



## INITIATION PLAN TEMPLATE FOR A GEF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

**Project Title:** Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods

**Country:** Bhutan

**UNDP CP Outcome (2014 – 2018):** Outcome 1 – By 2018, sustainable and green economic that is equitable, inclusive, climate and disaster resilient and promotes poverty reduction, and employment opportunities particularly for vulnerable groups.

**UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome (2014-2017):**

Outcome 1: Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded.

Outcome 4: Faster progress is achieved in reducing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment.

Outcome 5: Countries are able to reduce likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change.

**Expected SP Output:** 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4; 4.1; 4.4; 5.3;

**Expected CP Outputs:**

Output 1.1: Policies and studies for integrated natural resource management, climate change adaptation and poverty-environment nexus developed;

Output 1.2: National and local institutions are better prepared and able to respond too and reduce climate change induced and other disaster risks.

Output 1.6: The rural poor and under-employed have increased access to alternative income generation opportunities and sustainable agricultural practices.

**Initiation Plan Start Date**                      **December 2015**

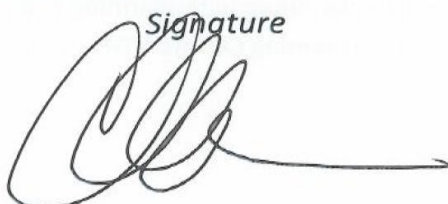
**Initiation Plan End Date:**                      **December 2016**

<p>UN One Programme Component: Outcome 1</p> <p>ATLAS Project Award: 00091461</p> <p>ATLAS Project ID: 00096677</p> <p>PIMS Project ID: 5713</p> <p>Management Arrangement: DIM</p>	<p><b>Total budget:</b>                      <b>US\$ 450,000</b></p> <p><b>Allocated resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GEF-LDCF                      US\$ 300,000</li> <li>▪ GEF TF                      US\$ 150,000</li> </ul>
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**AGREED BY UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms. Christina Carlson  
UNDP  
Thimphu, Bhutan

*Signature*



Date: *day/month/year*

03.12.2015

## A. Brief Description of Initiation Plan:

The Royal Government of Bhutan has requested GEF assistance through UNDP for the preparation of an integrated project proposal for a full sized project on ***“Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods”***. The project aims to operationalize an integrated landscape approach through strengthening of biological corridors, sustainable forest and agricultural systems, and building climate resilience of community livelihoods. The project objective will be achieved through interrelated components: 1) Improved institutional capacity at national, sub-national and village level to manage forest and agricultural landscape for climate resilience; 2) Emplacement governance system for biological corridors and management system in the pilot corridors; and 3) Availability of climate resilient livelihood options for communities.

The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) will be used to develop the project in detail by recruiting project formulation team in close consultation with Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) Secretariat and relevant stakeholders including the target beneficiaries. The preparatory phase will include collection of information and gathering of data needed for the project design of the approved indicative outcomes and outputs including baseline data, identification of lead implementing partner and implementation arrangements, development of indicators and targets, establishment of partnerships and commitment for co-financing. The detailed list of activities and expected outputs of the PPG are included in table B below.

The main output of the PPG phase as outlined in this initiation plan will be a full-sized project document and request for CEO endorsement, including GEF and LDCF Tracking Tools and UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) Report, ready for submission to UNDP and GEF.

## B. Project preparation activities

### Component A: Technical review

#### I. Baseline studies:

During the design stage, the following activities will be conducted to establish baseline for the implementation:

##### 1) Component 1:

- i) Review policies and regulatory framework on protected areas and biological corridors and assess gaps for revision of policies and regulatory framework;
- ii) Capacity needs assessment identifying capacity assets and gaps of institutions, organizations and individuals at national, sub-national and gewogs/village for integrated management of forests, biodiversity and agricultural landscape for climate resilience;
- iii) Identify policy gaps that incorporate the definition of high value of biodiversity and ecosystem services, clearly articulating the need to identify High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs). Describe the procedures and standards for identification and designation of HCVF, and recommend prioritization criteria to consider during the land use planning process to avoid damage to ecosystem integrity when planning any economic activities at the time of land use planning;
- iv) Review of VDP planning process in particular along with planning processes at gewog and dzongkhag levels to identify (i) entry points to mainstreaming CC into VDP and (ii) linkages between VDP and the other sub-national planning processes.

- v) Review of the mandate of mainstreaming reference group at the local level and identify opportunities to make use of this group to integrate climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in local government's plans and programmes;
  - vi) Assess ongoing initiatives on payment for ecosystem services, REDD readiness and other financing mechanisms for PA and BCs to set baseline for upscaling of the mechanisms. Identify viable schemes for support through the project with detailed project support plan and concrete steps for actual mechanism development and implementation support;
  - vii) Identify gaps in comprehensive data, knowledge and tools for addressing climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
  - viii) Review the status of national forest inventory and establish baseline data of forest resources and carbon stock for future monitoring;
  - ix) Evaluate and select appropriate methods to be used to strengthen corridor, monitor forest cover, and identify exposure of vegetation to CC.
  - x) Review and identify the drivers, trade-offs, and risks between BD/SLM and CCA for identifying project interventions towards integrating climate resilience in biodiversity and forest related actions in Bhutan.
  - xi) Review of climate financing windows (both international and domestic) in the country and set baseline to conduct a comprehensive review of climate public expenditure and institutional review (CPEIR).
- 2) Collect baseline data for indicators. These include at a minimum objective and outcome level indicators, exact means of measurement, baselines and targets for the following indicators:
- i) a refined calculation of carbon benefits from project results including reference level deforestation rates, and the extent of current HCVFs and those that are to be protected through the projects;
  - ii) PA financial sustainability scorecard assessment of the PA system including the BCs building on HANAS Project work as well as the Bhutan for Life Programme to establish the baseline and target;
  - iii) METT assessment for selected existing and emerging PAs;
  - iv) Baseline situation of integrated natural resource management practices;
  - v) baseline level of various threats including poaching, agriculture expansion, local/regional trade and trafficking;
  - vi) selection of indicator species and their current status;
  - vii) development and baseline assessment of capacity development scorecard tailor-made for gauging the country's capacity for PA system planning and management
- 3) **Component 2:**
- i) Identification of the target areas, and the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and climate change adaptation in each site.
  - ii) Review of the ecology and socio-economic characteristics of each target region to enable defining of policies and planning processes (responses) that are appropriate to the sites, and to the populations needs.
  - iii) Capacity needs assessment of DoFPs (WCD, Parks, Territorial Divisions, Dzongkhag Forestry Sector) and LGs in the governance and management of PAs and BCs;
  - iv) Develop human wildlife conflict strategy in the country/targeted PAs and BCs following the principles of a safe system approach to HWC developed by WWF. The strategy development will involve review of existing HWC national strategy, consultations and stocktaking of HWC across parks/BCs/Forest divisions to define the precise scope, actions, and time frame to roll out implementation of the strategy.
  - v) Initiate corridor system realignment exercise in partnership with WWF Bhutan Program.

