarterly technical reports, semi-annual progress reports and annual progress review reports will be coordinated and produced by WFP and MoFE. The data for monitoring will consist of financial, procurement and physical progress as well as compliance with the requirements of the environmental and social assessment and management frameworks. WFP as the MIE (in consultation with MoFE) will provide to the AFB the key reporting, monitoring and evaluation products/functions of the project.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background:

The climate scenarios study, jointly commenced by Government of Nepal and ICIMOD in 2018, has revealed the accelerated changes in climate in Nepal. According to the report, the average annual precipitation is likely to increase in both the short- term and long-term periods. The average annual precipitation might increase by 2-6% in the medium-term period (2016-2045) and by 8-12% in the long-term period (2036-2065). The average annual mean temperature will continue to rise in future. Mean temperature might increase by 0.92-1.07 °C in the medium-term period and 1.30-1.82 °C in the long-term period. Both the average annual mean temperature and the average annual precipitation will continue to climb until the end of the century. The temperature is projected to increase for all seasons. The precipitation is projected to decrease during the pre-monsoon season. Similarly, the intense precipitation events are likely to increase with extremely wet days (P99) expected to increase at a higher rate than very wet days. Rainy days are likely to decrease in the future.

The above findings suggest that in general climate throughout Nepal will be warmer and wetter in the future periods, except for a decrease in pre-monsoon season. Extreme Indices related to temperature and precipitation suggest that more extreme events i.e. floods, landslides, droughts, hailstorms etc are likely in the future. This is expected to affect the Terai and high-mountains areas of Nepal which are highly prone to floods, landslides and droughts, and different development sectors, such as water, energy, biodiversity, agriculture, and livelihoods. The country needs to prepare for these changes and to design better adaptive options and implement in a more sustainable way.

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, ranking among the top 20 countries prone to multi-hazard risks, including phenomena such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires, heat waves, cold waves, lightning, windstorms, droughts, epidemics and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Such recurring extreme weather events in recent years demonstrate that Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change. Disasters and climate change effects can lead to severe socio-economic setbacks in a wide range of sectors, particularly in agricultural food production Agriculture accounts for 30 percent of gross domestic product in Nepal and employs 51.8 percent of working men and 74.5 percent of working women.

Food security remains a major concern in Nepal. The latest Global Hunger Index rates ranks Nepal 72nd out of 119 countries on the GHI. Nepal is nearing the 'moderate' from the 'serious' category, largely due to recent declines in undernourishment, child stunting and child mortality (IFPRI 2017). However, nearly 41% of the population does not have access to minimum calorie intake and some two million people are undernourished (NPC-14th Plan). Nepalese living in remote areas, especially those in the mountains, have less access to food than those in the Terai region. The average household spent 53.8% of their income on food in 2016. Geographically, wasting rates are higher in the Terai region, whereas stunting is higher in the Mountains region. These rates are associated with poor sanitation and hygiene in the Terai influencing wasting, and poor access to nutrient dense foods and dietary diversity in the Mountains influencing stunting.

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018, 28.6% of Nepal's population is multi-dimensionally poor (NPC, 2018). The major contributing factors to multidimensional poverty (MP) are malnutrition and insufficient years of schooling. About 7% of Nepalis living in urban areas are multi-dimensionally poor compared to 33% in rural areas. MP is highest in Provinces 6 and 2 (50%), followed by Provinces 5 and 7 (30%). Provinces 3, 4, and 1 have the lowest MP at 12%, 14%, and 20%, respectively.

In terms of income poverty, national statistics in 2016 showed that 25.2% of the population were below the poverty line and 12.5% of people who were employed lived on less than 1.90 USD per day

(ADB, 2017). However, poverty is much higher in some areas of the country. While urban poverty was 15.5% in 2011, rural poverty was 27.4% and this was even greater in Mountain regions at 42.3%. Additionally, this was increased from 32.5% in 2004.

Poverty is highest in the Karnali province and Far-west province including in the project areas and the pace of reduction/improvement is verly slow, as it was 63.9% in 1996, and 41.0% in 2004, it rose to 45.6% in 2011 (ADB, 2017). Nepal’s three ecological regions have differing levels of food availability and utilization. In the hills and mountains, lack of arable land, roads and markets restrict food availability causing widespread food deficits.

Nepal’s food security is highly sensitive to climate change and climatic shocks.¹ Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) shows that over the last decade around 31,000 ha of land owned by some 5% of all households, have become uncultivable due to climate related hazards, mostly drought, landslide and flood. In the eastern Tarai unusually low rainfall in 2005/2006 associated with an early monsoon resulted in crop losses of almost 30%.² Similarly, the cold wave of 1997/1998 also had negative impacts on agricultural productivity resulting in losses of up to 38% in chickpeas and lentils and 28% in potatoes.³ A decline in rainfall from November to April every year also affected winter and spring crops. Of all crops grown in the mountainous districts, wheat and barley are particularly susceptible to variability in winter precipitation. Consultations done in the field show that sowing and harvesting times have already shifted due to climate change. Under a lower winter rainfall regime, the western parts of Nepal are already experiencing declines in wheat and barley yields every year, exacerbating food insecurity and poverty. Climatic trends therefore have an impact on all aspects of production and food security in Nepal. This includes crop production, seasonal variability of production, food availability, and food prices (especially of staples and livestock produce).⁴ Diet quality, caloric intake, and seasonality of food consumption could all be impacted by climate-related spikes in food prices and production-related availability.

According to a recent CGIAR study (see below), rural livelihoods as a whole are particularly vulnerable to climatic changes and shocks. This includes farming, cash cropping, herding and farm labouring, all of which contribute to increasing family income and reducing poverty. Since household income is strongly co-related with food security and food consumption, the combination of low productivity in agriculture and higher food prices due to climate related stresses, could undermine gains in poverty reduction and nutrition.

Income source	Climate sensitivity
Cash crops/livestock	Changes in rainfall patterns are expected to decrease both the quantity and quality of water available for crop and livestock production, resulting in lower quality crop yields, as well as lower livestock, meat and milk quality.
Own farm/forest	Agriculture in Nepal might be affected by erratic rainfall patterns, which could reduce growing season and yields.
Agriculture labourer	Agricultural labour is likely to be affected by seasonal and long-term changes in rainfall patterns. Labour availability under climate change is likely to become unpredictable, potentially lowering income for agricultural labourers.

Source: Climate Risk and Food Security in Nepal 2012, WFP and CGIAR

¹ Krishna Krishnamurthy et al: Climate Risk and Food Security in Nepal: Analysis of Climate Risk on Food Security Components 2012. WFP and CGIAR

² Ibid

³ Ibid, quoting NARC statistics

⁴ Ibid

Adapting to effects of climate change in the Karnali region

Nepal's Karnali area has been experiencing the worst poverty and food security impacts of climate change. At one time in the past, the area's location on the trade route between Nepal and Tibet ensured prosperity, when salt from the high Tibetan lakes was traded for grain from Nepal. However, this trade collapsed in the 1970s and low productivity due to climatic factors (mostly drought) and conflict have left the region in poverty.

The region is comprised of five districts - Humla, Jumla, Dolpa, Mugu and Kalikot and is named after the Karnali River, which originates from the Himalayan districts of Mugu and Humla and eventually flows into the Indian Ganges River. The region is bordered by Tibet (China), and defined by its mountainous terrain, highly variable precipitation, and high vulnerability to natural disasters. Karnali rates 48.1 on the Human Poverty Index (HPI-1)⁵ and is the most impoverished region in Nepal.

