

**Project Title:**

Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems (SECURE)

**ATLAS Award ID: 00091297**

**Annual Progress Report**  
January - December 2021

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**PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

Date:	February 2022
Award ID:	00091297
Project ID:	00103730
Project Title:	Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems (SECURE)
Project Start Date:	April 1, 2017
Project End Date:	March 30, 2024
Donor:	GEF
Implementing Partner:	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Total Project Budget (all years):	USD 72,364,192
Core Resources:	0
Non-Core Resources:	USD 11,544,192
Government contribution:	USD 60,820,000

**Project Brief Description and Outputs:**

Despite the immense biological, socio-cultural and hydrological values of the Himalayan ecosystems, these natural ecosystems are under severe threat from high dependence of local communities on natural resources, pressures from economic development, selective removal of medicinal and aromatic plants, and the emerging threat of illegal wildlife trade and wildlife crime. To address these threats, the project will adopt a landscape approach to conservation and management, by ensuring that key biodiversity areas, buffer zones, corridors and areas outside traditional protected areas that are critically important for conservation of endangered snow leopard, wild prey and their associated and threatened species and habitats are managed in tandem with the sustainable use of these resources and improvement and diversification of the livelihoods of a large number of local communities living in this region. The project's incremental value lies in promoting the sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems to secure conservation of globally significant wildlife, including endangered snow leopard and their habitats and ensure sustainable livelihoods and community socio-economic benefits in the four high altitude landscapes in the Trans- and Greater Himalayan region (that consists of alpine pastures, sub-alpine forests and critical watersheds). The four inter-related components of the project are aimed at Improved management of high Himalayan landscapes for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats and sustaining ecosystem services, improved and diversified sustainable livelihood for communities to reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems, enhanced enforcement, monitoring and cooperation to reduce wildlife related threats, and improved knowledge and information systems for landscape conservation approaches. These actions are aimed at conserving the snow leopards, wild prey and associated species and habitats contained within these landscapes, maintaining their ecosystem values and ameliorating climate change impacts, enhancing surveillance, monitoring and trans-boundary cooperation to reduce wildlife crime and related threats, and improving knowledge and communications.

**The project objective:**

The project objective is to promote the sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems that secures conservation of globally significant wildlife, including endangered snow leopard and their habitats, ensures sustainable livelihoods and community socioeconomic benefits.

<b>List of focus States/districts</b>				
<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Landscapes</b>			
Ladakh	Changthang			
Himachal Pradesh	Lahaul-Pangi, Kinnaur			
Uttarakhand	Gangotri - Govind, Darma - Byans			
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga, Upper Teesta			
<b>Overall Project Quality Rating (mark on the scale of 1 to 5 as per the following criteria): 4</b>				
Exemplary (5) *****	High (4) ****	Satisfactory (3) ***	Poor (2) **	Inadequate (1) *
All outputs are rated High or Exemplary	All outputs are rated Satisfactory or higher, and at least two criteria are rated High or Exemplary	One output may be rated Poor, and all other criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher	Two outputs are rated Poor, and all other criteria are rated Satisfactory or higher	One output is rated Inadequate, or more than two criteria are rated Poor
Budget 2021		USD 200000		
Expenditure 2021		USD 1665170		
Delivery %		83%		

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## ACRONYMS

1. Access and Benefit sharing - ABS
2. Animal Intrusion Detection and Repellent System - ANIDER
3. Annual Work Plan- AWP
4. Biodiversity Heritage Sites - BHS
5. Biodiversity Management Committee- BMC
6. Chief Wildlife Warden -CWLW
7. Community Based Organisations - CBO
8. Conference of Parties- COP
9. Conservation Area- CA
10. Convention on Migratory Species- CMS
11. Coronavirus Disease 2019- COVID-19
12. Detailed Project Report- DPR
13. Developing a Unique Ecotourism Model for Generating Alternative Economic Means - UEM-  
GAEM
14. Direct Benefit Transfer - DBT
15. Forest Research Institute- FRI
16. Geographic Information Systems- GIS
17. Geographical Indicators- GI
18. Global Environment Facility - GEF
19. Global Positioning System- GPS
20. Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program - GSLEP
21. High Conservation Value Forests - HCVFs
22. Himachal Pradesh Forest Department - HPFD
23. Human Wildlife Conflicts- HWC
24. IHR- Indian Himalayan Region
25. Indo- Tibetan Border Police- ITBP
26. International Snow Leopard - ISL
27. Joint Forest Management Committee- JFMC
28. Land Use and Land Cover - LULC
29. Landscape Level Project Management Committee- LLPMC
30. Legal literacy Manual - LLM
31. Level Project Steering Committee - LLPSC
32. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act- MGNREGA
33. Management effectiveness Tracking Tool- METT
34. Management Information System- MIS
35. Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Conservation and Development Areas - MPCDA
36. Medicinal and Aromatic Plants- MAPs
37. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change- MoEF&CC
38. Mutanchi Lom Aal Shezum- MLAS
39. Natural Resource- NR
40. Nature Conservation Foundation - NCF
41. Nehru Institute of Mountaineering- NIM