- vi) Set baseline for GHG emission contained through improved forest area management and sustainable land management practices.
- 4) Identification of specific sites for intervention and landscape profiling: two PAs and 3 tiger breeding corridors covering a landscape of >350,000 ha will be selected for targeted support based on government's priority at the beginning of the PPG including biodiversity significance and enabling socio-political conditions.

For the PA site the following investigations need to be conducted:

- i) baseline assessment including detailed protected area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment to identify areas for site level project support;
- ii) an analysis of threats to biodiversity in the priority landscapes;
- iii) existence and state of management plans and gaps;
- iv) existing PA management structure, biodiversity/habitat monitoring system and capacity gaps;
- v) available financing and equipment for park management and human resources and financing needs;
- vi) information on poaching, encroachment, other local threats, local stakeholders, status of indicator species/habitats;
- vii) PES, offset, community based tourism development potential;
- viii) opportunities for co-management of resources/areas;
- ix) baseline activities and investment.

For the PA/BC selected landscapes, PPG will support:

- i) socioeconomic studies defining population and structure (including information on indigenous communities), current land use, livelihoods;
- ii) local community stakeholder consultation to ascertain their aspirations and willingness to be part of the project, and initial capacity assessment;
- iii) local stakeholder consultation with LGs and community based organisations to assess their potential roles in the project and their capacity. Baseline activities and investments will also be defined and descriptions will be compiled.

5) **Component 3:**

- i) select project sites in at least 10 dzongkhags in consultation with key stakeholders, Local Governments (LGs) and beneficiaries. Selection of the project sites within the 10 dzongkhags can be based on:
  - REAP priority dzongkhags the assessment for which has been already completed in 109 villages across the country;
  - Settlements (Dzongkhag, Gewog or Chiwog) falling within the 3 corridors and 2 protected areas with globally significant biodiversity and unique demonstration values. A significant portion of the target areas will be those supported under component 2, thus generating biodiversity benefits.
- ii) conduct vulnerability assessments in the selected project sites to design climate resilient livelihood interventions including locally appropriate resilient agricultural and SLM practices as well as biodiversity conservation related livelihoods. The livelihood options will be prioritized based on NAPA and harmonize with the activities identified through VA. The assessment should also inform how each of the identified options will reduce vulnerability to justify as part of the design of each activity.

- iii) based on the capacity needs assessment under component 1, design Capacity Development responses for MoAF, road engineers and LG functionaries (elected and extension agents) including cooperatives and farmers' group to promote SLM and climate resilient agricultural practices;
  - iv) conduct feasibility study of various types of insurance including index-based, indemnity-based, and area-yield index and identify/design the most viable option for the country context;
  - v) value and supply chain analysis of agricultural commodity including identification of post-harvest technologies and infrastructures;
  - vi) set baseline and identify design elements for a climate resilient farm roads in the selected project sites to enhance access to market and increase agricultural production;
  - vii) review and identify opportunities for contract farming through public-private partnership models to engage youth, women, cooperatives and farmers' group in agricultural production, agri-business and nature-based tourism;
  - viii) undertake a detailed gender analysis applying relevant tools to ensure project interventions and results promote gender equality.
- 6) Review of development plans, policies, budgets and complementary projects:
- i) elaborate on the programmatic baseline projects as discussed in the PIF; analyse gaps and identify opportunities for co-financing;
  - ii) describe in detail the work undertaken by GNHC , MoAF, NEC and Local Governments regarding the development of country's five-year Plan (FYP), National Policies, environmental standards, specifications and guidelines regarding environmental practices and management, sustainable forest management, PA management and planning and management, community-based natural resource management etc.;
  - iii) describe the baseline projects in detail as listed in the PIF and cost the investment that will be made over the project period;
  - iv) identify best practices and lessons learned to be incorporated in the project;
  - v) evaluate cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the various identified adaptation interventions.
- 7) **Undertake full assessment to address any opportunities/risks identified during a Social and Environmental Pre Screening of the project PIF.**

Comprehensive assessment to address any opportunities/risks identified during a Social and Environmental pre-screening of the project PIF. Based on the pre-screening, a full Social and Environmental Screening process will be conducted entailing:

- i) detailed socioeconomic and environmental context assessment to mitigate any negative consequences to local populations, with particular focus on vulnerable groups or to men, women and children. In particular, potential gender issues will be closely looked at and women will be proactively considered for involvement in project pilot activities related to land use planning and implementation, incentive mechanisms application and local community capacity development support;
- ii) list all potential environmental and social impacts that the implementation of project outputs/activities could potentially have;

- iii) clearly articulate the positive environmental and social impacts that will result from the implementation of different components of the project in the project document;
- iv) rate the likelihood of the listed negative impacts materializing during the implementation of the project using high, medium and low likelihood ratings;
- v) rate the level of impact of the listed negative social and environmental impacts using low, moderate and high level ratings;
- vi) develop mitigation strategies for the listed negative environmental and social impacts that were rated as high likelihood of occurring and with a high level of impact;
- vii) ensure engagement with local communities during the PPG phase for joint planning of local level activities, and ensure that prior informed consent mechanisms will be integrated in the project activities.