The terrain in Karnali varies from high Himalayan mountains to river valleys dissecting the lower hills. Due to steep terrain, there is very little cultivable land, and the soil is poor and eroded. Food production, as estimated by WFP in 2010, is sufficient for only 3 to 6 months of the year. At higher altitudes only one crop is possible for the year. Except in Jumla (a relatively better-connected district) irrigation is non-existent.⁶

The majority of households rely on subsistence farming as their primary source of livelihood. Farmers in Karnali commonly sow rice, maize and millet as summer crops, while wheat and barley as popular winter crops. Traditional crops such as native barley and oats are still important. Karnali households depend on a mix of their own subsistence agriculture, harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), daily wage labour, seasonal migration to the Tarai districts or India, and government and international food aid.

Karnali districts have low population density and are remote and unconnected by infrastructure (roads and bridges). Some higher elevations are habitable only during the summer months. A vulnerability analysis conducted as part of the NAPA formulation in 2010 shows that the region is highly exposed to changing temperature and precipitation and all districts face the risk of drought. Some are highly exposed to landslides as well.

All districts show very low adaptive capacity in terms of the robustness of markets and connectivity. Despite low population density, one district (Mugu) ranks "very high" in overall vulnerability to climate change⁷, while two districts (Kalikot and Dolpa) rank high and others (Jumla and Humla) rank moderate. However, the moderate districts are still vulnerable to changes in precipitation and temperature, and they are considered to be at risk of facing severe droughts. This project therefore has been designed to address these issues of poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and climate induced threats to food production and food security in the Karnali region.

1.2 Project objectives and a brief description:

The project entitled "Adapting to Climate Induced Threats to Food Production and Food Security in the Karnali Region of Nepal" was submitted to Adaptation Fund Board by Government of Nepal through World Food Programme (WFP) AF in August 2013, and the funding was approved by AF Board

⁵ The United Nations Development Program's Human Poverty Index (HPI-1) is measured on the scale of 0-100 where 0 is least impoverished.

⁶ National Planning Commission – National Food Security Monitoring Task Force Food Security Atlas of Nepal (NeKSAP)

⁷ National Adaptation Programme of Action, Nepal, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE)

in May 2015. The operational agreement between Government of Nepal's Ministry of Forests and Environment and WFP Nepal was signed in May 2018 to implement the project.

1.3 Project's goal:

Increasing adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable and food insecure poor households by improved management of livelihood assets and natural resources in the Karnali mountain districts of Nepal.

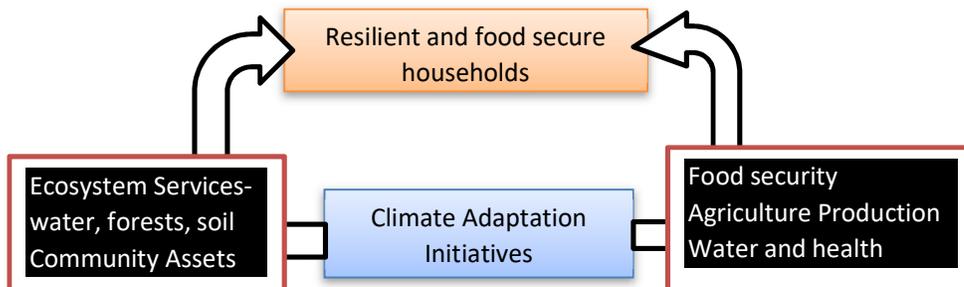
1.4 Objectives:

- Strengthened local capacity to identify climate risks and design adaptive strategies
- Diversified livelihood and strengthened food security for climate vulnerable poor households in target areas
- Increased resilience of natural systems that support livelihoods to climate change induced stresses
- Programmatic components:
 - Component 1: Develop local, district and national capacity to plan, implement and monitor adaptation and risk reduction actions
 - Component 2: Build household and community resilience and increase adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable poor in targeted areas of Mugu, Kalikot and Jumla districts.

1.5 Strategy:

Food insecurity negatively correlates with adaptive capacity. Rural agricultural livelihoods in the project area depend on the health of forest, land and water resources. It is therefore vital, in such climate vulnerable communities, to enhance agro-ecosystem services that increase production, reduce food insecurity and also directly generate income and energy for rural people. The project strategy is to improve household adaptive capacity and food security to current and future climate risks by:

- 1) Improving natural resources and building community assets; and
- 2) Developing climate resiliency in livelihoods and social sectors



1.6 Implementation arrangement:

- ✓ Type of implementing entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity
- ✓ Implementing entity: WFP
- ✓ Executing entities: Ministry of Forests and Environment, and WFP

1.7 Budget:

Total: USD 10,277,160 (over 4 years) – 15% management/administrative cost.

- Adaptation Fund grant: USD 9,527,160.00 (92% programme and 8% management cost)
- WFP contribution: USD 750,000.00 (management cost)

1.8 Project period: 4 years

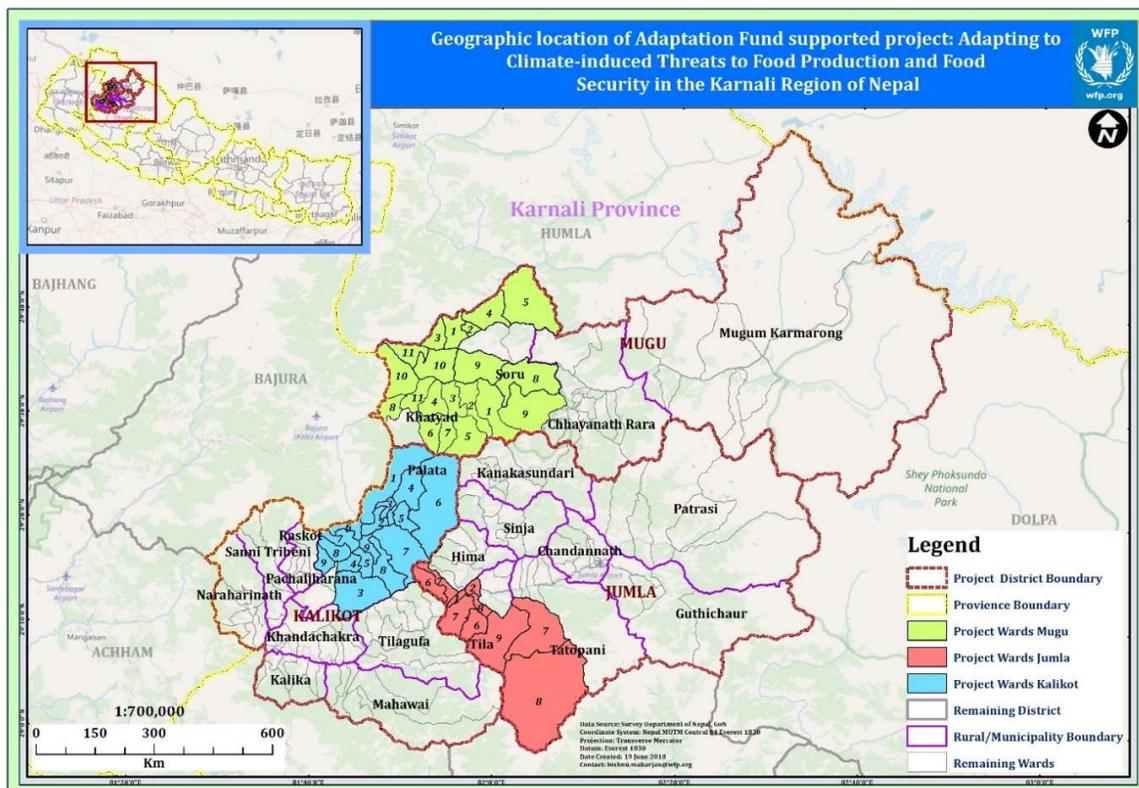
1.9 Beneficiaries: Approximately 10,850 climate vulnerable poor households (estimated 65,800 people) through different activities (total households of the project area).