42. Non- Timber Forest Products- NTFPs
43. People Biodiversity Register -PBR
44. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - PMFBY
45. Protected Area - PA
46. Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act - PPVFRA
47. Rare Endangered Threatened- RET
48. Remote Sensing- RS
49. Reserved Forests- RF
50. Self-help Group- SHG
51. Snow Leopard Census- SL census
52. Snow Leopard Population Assessment of India - SPAI
53. Standard Operating Procedures - SOPs
54. State Biodiversity Board- - SBB
55. State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans - SBSAPs
56. State Medicinal Plants Board - SMPB
57. State Project Management Unit- SPMU
58. State Rural Livelihood Mission- SRLM
59. Technical Support Group- TSG
60. The Conservation Assessment and Management Prioritization - CAMP
61. The Energy and Resources - TERI
62. Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>- tCO<sub>2</sub>
63. Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce- TRAFFIC
64. Training Needs Analysis - TNA
65. Training-of-Trainers - ToT
66. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation -TRIFED
67. Union territories - UT
68. Uttarakhand Forest Department - UKFD
69. Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency- UREDA
70. Village Voluntary Protection Force - VVPF
71. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau- WCCB
72. Wildlife Institute of India - WII
73. Wildlife Sanctuary- WLS
74. World Wild Fund for Nature- WWF
75. Zoological Survey of India - ZSI

## 1. Executive Summary

*The executive summary is a concise brief on the progress towards the project outputs during the reporting period. The section also includes key implementation challenges, lessons learned and way forward. It is also suggested to include key financial information, such as expenditure for the reporting period, cumulative expenditure and a delivery rate against budget. (Suggested length - 400 words maximum)*

The project is working in some of the remotest landscapes of the country characterized by challenging terrain, harsh weather and marginalized communities. To strengthen conservation mechanisms, the project is implementing a landscape-based approach by mainstreaming community participation in conservation, create opportunities for alternative and augmenting existing livelihoods, and enhancing capacities of managers and frontline staff in addressing the larger issue of illegal trade in wildlife.

The project continues to provide extensive support to improve the management of six target PAs based on gaps identified across various thematic areas in the last two years. This includes providing technical support, capacity building for park managers, and strengthening participatory monitoring through various trainings involving a range of stakeholders and provision on high-altitude monitoring equipment. PA management plans have been revised for Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh or are under revision in Ladakh. In Uttarakhand and Sikkim, project is progressing towards enhancing PA management by working on issues like waste management.

For livelihoods, the project, so far, has focused on preparing micro-plans and strategies to diversify livelihood options and enhancing the value chain of select products in areas including eco-tourism, animal husbandry, agriculture, handicraft, medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) cultivation, apiculture and the project is now focusing on implementation of these plans and strategies. With this focus in mind, the project focus is to support various self-help groups with training, capacity building, innovations in machinery to reduce pressure on natural resources. With this, local communities in project landscapes have begun to develop and market their products and services.

Towards curbing illegal trade of wildlife and prevention of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) the project has carried out considerable work to understand better the underlying trends and causes of the HWC conflict. The project has introduced a range of measures to mitigate HWC. These include strategies to mitigate HWC and species-specific Standard Operating Procedures and guidance for significant conflict species. Further, the project has been able to deploy some measures in the field to prevent HWC like predator proof coral pens in Ladakh, immunization of free-range dogs in Sikkim, installation of Infra-red Devices to prevent wild animals from crop depredation.

Under knowledge management and communications, the project is progressing well in identifying and documenting the good practices emerging from the project, which can be considered satisfactory at

this stage. The project has supported policy recommendations by adopting the new snow leopard monitoring protocol, developing the high-altitude wetland management handbook for managers, landscape level strategy and plans for green areas, manuals on wildlife crime scene investigation, and supporting State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Overall, the project has made significant progress towards Outcomes 1 and 4, while progress on Outcomes 2 and 3 were impacted by COVID-19. Going ahead, the project has realigned the implementation plans to work around the lockdown induced issues and ensure that progress is achieved across all outcomes.