8) Completion of GEF focal area tracking tools:

- o BD METTs
- o the Financial Sustainability Scorecard
- o the LDCF CCA and GEF Sustainable Forest Management Tracking Tool

9) Stakeholder consultations during technical review:

- o The project will mobilize and engage all relevant stakeholders during project design. In consultation with key stakeholders, UNDP and GNHC will negotiate partnerships with on-going projects to align their activities and the project to build synergies and complementarities.
- o Investigate role of traditional livelihoods in managing social-ecological systems in the development of biological monitoring systems, and in the design of integrated land-use planning.
- o Undertake consultations to identify and integrate local knowledge with outside expert knowledge on biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and climate change adaptation.
- o Investigate local practices could help inform strategies to enhance climate-resilient landscape management and local livelihoods.
- o All consultations during the technical review will be documented and made available as an Annex to the final project document to be submitted to GEF.

**B. Component B: Institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation**

The outputs of Component A will be used as technical input to Component B for the formulation of the UNDP-GEF project document.

- 1) Project results framework: The results framework for the project will build on project's theory of change, and will be further refined with appropriate objective-level and outcome-level quantitative and qualitative SMART indicators, and end-of-project targets. Special attention will be given to include socio-economic and sex disaggregated outputs and indicators.
- 2) Definition of monitoring and evaluation (M&E): The project will undertake an Impact Assessment to understand the effectiveness and impact of the project interventions. A detailed Impact Assessment strategy will be designed as part of the M&E strategy and work plan. The M&E plan will be developed, including clear identification of responsibilities and accountabilities, as well as an appropriate M&E budget incorporating the budget for the Impact Assessment. The M&E plan will be based on the standard template provided in the UNDP-GEF project document template that reflects the mandatory

requirements of GEF M&E Policy. The impact assessment, as part of the M&E, will be designed based on international best practices and methodologies.

- 3) Define sustainability plan: The sustainability plan will outline the principles and guidelines for ensuring long-term sustainability of project achievements. It will also outline an exit strategy, seeking the continuation of key activities/achievements without the need of long-term international financing.
- 4) Definition of management arrangements: The organisational structure governing the project will be decided during the preparatory stage. This will include identification of the project board and project management unit, including coordination arrangements with relevant initiatives.
- 5) Define gender mainstreaming plan: The gender mainstreaming plan will outline the principles and guidelines for mainstreaming gender in individual outputs, in order to ensure the equal participation of women and men and to ensure no adverse impact on either sex.
- 6) Stakeholder consultations during Component B:
  - The project preparatory stage will involve key agencies in the development of the project strategy to ensure strong national ownership. The project preparatory stage will also ensure full participation of key government representatives and other stakeholders and ensure development of the project results framework and agreement on the project objectives and outcomes.
  - The project preparatory stage will also undertake consultations to secure agreement(s) on project implementation arrangements - including roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of lead and partner agencies. All the decisions and agreements of the consultations will be documented properly and presented in the final project document.

**C. Component C: Financial planning and co-financing investments:**

- 1) Project preparatory stage will prepare a detailed multi-year budget following the standard template provided in the UNDP-GEF project document template that reflects the mandatory requirements of the GEF M&E Policy.
- 2) Explore multilateral and bilateral co-financing opportunities: The project preparatory activities will include a series of consultations with partners to ensure a coherent and sustainable financing package for the project including post- GEF grant phase.
- 3) Ensure completion of required official endorsement letters: An official endorsement letter will be prepared by the GEF Operational Focal Point of the Government. A co-financing guarantee will be collected from participating government institutions, bilateral development partners, multilateral development partners and NGOs who wish to provide cash or in kind contributions to the project.
- 4) Stakeholder consultations during Component C: Involve key agencies in the development of the project strategy to ensure a strong national ownership. In close collaboration with key government representatives and other stakeholders ensure full participation in the development of the project results framework and ensure agreement on the project objectives and outcomes. Undertake consultations to secure agreement(s) on project implementation arrangements; including roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities of lead and partner agencies. Document these consultations. In addition, the PPG funds

will support carrying out a targeted capacity assessment of local communities to engage in community based natural resource management and help define strategic interventions to address gaps.

**D. Component D: Validation workshop**

A validation workshop will gather representatives from all relevant stakeholders to present, discuss and validate the final draft project document.

**E. Component E: Completion of final documentation**

- 1) Consolidation of all technical and consultation inputs into a clearly written UNDP Prodoc document with all relevant sections and annexes. On the cover page it will clearly link the project to the Integrated Results and Resource
- 2) Completion of a CEO endorsement request form

*Note: templates may be subject to change, the person responsible for this consolidation and drafting will be required to obtain guidance by the UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor and UNDP CO on applicable formats and templates and ensure that his/her work is compliant with UNDP/GEF and UNDP CO requirements.*



**C. Project preparation activities work plan, timeframe, responsibilities and budget:**

Sl.	Key Milestones	Indicative due dates	Responsible
1	Finalize Initiation Plan and Signature of IP	CO of Nov. 23, 2015	Signature of IP by RR after clearance by PTA
2	Announcement of consultants (2 IC & 1 NC)	Week of Nov. 23	CO
3	Technical/financial evaluation of the consultants.	To be completed by 4 December 2015.	CO
4	Project formulation team in place	Week of December 21	CO
5	Skype call of RTAs/CO, GNHC project partners & Project FT	Week of 28 December	CO
6	Preparation of inception note and work plan by the FT in consultation with GNHC & UNDP CO.	Week of 4 January 2016	CO & FT
7	Desk review to establish baseline information by National Consultant.	Week of 1 Jan. 2016	CO & FT
8	First mission and stakeholder meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide on project outcomes; assessments that will need to be undertaken for baseline and project interventions.</li> <li>Project site selection.</li> <li>Develop a preliminary project's results framework</li> </ul>	Week of 11 January 2016	CO, RTAs and GNHC
9	Prepare ToRs for the number of assessment to be undertaken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vulnerability assessment;</li> <li>Value chain analysis of agricultural commodities;</li> <li>Assessment of crop and livestock insurance schemes;</li> <li>Feasibility assessment of gewog center roads;</li> <li>Socio-economic &amp; biodiversity assessments;</li> <li>Gender analysis</li> <li>Carbon monitoring</li> </ol>	Week of 25 January 2016	National Consultant supported by ICs. And in consultation with CO/RTAs, GNHC and project partners.
10	Recruitment of consultants for the various assessments	Week of Feb. 1, 2016	CO
11	Undertake all the assessments	March - April 2016	Consultants with oversight by FT and CO/GNHC
12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mission of the FT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation meeting with the consultants to consolidate results of the assessments;</li> <li>Consultation meeting with Stakeholders in the targeted project</li> </ul>	Week of 2 May 2016	FT, CO/RTAs and GNHC