1.10 Project location map and detail information of geographic coverage:

Table 1: Project location and beneficiaries

Province	District	Municipality	HHs	Male	Female	Total
Karnali	Mugu	Soru Rural Municipality	4050	12261	11755	24,016
		Khatyad Rural Municipality				
	Kalikot	Palata Rural Municipality	4140	12948	12597	25545
		Pachaljharana Rural Municipality				
	Jumla	Tila Rural Municipality	2660	8249	7989	16238
		Tatopani Rural Municipality				
Hima Rural Municipality						
Grand total		7	10850	33458	32341	65,799

Map 1: Project location map



1.11 Major project activities:

Table 2: Project activities

Component	Activities
Component 1: Develop local, district and national capacity to plan, implement and monitor adaptation and risk reduction actions.	Design, implementation and monitoring of local adaptation strategies.
	Local level food security and climate adaptation planning.
	Integration of local adaptation plans in to sectoral and local-government planning processes.
	Integrate climate resilience to planning processes and development projects of key sectoral ministries.
Component 2: Build household and community resilience and increase adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable poor in targeted areas.	Conduct periodic assessment and document project lessons for wider dissemination at all levels.
	Provide increased income opportunities for vulnerable households, especially during agricultural lean-season, through building physical and natural livelihood assets.
	Increase local availability of and access to food and nutrition through better storage and value-addition at local level.
	Improve and adapt current crop and livestock management practices to increased climate risks.
	Increase income through livelihood diversification using local resources.
Introduce renewable energy-based systems to support women-led enterprises.	

2. Inception workshop overview:

2.1 Objective of the inception report:

- Provide an update on the project management plan, implementation progress and communicate the key issues to the Adaptation Fund Board and stakeholders,
- Document the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), project's governance/management structure and first year's implementation plan, as endorsed by the stakeholders through the Inception Workshop.

2.2 Description of the inception workshop process:

The project inception workshop took place on 26 October 2018, in Surkhet, Nepal. The Federal Minister for Forests and Environment, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet launched the project amidst various stakeholders. Provincial Minister for Forests and Environment of Karnali Province Mr. Nanda Singh Budha was also present. The secretary, joint-secretaries and other officials of Federal Ministry of Forests and Environment, Chief secretary of Karnali Provincial Government, secretary and other officials of Karnali provincial ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Chairpersons and Chief administrative officers of seven project Rural Municipalities from three districts (Jumla, Mugu and Kalikot), journalists and some other organizations attended the workshop. Additionally, there was participation from local-government of the same project districts where an UKaid funded and UNDP executed climate change project is being implemented to seek collaboration and programmatic synergy. Altogether around 85 participants attended the workshop. The Inception workshop endorsed the overall project's strategy, project management structure, the SoP and first year's implementation plan of the project that was put forward by the National Project Steering Committee. The detailed Note for the Record (NfR) of the workshop is attached in Annex II. The structure/content of the inception workshop is given below:

Date: 26 October 2018

Location: Hotel Siddhartha, Surkhet, Karnali Province, Nepal

Participants:

- Minister, Secretary, Joint-secretaries and other officials from Federal and Provincial Ministry of Forests and Environment,
- Officials from other Line Ministries,
- Chairpersons and Chief Administrative Officers from Rural Municipalities (local-government) from Project districts – Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu,
- WFP Deputy Country Director and officials of WFP,
- Journalists and representatives of civil society organizations working in food security and climate change sector.

Objectives:

- ❖ To discuss with key stakeholders the project objectives, strategy, interventions and governing mechanisms and agree on the project design,
- ❖ To provide an overarching policy and strategic guidance for the project in line with the new federal governance system of Nepal,
- ❖ To discuss and endorse the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), First year's implementation plan, and budgets including the project implementation arrangements/modality;
- ❖ To facilitate project implementation, monitoring/review and reporting of project activities/results and coordination/collaboration with concerned stakeholders.

Workshop proceedings:

Activity	Responsibility
1. Welcome and meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome and initiation of the workshop	Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint-secretary, MoFE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Chairing the workshop▪ Introduction of participants▪ Review of the workshop objectives and agendas	Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, MoFE
2. Briefing on the project design, objective, strategy, interventions, budget, management structure, SoP and first year's implementation plan	Mr. Krishna Jogi, Country Programme Coordinator, WFP
3. Brief sharing on the progress and plan of Nepal Change Support Programme (NCCSP) - implemented by UNDP with UKAid's funding support.	Mr. Anil K.C., National Project Manager, NCCSP
4. Discussion on the project, it's SoP and first year's implementation plan and Budget	All participants, facilitated by Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint-secretary, MoFE
5. Addressing the questions/comments from the participants on the project, SOP and Work plan	Mr. Krishna Jogi, Country Programme Coordinator, WFP
6. Endorsement of the SoP and Work Plan	All participants
7. Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Bijaya Singh, Assistant Country Director, UNDP Nepal

Activity	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ryan Pittock, Deputy Country Director, WFP Nepal ▪ Mr. Ram Prasad Thapaliya, Chief Secretary, Karnali Province Government ▪ Mr. Nanda Singh Budha, Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Karnali Province ▪ Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Forests and Environment, Federal Government
8. Workshop close	Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, MoFE

3. Actions to date:

The project was submitted to Adaptation Fund (AF) by Government of Nepal and WFP in August 2013, and the funding was approved by AF Board in May 2015. The grant agreement was then signed between AF and WFP. Based on the Multilateral Implementing Entity arrangement and considering some shortfall of resources for management costs, WFP Headquarters approved to allocate an additional USD 750,000 to the project in June 2016.

On 25 April 2015, around the time of project approval, Nepal experienced a devastating magnitude 7.6 earthquake. This was followed by more than 300 aftershocks. The earthquakes caused deaths of over 9,000 people and widespread damage with over 900,000 houses either fully or partially damaged. The Government of Nepal and WFP Nepal were fully involved in earthquake emergency response until mid-2016. Due to this, the Government and WFP could not start the execution of the project.

WFP in coordination with its headquarters and the (then) Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) jointly drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between Government of Nepal and WFP to operationalize the project. WFP submitted a final draft of the MoU to MoPE in May 2017 following the normal procedure in the government system for clearing of MoUs from Ministry of Finance and other relevant line ministries. However, due to restructuring of the MoPE in late 2017, the focal point for AF in MoPE - the Climate Financing Unit - was dissolved in October 2017 which badly affected the regular follow-up with other relevant ministries from MoPE side. Additionally, due to the decades long protracted political instability in Nepal, there was frequent transfer of government officials (civil employees) in the Ministries creating a leadership vacuum and lack of institutional memory. This context also adversely affected the smooth process of finalizing the MoU.