## 2. Project Background

*The background should be a short introductory of the project. The situation analysis and the objective sections of the Project Document can be referred to for this section. Also include an up-to-date overview of changes in the context and situations. (Suggested length - maximum half a page)*

The SECURE Himalaya project (Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems) is a part of “Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development” (Global Wildlife Program) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with projects across 19 countries.

The project augments Government of India’s efforts for conservation of the snow leopard and its habitat by developing and implementing a landscape-based approach for high-altitude Himalayan ecosystems, and address key issues of habitat degradation, threatened livelihoods and illegal trade in wildlife.

It also contributes to the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), a joint initiative of 12 range country governments, international agencies, civil society, and the private sector.

The project’s incremental value lies in promoting the sustainable management of alpine pastures and forests in the high range Himalayan ecosystems to secure conservation of globally significant wildlife. This includes, conservation of the endangered snow leopard and its habitat, ensure sustainable livelihoods and socioeconomic benefits for communities in select landscapes in the Trans- and Greater Himalayan region (that consists of alpine pastures, sub-alpine forests and critical watersheds).

## 3. Project Performance and Results

### 3.1. Contribution towards Country Programme Outcome

<b>CPD Output 3.2: Effective solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, ozone depleting substances, chemicals and wastes.</b>			
<b>Indicator(s): 3.2.1</b> Number of policies and programme promoting sustainable livelihoods and incorporating gender responsive strategies for natural resources and ecosystems management.	Baseline: 4	Target(s): 6	<b>Achievement(s):</b> Demonstrative actions being undertaken under the project to inform policy decisions
<b>Description of output level/outcome level <u>results achieved</u> in 2021:</b>			
<p>Women participation in the project landscapes and their role in biodiversity conservation is critical in the project. Women manage agriculture, animal husbandry and natural resources. They actively contribute to service sectors like tourism and with youth being able to access formal education, the project focusses on training them to be advocates of climate change mitigation by promoting citizen science, supporting them to be decision makers for sustainable management of natural resources and developing innovative technologies to reduce their workload in arduous daily tasks.</p> <p>A key component of the project is mainstreaming gender to ensure both women and men participate actively in conservation action and benefit equally from project interventions. Guiding principles adopted by the project for gender mainstreaming, across all activities are the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove structural barriers for participation of women and men in project activities;</li> <li>• Promote women’s participation and leadership in all forms of decision-making;</li> <li>• Develop activities that result in mainstreaming gender to ensure that direct and indirect beneficiaries of interventions are both women and men</li> </ul> <p><b>Key initiatives undertaken for gender mainstreaming</b></p> <p>To strengthen community level institutions for effective biodiversity governance and sustainable livelihoods, the project has partnered with the State Biodiversity Boards in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and constituted over 60 Biodiversity Management Committees across the project landscapes in 2 states, while ensuring participation of at least 30% women in the constitution of the committees. Training and capacity building exercises are currently in progress for these Biodiversity Management Committees.</p> <p>In recent years, adventure tourism has emerged as an important source of livelihoods for youth in remote Himalayan regions, whose knowledge of the terrain and acclimatization to the landscape gives them a natural advantage. The SECURE Himalaya landscapes in Uttarakhand constitute some of the most enchanting as well as challenging trekking and mountaineering routes globally. However, while the number of female adventure tourists in the country has been rising steadily, there are very few female guides to cater to this growing consumer segment.</p> <p>Under the project, a 15-day course in basic mountaineering and guiding skills was conducted for 20 women participants from the project villages. The course included a mix of basic skills like rope craft and orienteering and then the participants were taken outdoors to test some advanced level skills like ice climbing, safety and rescue. Such courses not only create a cadre of trained and certified professionals who can seek employment in the adventure industry, but also train them to become the ‘eyes and ears’ of the forest and wildlife departments.</p>			



One of the major capacity gaps in documentation of the biodiversity of high-altitude Himalaya is the unavailability of trained local communities to undertake field surveys. Due to the difficult nature of the terrain, it is often not possible for external researchers to traverse these landscapes in limited seasons that they are accessible.

To address this, the project, in association with the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, have trained a cadre of 50 para-taxonomists, with an emphasis on enrollment of women, to assist the SBBs and the Forest and Wildlife Departments in monitoring key wildlife species and documentation of biodiversity in high-altitude landscapes.

The project is in process of creating a repository of best practices related to participatory and community-based conservation models, sustainable (and revival of traditional) livelihoods, mitigating illegal trade in wildlife and human wildlife conflict and mainstreaming gender in conservation among others. While technical agencies are documenting some of these initiatives, it is important to empower local community members to be able to document and communicate these key learnings and best practices within themselves, which will create a sustainable framework for knowledge sharing at the grassroots.