Sl.	Key Milestones	Indicative due dates	Responsible
	sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broader consultation with project partners</li> </ul>		
13	Drafting of project document based on the various assessments and stakeholder consultation.	June 2016	FT
14	Production of the first draft of project document.	July 2016	FT
15	Review of First draft of project document and revision.	August 2016	UNDP, GNHC & project partners.
16	3 <sup>rd</sup> mission – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and refine results framework [confirmation of indicators, targets, outputs]</li> <li>• Finalize management arrangements;</li> <li>• Finalize project budget</li> <li>• Review of ESSP</li> </ul>	September 2016	UNDP, FT, GNHC
17	Issuance of co-financing letters [from all the project partners] and LOA-DPS	September 2016	GNHC & CO
18	Submission of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft of the project document along with CEO endorsement to UNDP & GNHC.	October 2016	FT
19	Revision of the document	October 2016	FT
20	Technical clearance process	November 2016	UNDP & GNHC
21	Revision of the project document based on feedback from UNDP-GEF CTAs.	November 2016	FT
22	Submission to GEF Sec	December 2016	UNDP
23	Revision of the project document based on feedback from GEF SEC	December 2016	FT & UNDP

**D: Total Budget and Work Plan:**

<b>Award ID:</b>	00091461
<b>Award Title:</b>	Project Preparation Grant: PIMS 5713 - Enhancing Climate Resilient livelihood
<b>Business Unit:</b>	BTN10
<b>Project Title:</b>	Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods
<b>Project ID:</b>	PIMS 5713 / ATLAS 00096677
<b>Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)</b>	UNDP

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount US\$	Budget notes	
<b>Project Preparation Grant to formulate a full size project – Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods.</b>	UNDP	62160	LDCF	71200	International Consultants	71,780	A	
				71300	Local Consultants	82,010	B	
				71600	Travel	73,430	C	
				71400	Contractual Services-Individual	13,700	D	
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	3,800	E	
				75700	Trainings/Workshops	55,280	F	
	UNDP	62000	GEF TF	71200	International Consultants	36,220	A	
				71300	Local Consultants	41,490	B	
				71600	Travel	37,070	C	
				71400	Contractual Services-Individual	6,300	D	
				74500	Miscellaneous Expenses	1,200	E	
				75700	Trainings/Workshops	27,720	F	
						<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>450,000</b>	

Note: See Annual Budget in Annex 3

**Budget notes:**

Budget Note	Items	Total estimated person weeks	Budget (\$)	Explanation
A	PPG Team Leader [International Consultant] – GEF Biodiversity Project Development Specialist	16	56,000	Please see Annex 2 for key responsibilities
A	International Climate Change Adaptation and Project Development Specialist	10	35,000	
A	International Impact Assessment and M & E Expert	4	17,000	
B	National Consultant: Project Development, CCA, Biodiversity and Livelihood Specialist	34	47,600	
B	National Consultant: To undertake vulnerability assessment	12	15,000	
B	National Consultant: Value chain analysis of agricultural commodities	6	7,500	
B	National Consultant: Assess of crop/livestock assessment	6	7,500	
B	National Consultant: Feasibility assessment of gewog center road network and design elements for climate proofing	5	14,900	
B	National Consultant: socio-economic and biodiversity assessment in 3 BCs & 2 PAs.	12	15,000	
B	National Consultant: Gender Specialist	4	6,000	
B	National Consultant: Carbon monitoring specialist	4	10,000	
C	Travel		110,500	This includes expenses for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field missions for both international and national consultants.</li> <li>Travel cost of project stakeholders for data collection, consultation in the dzongkhags and gewogs, other assessments as required.</li> </ul>
D	Contractual Services- Individual		20,000	Recruitment of a project staff to provide logical support to the project team.
E	Miscellaneous Expenses		5,000	Contingency
F	Training/Workshops		83,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost to cover expenses for logical framework analysis workshop at the national level;</li> <li>Stakeholder consultation workshop in at least 5 districts and 5 gewogs;</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholder consultation to develop a comprehensive and robust HWC safe system in partnership with WWF Bhutan and Tigers Alive Initiative.</li> <li>▪ Project appraisal workshop</li> <li>▪ Validation workshop</li> <li>▪ Inception workshop</li> <li>▪ Stakeholder workshop to undertake CPEIR to develop baseline for climate financing in Bhutan.</li> </ul>
<b>Total PPG Budget</b>			<b>450,000</b>	

Annex 1: GEF CEO PIF approval letter



**Naoko Ishii**  
CEO and Chairperson

September 14, 2015

Ms. Adriana Dinu  
GEF Executive Coordinator  
United Nations Development Programme  
One United Nations Plaza  
304 East 45th St.  
FF Bldg., 10th floor  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Dinu:

I am pleased to inform you that I have cleared the project concept detailed below for inclusion in the upcoming work program. I have also approved your request for project preparation grant.

Decision Sought:	Project Identification Form (PIF) Clearance for Work Program Inclusion and Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	9199
Agency(ies):	UNDP
Agency ID:	5713 (UNDP)
Focal Area:	Multi Focal Area
Project Type:	Full Size Project
Country(ies):	Bhutan
Name of Project:	Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	\$13,967,124
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$1,257,041
PPG Grant:	\$450,000
PPG Agency Fee:	\$40,500
Funding Source:	Multi Trust Funds

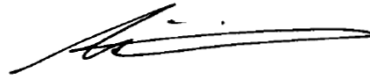
Break-down:		Grant Amount (US\$)	Agency Fee (US\$)			Total (US\$)
Agency	Trust Fund		40% committed at Council Approval	Fees to be committed at CEO Endorsement	Total Agency Fee	
UNDP	LDCF	\$10,500,000	\$378,000	\$567,000	\$945,000	\$11,445,000
UNDP	GEFTF	\$3,467,124	\$124,816	\$187,225	\$312,041	\$3,779,165
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$13,967,124</b>	<b>\$502,816</b>	<b>\$754,225</b>	<b>\$1,257,041</b>	<b>\$15,224,165</b>

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PPG - Breakdown of Amounts by Agency/Trust Fund:				
Agency	Trust Fund	PPG Grant Amount (US\$)	PPG Agency Fee (US\$)	Total (US\$)
UNDP	LDCF	\$300,000	\$27,000	\$327,000
UNDP	GEFTF	\$150,000	\$13,500	\$163,500
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$40,500</b>	<b>\$490,500</b>

This PIF clearance and PPG approval is subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached project review document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal areas strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures. Please ensure that your final project document, with all Secretariat and Council comments fully addressed, is submitted such that CEO endorsement can be provided within 18 months of Council approval of the work program.