In the process of federalization in Nepal after promulgation of the new constitution in September 2015, the number of ministries has been reduced from 30 to 20 through the merger of some of the ministries. By 2018, the former MoPE has ceased to exist. Now, the environment/climate change portfolio is covered by the newly restructured Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) since March 2018. The divisions/sections within the ministries have also been restructured and the government employees have been adjusted/integrated in three levels of government – federal, provincial and local. However, the civil employees’ adjustment process has not been completed yet and there continues to be a massive change in the governance structure and working people in the federal set-up. This has also tremendously affected the MoU process. Due to these changes and hurdles, the MoU was finalized by the Government only on 5 April 2018 and signed between MoFE and WFP on 21 May 2018. The other activities and process completed to date in the run up to the design of the Inception Workshop and implementation of the project are mentioned below:

Table 3: Activities completed to date

S.N.	Activities	Date	Outcome/decisions
1	Signing operational agreement (MoU) between Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) and WFP to operationalize the project	21 May 2018	Paved the way for project implementation
2	Drafting of Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for project implementation in line with new federal governance system of Nepal	June-September 2018	SOP was drafted jointly by MoFE and WFP
3	Preparation of first year's implementation plan	June-September 2018	First year's implementation plan was developed
4	Establishment of National Project Steering Committee (NPSC)	September 2018	National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) has been established by MoFE for overall steering, strategic policy guidance, and coordination of the project.
5	First meeting of National Project Steering Committee	7 October 2018	Approved the SOP, first year's implementation plan, Terms of Reference of NPSC and other governing structures and authorized the Project Support Unit (PSU) and WFP for implementation, monitoring/review and reporting of project activities/results and coordination/collaboration with concerned stakeholders.
6	Establishment of Project Support Unit (PSU)	October 2018	MoFE has established PSU to facilitate the implementation of Project activities and achieve the Project outputs as specified in the Project document.
7	Recruitment of project staff	From August 2018	The field-based project staff have been recruited by WFP and deployed to the field. The Project Coordinator (Programme Policy Officer) to be based in PSU is under recruitment.
8	Technical meetings between MoFE and WFP	Several meetings from May to October 2018	The SOP, first year's implementation plan and project implementation modality, preparation of inception workshop and other issues related to project implementation were thoroughly discussed between MoFE and WFP officials. The coordination and collaboration between MoFE and WFP has been enhanced.
9	Inception Workshop	26 October 2018	The project has been kicked-off. The project's SOP including the implementation modality and first year's implementation plan have been endorsed.

4. Project governing structure:

4.1 Role of Implementing and Executing Entities:

MoFE:

The Government of Nepal (GoN): Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) acting as the 'executing entity (EE)', shall lead all GoN activities - with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) in a support role - with due diligence to achieve maximum outputs on the project deliverables. MoFE, as the focal ministry, will retain overall responsibility for the coordination and implementation of all the components of the project including the activities in accordance with the agreed project document and annual work plan and budget. Similarly, MoFE will closely coordinate with MoFAGA and other GoN ministries and agencies present in the Karnali region and/or relevant to the project.

WFP:

WFP will act as 'multilateral implementing entity (MIE)' and co-executing entity. WFP will be responsible for the overall management of the Project, including management and other technical support services with regard to project execution, procurement and financial services, monitoring and reporting to the AFB. Hence, WFP acts as trust fund custodian with the WFP Country Director acting as Trust Fund Manager. WFP is responsible for the reporting, monitoring, evaluation, and financial management and oversight processes of the project, and ensuring the project meets WFP and AF rules and regulations. WFP will facilitate joint planning, supervision, monitoring and evaluation and provide overall oversight of the activities under its responsibility. In addition, it will coordinate, support and contribute to the development and implementation of strategies that shall meet the overall objectives of the project.

4.2 Project management /coordination mechanisms:

The project implementation arrangement will be aligned with federal governance structure and will adhere to the new institutional setup of the local governments. Programme activities will be prioritized and reflected in the annual work plan following the agreed planning process at the national and sub-national levels. Implementation and monitoring of the activities will be carried out based on the frameworks and standards set by the national and sub-national governments. Annual Project Review meeting will be organized in the presence of federal and provincial level ministers, members of parliament representing project districts, members of various project steering and coordination committees, and other stakeholders to review the progress and plan the activities for the subsequent year. The project management, coordination and oversight mechanisms will be as below:

National Project Steering Committee (NPSC):

MoFE, as the executing entity, shall establish a National Project Steering Committee ("NPSC") to provide overall strategic policy guidance, and coordination to the project. Notwithstanding WFP's roles and responsibilities as implementing entity of the Project, the NPSC will be the highest decision-making body of the Project and will as such direct the overall implementation of the Project. The NPSC may also facilitate the process of policy review and advocacy and take part in joint monitoring and evaluation. Joint monitoring may happen one to two times a year or as deemed necessary and may involve a wide range of stakeholders including civil society, beneficiaries, and private sector. The NPSC would remain the formal decision-making body for the overall management and implementation of the project. The secretary of the MoFE serves as the chairperson of the NPSC. The composition of the NPSC is as follows:

1. Chair: Secretary, MoFE
2. Member: Joint-secretary, MoFAGA
3. Member: Joint-secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD)
4. Member: Joint-secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI),

5. Member: Joint-secretary, Ministry of Finance (MoF)
6. Member: Joint-secretary, National Planning Commission (NPC)
7. Member: Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Karnali Province
8. Member: Country Director, WFP Nepal
9. Member-secretary: Joint-secretary, Head of Climate Change Management Division, MoFE

The NPSC will also invite relevant other stakeholders as observers. The NPSC will meet at least once a year and extraordinarily if called for by the chair. The NPSC will also meet to review the Project inception report, the mid-term and final evaluation reports, the project completion report and the final financial report.

The roles and responsibilities of NPSC will be as below:

- Provide the oversight of and policy guidance for the Project activities;
- Approve Annual Work plans and budgets;
- Review and approve annual progress and financial reports;
- Approve the project implementation arrangements/modality, guidelines/standards, if any;
- Discuss and approve any proposals for the overall steering of the Project, based on monitoring reports provided by the Project Team;
- Coordinate with multi-sectoral agencies for coherent and harmonized project management, as required.

Project Support Unit (PSU):

MoFE will establish a Project Support Unit (PSU) within the ministry which will be headed by Joint-Secretary/Chief of Climate Change Management Division of MoFE and supported by a Programme Manager (Under-Secretary), as assigned by MoFE and will report to the NPSC through the Project inception report, annual project performance reports, mid-term and final evaluation reports, Project completion report and financial reports. The Programme Manager will coordinate with MoFE, MoFAGA and WFP to support project implementation based on technical guidance from the PSU, Climate Change Management Division of MoFE, and the overall direction from the NPSC. As per clause 4.7 and 4.8 of MoFE-WFP agreement signed on 21 May 2018, besides the Programme Manager, the PSU will also consist of one Project Coordinator (WFP staff seconded to PSU/MoFE), to facilitate the implementation of Project activities and achieve the Project outputs as specified in the Project document. The Project Coordinator will work with the Environment Management Section under the targeted Municipality and Environment Management Division of MoFAGA to facilitate implementation of the project activities in the targeted municipalities of the three project districts (Mugu, Kalikot and Jumla). The PSU also includes other technical staff from climate change management division of MoFE. The external consultants can also be hired, as required, to be financed from project funds.