Sincerely,



Naoko Ishii  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document  
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee

**Annex 2: Summary of Consultants Financed by the Initiation Plan**

Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
International 1	GEF biodiversity project development specialist  (PPG Team Leader)	3,500	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The GEF project development specialist will coordinate the work of all other consultants to ensure quality and timely preparation of all reports and documentation. Three missions have been proposed to Bhutan with field visits to the selected project sites and some part of the work will be homebased. The expert will perform the following specific tasks:</li> <li>ii) Define and submit a detailed methodology and work plan in consultation with other team members with clear delegation of responsibilities of each team member.</li> <li>iii) Provide an overall orientation to the PPG team in relation to GEF requirements for project planning and monitoring with particular attention given to the description and quantification of the baseline information.</li> <li>iv) Guide the team in the conduct of capacity assessment of key stakeholders, including regulatory framework, policies, knowledge, etc. and design capacity development responses for biodiversity and agricultural landscape management, eco-system based adaptation, climate resilience livelihoods and integration of CC into planning processes including in VDP and linkage with sub-national planning.</li> <li>v) Based on the inputs from national and international experts and key national stakeholders, compile baseline/situational analysis for the full size project (FSP). This will include a precise definition of baseline projects, activities, budgets, goals and co-financial links to GEF outcomes; definition of GEF incremental value per outcome and output; presentation of results of the incremental cost-analysis in matrices.</li> <li>vi) Based on the inputs from national and international experts and the best international practice, prepare a quantified assessment of global environmental benefits for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management.</li> <li>vii) Reconfirm project strategy and finalize project sections on: (a) An assessment of the social, economic and financial sustainability of proposed project activities; (b) Assessment of alternatives to the project strategy and establishing the cost effectiveness of the preferred strategy and suite of</li> </ul>



Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
				<p>activities; (c) replication strategy for project activities; (d) assessment of the risks to the proposed project activities and identifying measure to mitigate these risks; (e) incremental cost analysis.</p> <p>viii) Define and validate the project outcomes, outputs, and activities based on a logical framework analysis and project's theory of change.</p> <p>ix) Develop the results framework of the project with SMART indicators, baseline and targets.</p> <p>x) Working with the national consultants, ensure the quality of completed tracking tools for BD, CCA, SFM Tracking Tools.</p> <p>xi) Establish baseline and targets for indicators reporting on the UNDP Integrated Results and Resources Framework.</p> <p>xii) Prepare costed M &amp; E plan with defined indicators.</p> <p>xiii) Develop action plan for incorporation of gender aspects in the project, with quantifiable baseline and target indicators, as per GEF and UNDP guidance and based on the results of gender analysis.</p> <p>xiv) Ensure action points from the UNDP social and environmental screening (SES) process for the PIF stage are fully implemented during the PPG.</p> <p>xv) Conduct the full UNDP SES and compile a summary report indicating results of the PPG investigation and future actions.</p>
International - 2	Climate Change Adaptation Specialist	3,500	10	<p>The CCA specialist will provide technical inputs to component 1 &amp; 3 of the project and should have a strong background in sustainable agriculture development with experiences in ecosystems, socio-economic situations that are similar to Bhutan. S/he will contribute technical inputs to the development of applicable sections of the pro doc/ CEO document including CCA tracking tool. The consultant's task include:</p> <p>i) Technical definition and capacity needs assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review technical assessments and studies carried out by the government and PPG team, including providing information and resources about international and national best practices;</li> <li>• Develop strategic Results Framework based on the field assessments and inputs from national</li> </ul>

Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
				<p>stakeholders and consultant, including Project Objective, Outcomes, Outputs and indicative activities and ensure compliance Full Size Project monitoring with UNDP/GEF quality requirements including the GEF AMAT Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee definition of the project baseline (ie. Current policies, strategies, current capacities and activities, baseline M&amp;E indicators) and contribute to the synthesis of relevant baseline information (gender-disaggregated if possible), including identification of gaps in baseline data and information and suggestions for further required studies.</li> <li>• Verify and validate the technical, institutional, operational and financial scope and strategy of the project as presented in the PIF.</li> <li>• Establish criteria for the selection of pilots sites and adaptation options, based on field assessments and inputs from national stakeholders and consultant, and verify analysis of current and projected climate change risk in the target areas;</li> <li>• Frame a consistent climate change additionality argument for the project in line with findings from field assessment;</li> <li>• Verify suitability, technical and financial feasibility of the selected adaptation options and ensure that they increase adaptive capacity and reduce long-term climate change induced vulnerability.</li> </ul> <p>ii) Institutional Arrangement, Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define monitoring, evaluation and reporting budget and arrangements in compliance with the Full Size Project monitoring framework with UNDP/GEF quality requirement;</li> <li>• Provide inputs to the project sustainability and exit strategy to ensure replication of project benefits beyond the lifetime of the project;</li> <li>• Develop knowledge management strategy for the project.</li> </ul> <p>iii) Stakeholder consultation and involvement plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that stakeholder consultations with relevant public and private authorities take place including mobilization of project beneficiaries in defining project components, including mapping climate change adaptation needs and gaps;</li> </ul>

Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the development of the overall project framework is participatory, gender-sensitive and base on a wide range of project stakeholders /beneficiary engagements;</li> </ul> <p>iv) Financial planning and co-financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure cost-effectiveness of the project design;</li> <li>Prepare project budget, including detailed co-financing arrangements for component 1 &amp; 3.</li> </ul> <p>v) Drafting of project document and CEO endorsement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidate inputs by the national consultant and RGoB into a full size UNDP/GEF compliant climate change adaptation project document.</li> <li>Review findings of the technical assessments undertaken during the preparatory phase and synthesize them in the relevant sections (component 1 &amp; 3) of the final project document.</li> <li>Provide inputs to the preparation of UNDP/GEF complaint CEO endorsement document.</li> </ul>
National Consultant - 1	Project development, CCA, Forest and Landscape Management Specialist	1,400	34	<p>i) Provide inputs to a detailed methodology and work plan for the PPG phase to the international consultant.</p> <p>ii) Assist and serve as liaison between international consultants and government partners, and provide inputs to and review technical assessments carried out as part of the project preparation.</p> <p>iii) Compile and collate existing baseline climate change data, including available information historical data, climate change scenarios and impact information, both current and projected.</p> <p>iv) Take the lead in conducting all the consultations in the dzongkhags/gewogs, including FGD after identifying the project sites in consultation with the PPG team and project SH.</p> <p>v) Assess current agriculture practices in the country in terms of their relevance from climate smart agriculture perspective and recommend appropriate technologies drawn from international, regional and national best practices.</p> <p>vi) In consultation with the team and sectors and international consultants, identify additional feasibility/baseline study required during the PPG phase so that the feasibility studies do not have to be taken up during the project implementation;</p>

Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vii) Develop ToRs for all the assessments/ feasibility studies to be carried out during the PPG in consultation with the IC, UNDP and IP.</li> <li>viii) Provide input to the international consultant on the project sustainability and exit strategy to ensure replication of project benefit beyond the project duration.</li> <li>ix) Draft organogram and ToRs for key project personnel and consultants as per the requirements and guidelines of UNDP/Results Based Management;</li> <li>x) Liaise directly with the line agencies in the government for stakeholder meeting, bilateral meeting/focused group discussions etc.</li> <li>xi) Assist the international consultant to prepare project budget, including detailed co-financing arrangement for each project component.</li> <li>xii) Assist international consultants in completing the BD, CCA, SFM Tracking Tools.</li> <li>xiii) Discuss and agree on the indicative project activities and compile the first Annual Work Plan as per UNDP format for project implementation.</li> <li>xiv) Compile complete annexes for the full-size project document.</li> </ul>
Local consultant - 2	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Specialist	1,250	12	<p>The consultant's task will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Conduct vulnerability assessment in the identified dzongkhags/gewogs/villages using appropriate tools and methodologies to identify different levels of CC vulnerabilities to the livelihood assets [such as farm land, water resources, forest, livestock, infrastructures, etc.] of the rural communities.</li> <li>ii) Identify different adaptation responses to climate change vulnerabilities of the communities.</li> <li>iii) Design climate resilient livelihood interventions including resilient agricultural and SLM practices as well as biodiversity conservation related livelihoods.</li> <li>iv) Support the CCA specialist with data and information for the development of project document.</li> </ul>
Local	Expert on	1,250	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Design appropriate methodologies for the analysis of supply chains for various types of agricultural</li> </ul>

Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
consultant - 3	value & supply chain analysis of agricultural commodities			<p>commodities.</p> <p>ii) Develop value chain map and identify the major players in the value chain</p> <p>iii) Identify and examine constraints, challenges, and recommend feasible corrective measures for strengthening the existing value chains.</p> <p>iv) Identify the present market conditions of the sector: market size, key players, demand supply gap, pricing trends, imports, exports and distribution networks.</p> <p>v) Identify and prioritize the business development services needed by the various sub-sectors.</p>
Local consultant - 4	Crop Insurance Expert	1,250	6	<p>i) Review existing compensation measures for crop damage by natural disasters [such as wind storm, hail storm, landslides, flash floods, GLOF, etc.].</p> <p>ii) Collect data and information on crop damage by extreme weather events and wildlife.</p> <p>iii) Review existing community-based insurance schemes and document lessons on what has worked and what did not.</p> <p>iv) Proposed viable options of insurance schemes for crop and livestock damage by extreme weather events and wildlife building on lessons from within and outside the country.</p>
Local consultant - 5	Biodiversity/ socio-economic expert	1,250	12	<p>i) Collect baseline information on the biodiversity condition of the target areas (3 BCs and 2 PAs).</p> <p>ii) Collect baseline data on the socio-economic status of the communities in the targeted corridors and PAs defining population and structure, current land use, and livelihoods.</p> <p>iii) Establish baseline level of various threats including poaching, agriculture expansion, local/regional trade and trafficking, status of indicator species/ habitats.</p> <p>iv) Assessment of existing PA management plans and gaps; existing PA mgt structure, biodiversity/habitat monitoring system and capacity gaps.</p> <p>v) Conduct rapid assessment on HWC in the targeted corridors and PAs to develop a safe HWC system building on lessons from WWF's initiative in Tiger range countries.</p>

Type of Consultant	Position / Titles	\$/Person Week <sup>1</sup>	Estimated PWS <sup>2</sup>	Tasks to be Performed
Local consultant - 6	Gender expert	1,500	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Gender analysis of the project's results and resources framework to ensure project's interventions and results promote gender equality.</li> <li>ii) Conduct gender analysis with stakeholders using appropriate gender analysis tools.</li> <li>iii) Develop gender action plan for the project to be integrated into the project's RRF.</li> <li>iv) Support project formulation team to provide gender data in the development of the project document.</li> </ul>
Local consultant - 7	REDD/Carbon Monitoring Specialist	2,500	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Assess ongoing initiatives PES, REDD+ readiness.</li> <li>ii) Review the status of national forest inventory and establish baseline data for forest resources and carbon stock for future monitoring.</li> <li>iii) Collect baseline data – calculation of carbon benefits from project results including reference level deforestation rates, and the extent of current HCVMs.</li> <li>iv) Establish baseline for GHG emission contained through improved forest area management and sustainable land management practices.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Dollar amount per person week.

<sup>2</sup> Person weeks needed to carry out the task.

The following annexes are attached as a separate document.