The major roles and responsibilities of PSU include:

- Coordinate and collaborate with other stakeholders to implement the annual work plan of the Project (prepared in participation with the beneficiary communities and approved by the NSPC).
- Ensure national level and sub-national coordination and collaboration with other governmental and non-governmental bodies to facilitate data exchange.
- Coordinate with the provincial and local level project management structure/mechanism for coordinated and coherent project implementation.
- Support the preparation of reports and monitoring of field activities.
- Coordinate between donors/development partners working in the same areas for the same or complementary purposes. Ensure that resources of various donors/partners are employed in a mutually reinforcing manner to provide the best support possible to the local governments.
- Facilitate the project execution in any way possible.

Provincial Project Coordination Unit (PPCU):

The Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment of Karnali Province will be the focal point for provincial level coordination for project-related activities and for coordination among the project districts (Mugu, Jumla and Kalikot), as required. Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment will lead the provincial Project Coordination Unit. The relevant focal points from other ministries will be coordinated by the PPSU at provincial level. The Unit and the ministry will carry out the monitoring of the project activities from provincial level. The MoFE- PSU and WFP Sub-Office, Surkhet will coordinate, communicate and engage with the provincial ministry as appropriate.

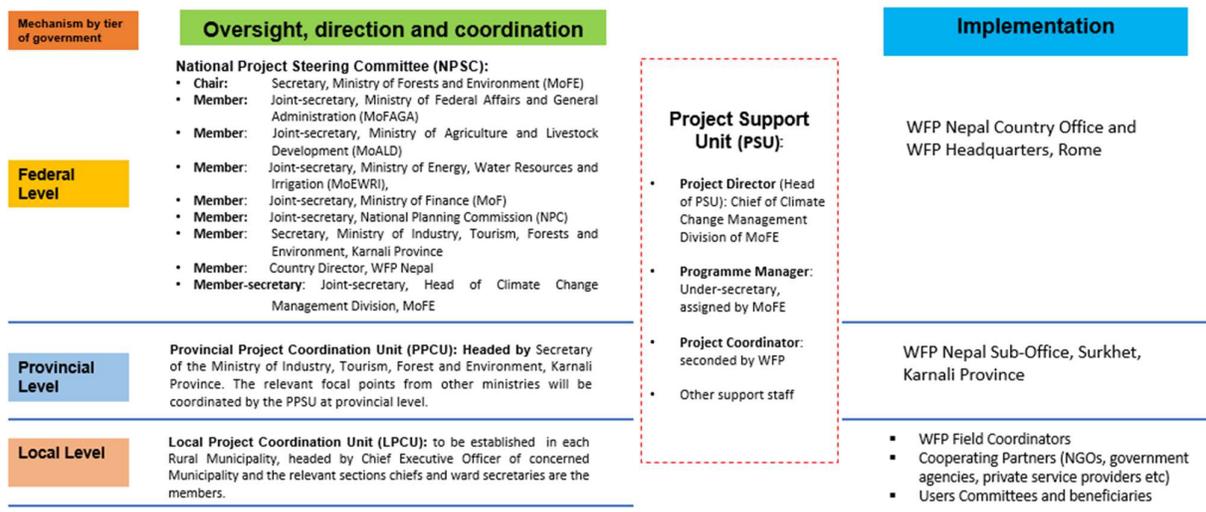
Local Project Coordination Units (LPCUs):

The local project coordination unit will be established in the Rural/Urban Municipality. The Municipal Mayor/Chairperson and other representatives will provide overall guidance for project planning and implementation and ensure multi-stakeholder engagement and provide feedback to MoFE-PSU and WFP with regards to project execution. The LPCU will be led by Executive Officer of concerned Municipality and the municipality infrastructure development and environment management section will act as the focal point for Project coordination. The municipal level infrastructure development, environment and disaster management committee will also be consulted during project planning, implementation and monitoring. The WFP Field Coordinator (Programme Associate) will provide technical backstopping support to the LPCU/local-government and facilitate the work of the LPCU providing secretariat support.

The roles and responsibilities of LPCU includes:

- ensure the alignment and synergy of project activities with local-government’s policies, priorities and plans and procedures.
- endorse the project activities and recommend for inclusion into local-government’s annual plan/programme.
- conduct regular review, monitoring and coordination of project activities and integrated mobilization of resources from different sources.
- coordinate and consult with local-level civil society organisations, private sector, community user groups, community-based organisations, indigenous and ethnic groups, and research and academic institutions etc, during project planning and implementation.

The diagram of coordination and interaction among the above mentioned institutional mechanisms is presented below:



4.3 Project staff arrangements:

The MoFE assigns relevant government staff to support project implementation including a Programme Manager. In addition, a number of project staff are recruited by WFP as given below. As per clause 6.1 and 6.2 of MoFE-WFP agreement, the staff required by the project are recruited in accordance with WFP Regulations and Rules.

Table 4: Project staff

S.N.	Position title	No of position	Grade/level	Duty station
1	Project Coordinator (programme policy officer – climate change)	1	SC 8	MoFE/PSU
2	Field Coordinator (programme associate – climate change)	6	SC-6	Field (district/municipality)
3	Others as required by the project			

WFP Strategic Programme Manager, managing the WFP Nepal Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023 Strategic Outcome 3 (resilience building and strengthening food systems), will represent and lead the project management from WFP's side.