**Annex 4: Approved PIF [Attached as a separate document]**

## Annex 5: GEF Sec Review Comments and Response Matrix

### *Bhutan – GEF/LDCF*

### *Enhancing the Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agriculture Landscape and Community Livelihoods*

(formally *Enhancing Sustainability and Resilience of Forest Landscape and Community Livelihoods*)

GEF Programme ID: 9199/GEF Agency Programme ID: 5713

Comments	Response
<b>Comments from the GEF SEC at PIF – August 13, 2015</b>	
<p><b>1. Is the project aligned with the relevant GEF strategic objectives and results framework?</b>  <b>CCA: Not quite.</b> The PIF only identifies alignment with CCA-1 (reducing vulnerability). However, it is also aligned with CCA-2 (building adaptive capacity) and with CCA-3 (mainstreaming adaptation in development planning). The project is aligned with BD 1 (Program 1) and SFM-2.            Recommended action:            Please include CCA-2 and CCA-3 in Table A of the Datasheet</p>	<p>This has been addressed. CCA-2 and CCA-3 have been included in Table A.</p>
<p><b>2. Does the PIF sufficiently indicate the drivers<sup>1</sup> of global environmental degradation, issues of sustainability, market transformation, scaling, and innovation?</b>            By CEO Endorsement:            Please consider measures to sustain the efforts this project will make towards integrating climate resilience in biodiversity and forest related actions in Bhutan. This could be done through formal inclusion of climate change related issues in PA/forest management plans and frameworks, and capacity building activities, for example .</p>	<p>This is noted. During the PPG, we will develop a strategy for integration of climate resilience in biodiversity and forest related actions in the country.</p>
<p><b>4. Is the project designed with sound incremental reasoning?</b>  <b>Not yet.</b> All SFM projects are required to provide an estimate of the additional carbon benefits (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) that are expected to ensue from implementation of the project (in Table F, Line 4 of the Datasheet). Please also provide an explanation in the PIF on how this</p>	<p>This addressed. The project is expected to lead to mitigation of 53.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> owing to operationalization of biological corridors and strengthening management effectiveness of target PAs. This was estimated based on 350,000 ha of directly affected forest areas, using the conservative estimate of the average carbon density of 153 tC/ha based on the 2011 global carbon mapping by Sassan</p>

<sup>1</sup> Need not apply to LDCF/SCCF projects.

<p>figure was derived.</p>	<p>Saatchi of Caltech's Jet Propulsion Lab.  <a href="http://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Bhutan.htm">http://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Bhutan.htm</a></p> <p>This is an indicative figure and through identification of the exact project landscapes, the figure will be further investigated and refined.</p>
<p><b>5. Are the components in Table B sound and sufficiently clear and appropriate to achieve project objectives and the GEBS?</b></p> <p><b>Adjustments and further information requested.</b></p> <p>1) Please change the "type of Trust Fund" selection at the top of p.1 of the Datasheet to "Multi Trust Fund", not LDCF.</p> <p>2) In view of sustainable agriculture being a priority for Bhutan, suggest including 'agriculture' in the title by changing it to: "Enhancing the Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Agriculture, Forests and Community Livelihoods."</p>	<p>1) The correction has been made.</p> <p>2) The title has been revised to read “Enhancing the Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agriculture Landscapes and Community Livelihoods”.</p>
<p>3) Please simplify the project objective as follows: "Operationalizing an integrated landscape approach through strengthening of biological corridors, sustainable forest and agricultural systems, and building climate resilience of community livelihoods."</p> <p>4) Please provide the approximate number of beneficiaries for the LDCF-financed activities.</p> <p>5) Integration of the two elements is rather weak, with Components 1 and 2 focusing on BD, and Components 3 and 4 mostly on LDCF. Integration of the GEFTE/BD and LDCF elements could be enhanced by combining Components 1 and 3, both focused on institutional capacity development at the national/sub-national level. The institutional framework needs to be clarified and bring together the</p>	<p>3) The project objective has been simplified as suggested.</p> <p>4) The estimated number of beneficiaries for the LDCF funded component is 155,000. This estimate is based on the rural population of 10 districts and assuming 65% coverage. This will be refined and finalized during the PPG.</p> <p>5) As suggested, component 1 and 3 are now integrated. The component will now focus on building institutional capacities for forest and agricultural landscape management as well as climate resilience at national, sub-national, and village levels in an integrated approach. To facilitate effective institutional arrangements, distinct outcomes/outputs are included for biological corridors and climate resilience as noted.</p>



<p>two elements (agriculture and forest/BD sectors) at the national level to enable a coordinated and integrated landscape approach. There can still could be distinguished targeted outcomes and outputs specific to biological corridors and climate resilience of community livelihoods.</p> <p>6) On Component 4, the linkage between the suggested agriculture practices and biodiversity benefits needs to be further articulated and explained. As it stands now, the SLM benefits are clear but not BD.</p>	<p>6) The component will explore creation of biodiversity conservation oriented livelihoods and jobs (e.g. ecotourism, sustainable harvesting and community rangers for the biological corridors etc.). Resilient and sustainable farming practices will minimise negative impacts on biodiversity. The link will be maximised through the site selection criteria, choosing <i>dzongkhags</i> with areas that are part of or close to biological corridors.</p>
<p><b>6. Are socio-economic aspects, including relevant gender elements, indigenous people, and CSOs considered?</b> By CEO Endorsement: Please provide details on (i) community consultations, (ii) measures to ensure gender mainstreaming, and (iii) how the project will benefit vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.</p>	<p>We will provide requested details by the CEO endorsement.</p>
<p><b>8. Is the PIF being recommended for clearance and PPG (if additional amount beyond the norm) justified?</b> By CEO Endorsement: 1) Please see comments for items 3, 5 and 6, above. 2) As Components 3 and 4 of this project are based on the technically-cleared GEF LDCF Project ID 5872 ('Climate-resilient Villages), please fully address all comments that had been provided for CEO endorsement stage in the review sheet for Project ID 5872 by CEO Endorsement stage for this project. 3) Please also discuss how the heightened inter-agency coordination needs that this multi-focal area project requires will be addressed.</p>	<p>Requested information will be provided by the CEO endorsement. The comments previously provided for the LDCF project ID 5872 will also be addressed by the CEO endorsement.</p>

## Annex 6: STAP Review of the Project Identification Form (PIF)

# Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, administered by UNEP, advises the Global Environment Facility (Version 5)

## STAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF)

Date of screening: September 29, 2015

Screener: Guadalupe Duron

Panel member validation by: Annette Cowie  
Consultant(s):

### I. PIF Information *(Copied from the PIF)*

**FULL SIZE PROJECT**            **MULTI TRUST FUNDS**

**GEF PROJECT ID:** 9199

**PROJECT DURATION :** 5

**COUNTRIES :** Bhutan

**PROJECT TITLE:** Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods

**GEF AGENCIES:** UNDP

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Gross National Happiness Commission

**GEF FOCAL AREA:** Multi Focal Area

### II. STAP Advisory Response *(see table below for explanation)*

Based on this PIF screening, STAP's advisory response to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency(ies):  
**Concur**

### III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes UNDP's proposal on "Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods". STAP is pleased with the project's focus on integrated management of biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaption to improve livelihoods and contribute towards global environmental outcomes in Bhutan – a country recognized for its biodiversity and forest ecosystems.

To strengthen further the proposal, STAP recommends addressing the following issues during the project development:

1. The PIF provides a description of how climate change can affect biodiversity conservation, agricultural management, and livelihoods in Bhutan. In the full proposal, STAP recommends defining further the target areas, and the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and climate change adaptation in each site. It also recommends describing the

ecology and socio-economic characteristics of each target region. This will enable the project to define policies and planning processes (responses) that are appropriate to the sites, and to the populations needs.

2. Rural communities are expected to be involved in the design and implementation of the project, which STAP supports. The three components should reflect, therefore, the integration of local knowledge with outside expert knowledge on biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management and climate change adaptation. Traditional knowledge plays an important role in ecosystem management and in coping capacities to climate change in Bhutan (Refer to the following paper for further information on the role of hybrid knowledge in ecosystem management and climate adaptation in Asian highlands: WIREs Clim Change 2014, 5:709-718. doi: 10.1002/wcc.302).

For example, literature suggests that a drop in shifting cultivation as a result of policy enforcement has altered traditional land use practices that might have benefited biodiversity conservation, forest and ecosystem management in Bhutan. (Refer to Siebert, S., and Belsky, J.M. "Historical livelihoods and land uses as ecological disturbances and their role in enhancing biodiversity: An example from Bhutan". *Biological Conservation* 177 (2014) 82-89.) Investigating further local practices could help inform strategies to enhance climate-resilient landscape management and local livelihoods. Thus, STAP recommends for the project developers to take into account the role of traditional livelihoods in managing social-ecological systems in the development of biological monitoring systems, and in the design of integrated land-use planning.

3. To appropriately address the multiple and complex links between biodiversity conservation, integrated agricultural/forest management and climate change adaptation, STAP recommends applying a conceptual framework that helps identifies the drivers, trade-offs, and risks between these elements. This framework also should allow for a stakeholder/institutional analysis that enables cross-sector engagement between institutions (local and external), and individuals.

Thus, STAP encourages UNDP to define further an approach to landscape management in order to achieve the proposed global environmental outcomes on biodiversity conservation, forest conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. At the moment, an approach on integrated landscape management appears to be defined minimally in the proposal. By strengthening this aspect further, the proposal's scientific rationale could be reinforced. One approach that UNDP may wish to consider is the "Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment" Framework (RAPTA). The framework guides the users to apply a multi-stakeholder process to describe the system, including the key interactions between social, economic and environmental elements, to identify key driving variables, and vulnerable aspects that should be the focus of interventions and monitoring. Based on this process-level understanding of the system, RAPTA enables assessment of its resilience, and identifies whether it needs to adapt or transform. (Further information about the RAPTA can be found at: <http://www.stagef.org/the-resilience-adaptation-and-transformation-assessment-framework/>)

A second approach that can be considered is that of multifunctional landscapes, including protected areas. This approach is detailed in Dewi, S. et al. "Protected areas within multifunctional landscapes: Squeezing out intermediate land use intensities in the tropics?" Land Use Policy 30 (2013). The paper discusses the temporal scales of land-use change inside and outside four protected areas in the tropics, and the multifunctionality of the different landscapes.

4. Component 3 will focus on activities that support livelihood options for communities vulnerable to climate change. STAP proposes for UNDP to detail further how each activities will contribute to communities' adaptive capacity to climate change. It also suggests to link better this component to Bhutan's climate adaptation priorities under its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) for 2014 – 2017.

Refer to: <http://www.undp.org/content/bhutan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2014/04/18/bhutan-to-implement-world-s-largest-climate-change-adaptation-project-under-ldc-fund.html>) NAPA priorities on agriculture and food security are described under the baseline activities, and it would be useful to detail how this project will complement those activities.

5. In component 3, STAP encourages UNDP to address the possibility that REDD+ activities may contribute to leakage. Jadin, S. et al., suggests that forest conservation policies that have successfully maintained a high forest cover in Bhutan might be have been accompanied by an increasing displacement of forest use to India. (Refer to: Jadin, S., Meyfroidt, P., Lambin, E. "Forest protection and economic development by offshoring wood extraction: Bhutan's clean development path". Regional Environmental Change, 2015. Therefore, STAP suggests that the proponent consider further the potential for redistribution of the project's impacts on the environment, and identify measures that could reduce this risk.

6. In component 1 there is no detail on the methods to be applied to strengthen the biological corridor network, to monitor extent of forest cover, and to identify the vegetation types most vulnerable to climate change. Will this involve developing capacity in GIS, downscaling climate projections, and forest modelling? Will it involve remote sensing, and/or on-ground forest inventory? In order to determine the resources required, and to plan this component, these aspects will need to be clarified in project development.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
<b>1. Concur</b>	In cases where STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal, a simple “Concur” response will be provided; the STAP may flag specific issues that should be pursued rigorously as the proposal is developed into a full project document. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design prior to submission for CEO endorsement.

<p><b>2. Minor issues to be considered during project design</b></p>	<p>STAP has identified specific scientific /technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the project proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. The proponent may wish to:</p> <p>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised.  (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review.</p> <p>The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.</p>
<p><b>3. Major issues to be considered during project design</b></p>	<p>STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical methodological issues, barriers, or omissions in the project concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. The proponent is strongly encouraged to:</p> <p>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised;  (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development including an independent expert as required.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat may, based on this screening outcome, delay the proposal and refer the proposal back to the proponents with STAP’s concerns.</p> <p>The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.</p>