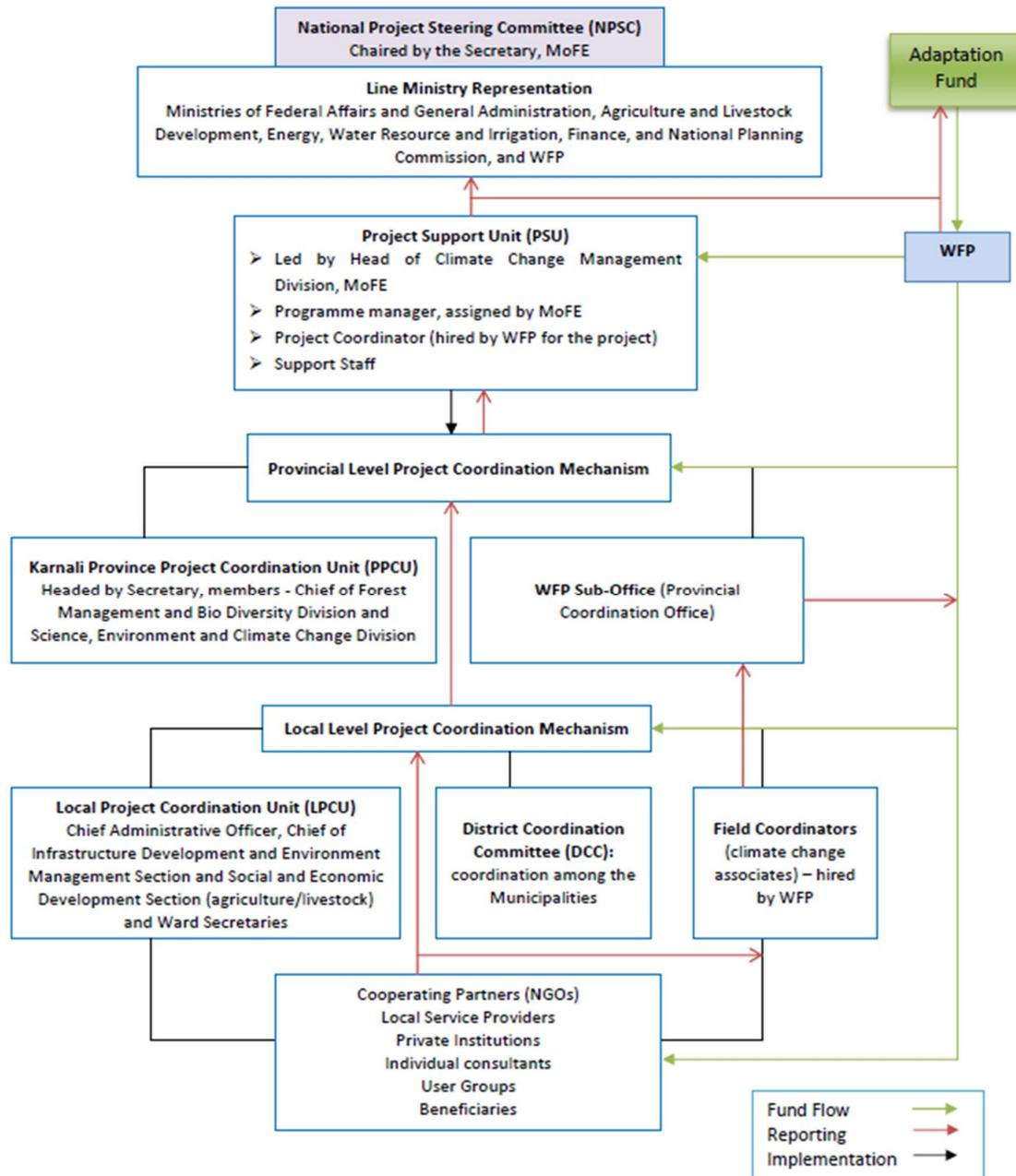
4.4 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting:

The Overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will rest with WFP. WFP will conduct an assessment to establish necessary detailed baselines to measure indicators set out in the results framework. The survey will use household questionnaires administered by an external research institute. M&E will be carried out concurrently with project execution. Quarterly technical reports, semi-annual progress reports and annual progress review reports will be coordinated and produced by the WFP Project Coordinator and Programme Manager, with inputs and guidance from MoFE, MoFAGA, WFP and concerned local-governments. The data for monitoring will consist of financial, procurement and physical progress as well as compliance with the requirements of the environmental and social assessment and management frameworks. WFP will share the M&E tools, methods/techniques and products (reports) with all relevant stakeholders (including the GoN).

WFP as the MIE (in consultation with MoFE) is responsible for providing to the AFB the key reporting, monitoring and evaluation products/functions of the project. These include:

- A project inception report, submitted no later than one month after the inception workshop.
- Annual Project Performance Reports (PPRs) on the status of project implementation, including disbursements made. These follow the standard AF PPR template, and need to be submitted no later than two months after the end of each project year. These will be produced by the WFP Project Coordinator with the assistance of the Programme Manager and MoFE through the PSU.
- A project completion report within six months after project completion.
- A mid-term and final evaluation report, prepared by an independent evaluator selected by WFP. The mid-term evaluation report should be submitted within six months of the mid-point of Project implementation. The final evaluation report needs to be submitted within nine months after Project completion.
- A final audited financial statement, prepared by an independent auditor within six months of the end of the financial year during which the Project is completed.

The diagram of project fund flow, reporting and implementation relationship among different mechanisms and stakeholders is presented below:



5. Next steps:

Table 5: First-year implementation plan⁸

S. N.	Activity	Target	2018		2019										Responsibility		
			Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct			
A	Preparatory activities:																
1	Conduct project induction meetings at district/municipal level.	4															MoFE, WFP
2	Establish and orient the Local Project Coordination Unit at municipal level.	7															MoFE, WFP
3	Procure IT and telecommunications equipment, furniture and other equipment, as required to set-up the PSU and municipal level office for the project.	1															WFP
4	Select cooperating/implementing partners (CPs) and sign Field Level Agreements (FLAs)/MoUs	4															WFP
5	Carry out community sensitization campaign about the project.	7 Rural Municipalities (RMs)															WFP/ Cooperating Partners (CPs)
6	Carry out community vulnerability assessment and mapping of localized key risks and adaption needs and prioritization.	7 RMs															WFP/CPs
7	Identify the most vulnerable households, communities and geographic areas for concentration of project activities.	7 RMs															WFP/CPs
8	Register the identified households as project's primary beneficiaries in WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform- SCOPE	7 RMs															WFP/CPs
9	Baseline survey against the project's log-frame and key impact areas.	1															WFP/ research agency
B	Project activities:																
10	Project activities related to capacity strengthening to plan, implement and monitor adaptation and risk reduction actions, and building household and community resilience and increase adaptive capacity, including food/cash-based transfer etc.	7 RMs															WFP/CPs
C	Monitoring and reporting:																
11	Quarterly technical report	3															WFP/CPs, PSU
12	Joint monitoring from local-government, provincial	4															WFP, PSU

⁸ See the attached Excel sheet for the detailed First-year implementation plan

S. N.	Activity	Target	2018		2019										Responsibility	
			Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct		
	government, MoFE, WFP, NPSC and external stakeholders.															
13	Semi-annual progress report (SAPR)	1														WFP, PSU
14	Annual review and reflection workshop	3														WFP, PSU
15	Annual Progress Report (APR)	1														WFP, PSU

6. Challenges (faced to date as well as foreseen) and mitigation measures

Table 6: Challenges and mitigation measures

Challenges	Mitigation measures
Delays in project execution due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - earthquake in Nepal at the same time of project approval in April 2015 and, - the restructuring of state structures in Nepal following the promulgation of new constitution in September 2015. 	The MoU between WFP and Government has been already signed, the Inception Workshop has been completed and currently there is no problem for project implementation.
Prolonged administrative transition in federal governance system; and delays in formulation of new laws and policies at all levels which may hinder the programme implementation process resulting in unnecessary delays.	Realistic planning of activities; Support the government to fill the capacity gap; Engage with newly appointed government officials of key ministries at all levels.
Local-level political disputes over the contested issues causing localized protests which may hinder the programme implementation process resulting unnecessary delays.	Regular/systematic monitoring of the emerging socio-political situation and its effects on the project implementation; adoption of the precautionary measures; risk management training to staff.
Local government in project implementation areas may fail to prioritize climate change adaptation in their policies, strategies and plans.	Work closely with political and bureaucratic leadership of the newly established local-government (Rural Municipalities) and provide technical assistance to ensure that adaptation priorities remain on top of the developmental agenda. This will be done through training, capacity building, and their engagement in supervising the implementation and monitoring of the project.
WFP/Partner staff or project beneficiaries are sexually or otherwise exploited or harassed.	Intensive sensitization, sharing information on a timely manner, effective implementation of Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and strict enforcement of zero tolerance policy.

7. Annexes:

Annex -1

Note for the Record (NFR)

1st Meeting of National Project Steering Committee (NPSC)

Date: 7 October 2018

Venue: Kathmandu, Nepal

Chair: Dr. Bishwanath Oli, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment

Meeting objectives:

- ❖ To provide an overarching policy and strategic guidance for the first-year project activities;
- ❖ To approve the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), first-year implementation plan and budgets including the project implementation arrangements/modality;
- ❖ To allow the executing and implementing entities for implementation, monitoring/review and reporting of project activities/results and coordination/collaboration with concerned stakeholders.

Agenda/schedule:

Time	Activity	Who
17.00	1. Charing the meeting	Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, MoFE
17.00-17.10	2. Welcome remarks	Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Chief, Climate Change Management Division (CCMD), MoFE
17.10-17.20	3. Introduction	
17.20 – 18.20	4. Briefing on the project, presenting SoP and first-year implementation plan	Mr. Krishna Jogi, Country Programme Coordinator, WFP
18.20 – 19.20	5. Discussion and decision	Chairperson and NPSC members
19.20 – 19.30	6. Sharing the plan of organizing Project Inception Workshop	Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Chief, CCMD
19.30 – 19.40	7. Remarks by WFP	Ms. Pippa Bradford, WFP Country Director
19.40 – 20.00	8. Closing remarks	Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, MoFE

Summary of discussion:

1. The project's background, rationale, objective, activities and budget and management structure were presented. The draft Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) and first-year implementation plans and budget prepared together by MoFE and WFP were also presented. The NPSC members asked for further elaboration and clarification on some topics which were clarified/further explained. They suggested to align the project activities planning and implementation as per new federal governance system ensuring strong buy-in of local-government. They also advised to minimize the operation/management cost and utilize the resources for climate change adaptation activities and achievement of project's objectives.
2. The meeting acknowledged the unnecessary delays in project implementation after the approval of the project, owing to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, restructuring of state/governance system

in Nepal since 2016 and government’s lengthy administrative process of MoU clearance etc. The NPSC members made commitment to expedite the implementation process and make the project effective and model intervention for climate change adaptation in Nepal.

3. The draft SoP and first-year work implementation plan was also discussed and the NPSC members suggested that the physical and financial progress reporting be made on timely manner in accordance to government’s “on budget off treasury” fund management system, as the project’s budget has been reflected in national budget system and budget details– red book. They also advised to include the project activities in local-government’s annual and periodic plans to ensure the priority alignment, proper tracking of project interventions/contribution and ownership of government for the project.
4. The meeting suggested to organize the Project Inception Workshop in Provincial Capital of Karnali province bringing the key stakeholders from federal, provincial and local-government together in the changed governance system.
5. The meeting also suggested and allowed the implementing entity to carry out baseline survey to reverify and re-establish the baseline data against the project’s log-frame as the baseline values set during the project design phase in 2013 might have been changed over the last 4-5 years.



Participants in the first meeting of National Project Steering Committee

Decisions and action points:

1. The meeting decided to include the Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment of Karnali Province as the member of NPSC, acknowledging the spirit of federalism and for smooth coordination and better information sharing among three tires of government in project implementation.
2. The meeting endorsed the ToR of NPSC which has been incorporated in the SoP as well.
3. The meeting approved the draft SoP including the project governing/management structure and first-year implementation plan.
4. The meeting decided to organize the Project Inception Workshop on 26 October 2018 in Surkhet, Karnali province in presence of Minsters of Federal and Provincial Ministry of Forests and Environment and other key stakeholders from three tires of government.

List of participants:

S.N.	Name	Organization	Position	Contact No	Email	Remarks
1	Dr. Bishwanath Oli	MoFE	Secretary	9841217761	bishwanath.oli@nepal.gov.np	NPSC Chair
2	Biju Kumar Shrestha	National Planning Commission	Joint-secretary	9841223166	bkshrstha@npc.gov.np	NPSC member
3	Purushottam Nepal	MoFAGA	Joint-secretary	9851123402	nepalpur@yahoo.com	NPSC member
4	Shrikrishna Nepal	Ministry of Finance	Joint-secretary		sknepal40@mof.gov.np	NPSC member

S.N.	Name	Organization	Position	Contact No	Email	Remarks
5	Dinesh Kumar Ghimire	MoEWRI	Joint-secretary	9851181619	dkgmowr@hotmail.com	NPSC member
6	Ishwor Prasad Rijal	MoALD	Joint-secretary			NPSC member
7	Pippa Bradford	WFP	Country Director		Pippa.bradford@wfp.org	NPSC member
8	Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal	MoFE	Joint-secretary		meheshwar.dhakal@gmail.com	NPSC member-secretary
9	Chandraman Dongol	MoFE	Joint-secretary (technical)	9841324331		
10	Laxman Prasad Khanal	MoFE	Under-secretary (finance)	9851086384	lpkhanal@nepal.gov.np	
11	Dr. Ram Prasad Lamsal	MoFE- Department of Forests and Soil Conservation	Director General			
12	Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana	MoFE	Joint-secretary			
13	Dr. Arun Prakash Bhatta	MoFE	Under-secretary	9843505610	apbhatta@hotmail.com	
14	Bimal Kumar Acharya	MoFE	Under-secretary	9841482278		
15	Ram Hari Pantha	MoFE	Under-secretary	9851150202	erpantha@hotmail.com	
16	Akhanda Sharma	MoFE	Under-secretary	9841546844	akhanda10@yahoo.com	
17	Basantababu Shrestha	MoFE	Section Officer	9857033719	basanta2031@yahoo.com	
18	Ram Prasad Awasthi	MoFE	Section Officer	9869632868	ram.awasthi@nepal.gov.np	
19	Anupa Ghimire	MoFE	Section Officer	9841844441	ghimire.anupa@gmail.com	
20	Naoki Maegawa	WFP	Head of Programme		naoki.maegawa@wfp.org	
21	Krishna Jogi	WFP	Country Programme Coordinator		krishna.jogi@wfp.org	
22	Selwyn Heaton	WFP	Head Engineer		selwyn.heaton@wfp.org	
23	Nilima Chhetri	WFP	Business Support Associate		nilima.chhetri@wfp.org	

Annex -II

Note for the Record (NFR)

Inception Workshop

Date: 26 October 2018

Venue: Surkhet, Karnali Province, Nepal

Chair: Dr. Bishwanath Oli, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment

Chief guest: Hon. Shakti bahadur Basnet, Minister for Forests and Environment

Special guest: Hon. Nanda Singh Budha, Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Karnali Province

Workshop objectives:

- ❖ To interact among the key stakeholders about the project objectives, strategy, interventions and governing mechanisms and agree on the project design,
- ❖ To provide an overarching policy and strategic guidance for the project in line with new federal governance system of Nepal,
- ❖ To discuss and endorse the Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), First year's implementation plan, and budgets including the project implementation arrangements/modality;
- ❖ To facilitate the project implementation, monitoring/review and reporting of project activities/results and coordination/collaboration with concerned stakeholders.

Agenda/schedule:

Time	Activity	Responsibility
9.00-9.15	1. Welcome and meeting overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome and initiation of the workshop	Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint-secretary, MoFE
9.15-10.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Charing the workshop▪ Introduction of participants▪ Review of the workshop objectives and agendas	Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, MoFE
10.00-11.00	2. Briefing on the project design, objective, strategy, interventions, budget, management structure, SoP and first year's implementation plan	Mr. Krishna Jogi, Country Programme Coordinator, WFP
11.00-11.15	3. Brief sharing on the progress and plan of Nepal Change Support Programme (NCCSP) - implemented by UNDP with UKAid's funding support.	Mr. Anil K.C., National Project Manager, NCCSP
11.15-13.15	4. Discussion on the project, it's SoP and first year's implementation plan and Budget	All participants, facilitated by Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint-secretary, MoFE
13.15-13.30	5. Addressing the questions/comments from the participants on the project, SOP and Work plan	Mr. Krishna Jogi, Country Programme Coordinator, WFP
13.30-14.00	6. Endorsement of the SoP and Work Plan	All participants
14.00-14.45	7. Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Bijaya Singh, Assistant Country Director, UNDP Nepal▪ Mr. Ryan Pittock, Deputy Country Director, WFP Nepal

Time	Activity	Responsibility
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ram Prasad Thapaliya, Chief Secretary, Karnali Province Government ▪ Mr. Nanda Singh Budha, Minister for Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment, Karnali Province ▪ Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Forests and Environment, Federal Government
14.45-15.00	8. Workshop close	Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, MoFE

Summary of discussion:

- The project's background, context, rationale, objective, expected outcomes and the indicators, timeframe, key activities and budget, project implementation area, governing structures, monitoring and evaluation plan etc were shared by WFP. The SOP and the first-years implementation plan was also explained. Participants suggested to align the programme with provincial and local-government's overall priority and plan. They further suggested to allow the selection of community level activities through participatory planning process. They appreciated the objective and strategy of the project and the governing structure aligned with new federal governance system.
- A brief update and the plan was shared by Nepal Climate Change Support programme (NCCSP) which is being implemented by UNDP in coordination with MoFE in the same districts. Participants agreed to implement these two projects as well as other climate change related projects in a coordinated, commentary, coherent and synergetic manner at local-level.
- The provincial minister and local-government chiefs welcomed the project and committed for their cooperation in project implementation, achievement of the intended results and sustainability of the project's gain. They mentioned that the provincial and local-government have acknowledged this project as their own priority project, hence, they are committed for extending the support, cooperation, collaboration and coordination required by the project.
- The federal minister mentioned that he is very keen on this project and its expected results. He and the secretary declared that this is Ministry's priority project and requested the provincial and local-government to accept this project as the government's own project implemented through WFP. He asked the MoFE and WFP officials to utilize the project's resources in tangible and result-oriented activities as much as possible by reducing the administrative/management cost to the extent possible. He also asked to demonstrate a model of climate change adaptation for food security which can be further replicated and scaled up by the government.
- Participants suggested to consider forestation, bio-engineering, promotion of production and use of nutrition-rich indigenous commodities, irrigation through rain-water harvesting, solar energy-based water lifting, drought-resistant farming technology, climate-smart agriculture and other enterprises and sustainable local production, processing and consumption system for self-reliance etc as the project activities.
- Participants advised to focus on/give priority to promotion/utilization of locally produced and available nutrition rich food (cereals, vegetables, fruits and herbs etc) for sustainable food security and nutrition which will enable community members to be self-sufficient, through this project rather than focussing on short-term food for asset and providing food for limited lean period.

- Ministers, secretary and other participants suggested to enhance the monitoring and oversight of project activities, to ensure proper utilization of resources without any irregularities.
- Participants suggested that the local-governments should be in the forefront of project implementation, the implementation procedure should be practical, and all the project activities should be endorsed by the local-government. There should be defined role of federal, provincial and local-government in project execution.

Decisions:

- ❖ The workshop agreed on the project design, strategy and plan and made collective commitment to complete the project's implementation within stipulated timeframe and achieve the expected results.
- ❖ The workshop endorsed the SoP including the project governing/management structure and first-year implementation plan and budget.
- ❖ The workshop allowed the executing and implementing entities for implementation, monitoring/review and reporting of project activities/results and coordination/collaboration with concerned stakeholders, based on the project document, the SoP and the guidance/decision of the National Project Steering Committee.

List of participants:

S.N.	Name	Organization	Designation	Contact Number	Email Address
1	Shakti Bahadur Basnet	Ministry of Forest and Environment	Minister	9851168793	basnetsuresh2014@gmail.com
2	Nanda Singh Buda	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Karnali Province	Minister	9851182401	
3	Maya Bhatta	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province No 7, Far West	Minister	9858485075	moitfe7@gmail.com
4	Dr Bishwanath Oli	Ministry of Forest and Environment	Secretary	9841217761	bn_oli@yahoo.com
5	Ram Prasad Thapaliya	Province Government, Karnali	Chief Secretary	9851243543	thapaliyaram@gmail.com
6	Bishnu Prasad Dhital	Tila Rural Municipality, Jumla	Chief Admin Officer	9848027150	vishnupddhital@gmail.com
7	Ratna Bahadur Khadka	Narayan Municipality, Dailekh	Mayor	9858067222	ratnakhadka@gmail.com
8	Loknath Sapkota	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province No 5	Under Secretary	9847633850	sapkotal@gmail.com
9	Krishna Datta Bhatta	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province Karnali	Under Secretary		bhattakd40@gmail.com

S.N.	Name	Organization	Designation	Contact Number	Email Address
10	Bala Bahadur Bista	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province Karnali	Section officer	9869113078	
11	Dakka Bahadur Sahi	PanchalJharana Rural Municipality	Chief Admin Officer	9858900155	
12	Shiva Prasad	Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya	Mayor	9858027167	
13	Mukunda Prasad Adhikari	Ministry of Forest and Environment	Under Secretary	9851170229	mukundadhikari25@gmail.com
14	Sudhir Prasad Bhatta	Ministry of Forest and Environment	Under Secretary	9858752037	bhatta_sudhir@yahoo.com
15	Manjur Ahamad	Ministry of Forest and Environment, Karnali Province	Under Secretary	9855036787	ahamadmanjur@gmail.com
16	Ajeet Karn	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province Karnali	Under Secretary (Forest)	9851161007	ajeet.karn@gmail.com
17	Santosh K Jha	Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment, Province Karnali	Under Secretary	9841326776	santosh.bastipur@gmail.com
18	Ratan Nath Yogi	Tila Rural Municipality, Jumla	Chairperson	9858320137	ratanjumla72@gmail.com
19	Mani Chandra Karki	Khatyad Rural Municipality, Mugu	Chief Admin Officer	9851210663	
20	Lok Bahadur Singh	Climate change Resilience Society Network, Karnali	Chairperson	9858322208	
21	Ganga Devi Upadhyay	Tatopani Rural Municipality	Vice Chairperson	9758901262	
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78	Krishna Jogi	WFP	Country Programme Coordinator		
79	Sameer Singh	WFP	Communications Officer		
80	Jagdish Pant	WFP	Head of Sub-Office		
81	Rojina Karki	WFP	Field Coordinator		
82	Yagya Pun	WFP	NeKSAP province coordinator		

Some photographs of Inception Workshop:



Local government chief speaking in Project Inception Workshop



Participants of the Project Inception Workshop including Ministers and Secretary



Ministers, Secretaries and WFP Deputy Country Directors in Project Inception Workshop