With this objective, select youth (with equal participation of women and men) are being trained on video documentation and recording (and broadcasting) radio programmes through community radio stations. Through a 'train the trainer' approach, more youth will be trained in these skills. This cadre of communication specialists will provide communications support to community-based conservation institutions.

Women from project landscapes are actively participating in training and capacity building programmes on citizen science and zoonotic sciences to participate in monitoring of snow leopards, migratory birds, associated species and in conducting surveys to gather data for combatting spread of zoonotic diseases.

Increased capacity of Community Based Organizations that are led by women through participatory rural appraisals for the development of village level micro-plans, thereby reducing the gap of women's participation in decision making processes at the village level.

An all-women Biodiversity Management Committee formed in Ladakh to promote women's participation in decision making and management of natural resources

A rapid assessment conducted with local communities affected by COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to support women in project landscapes, whose incomes had been adversely affected by lockdown restrictions and decline in tourism. This resulted in interventions to support women who ran a handloom-based organization (in Uttarakhand) by conducting a buyer-seller meet, which led to an immediate sale of products. The project also supported them in branding, marketing and convergence with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, who will support this 162-member enterprise for the next 5 years. Further, this organization prepared home isolation medicine kits for those infected by COVID-19, thereby supporting the local government. Cloth bags were stitched out of waste fabric to replace plastic bags in the kits.

Training and capacity building workshops conducted with local communities, with an emphasis on involvement of women, across Himachal Pradesh (sheep wool) and Sikkim (Nettle fiber and upcycling waste) to strengthen sustainable collection, production and enhance incomes. This work will follow the

development of women run enterprises to make them economically independent, thereby resulting in empowerment.

Machinery deployed in Himachal Pradesh to reduce women's drudgery in extracting hazelnuts and walnuts from their shell. This initiative strengthens the existing value chain of Walnut and Hazelnut, reduces the time (from 3 days to 3 hours) required to break their shells and enables an increase in women's income.

Exposure trips organized for women involved in cultivation and processing of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Uttarakhand to understand models of Marketing and value chain development, thereby building their capacities to start their own enterprise in sustainable management of medicinal plants, a rich natural resource in project landscapes.

**Means of Verification** Quarterly and annual progress reports by UNDP, Government stakeholders' (including relevant line departments and State Governments) annual reports, and media coverage and records.

### 3.2. Progress towards Project Results/Outputs

#### **Project Output I: Improved management of high Himalayan landscapes for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats and sustaining ecosystem services**

Output 1.1. Landscape level management strategies that integrate biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate mitigation, sustainable community resource use and socio-economic considerations are developed, discussed with stakeholders and supported.

Output 1.2: Site specific participatory management plans for Protected Areas, and other Key Biodiversity Areas, including High Conservation Value Forests, Biodiversity Heritage Sites and biological corridors, and sustainable natural resource use areas designed and tested under community governance, management and enforcement regimes

Output 1.3 Alpine meadows and sub-alpine forest restoration plans are developed and introduced to local communities to improve biological connectivity and habitat productivity

Output 1.4 Biodiversity participatory monitoring for Snow leopard and associated species is developed, tested and adopted

Output 1.5: Lessons learned on biodiversity and multiple use landscape management approaches are developed

Output 1.6 Capacity development for key government staff and community members for long-term effective conservation of biodiversity developed and implemented

<b>Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target(s)</b>	<b>Achievement(s)</b>
Indicator 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of protected	Changtang WLS (22), Govind Pasu WLS (25)	Average increase by at least 30 points in METT from current PAs baselines	In Ladakh, taxon data sheets for 40 species of Medicinal Plants of Ladakh have been prepared as per CAMP process to assign IUCN category of threat and provided conservation and management recommendations. Subsequently, 2 species of

<p>areas and biological rich areas in alpine and sub-alpine landscape</p>	<p>Gangotri NP (35), Khangchenjunga National Park - KNP (29) Seichi Tuan WLS (13), Shingba Rhododendron WLS (16)</p>		<p>Medicinal Plants have been submitted to IUCN for validation of the threat category.</p> <p>The Draft State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Union Territory of Ladakh has been prepared and submitted to the UT Government for approval. In this this strategy and action plan, six potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been identified with the help of a local youth group in the Project Landscape.</p> <p>In Himachal Pradesh, the midterm review of the METT score of Sechu Tuan Nalla WL Sanctuary has been completed and the mid-term METT score was established as 60. Landscaping of natural water bodies/ springs, work on two identified sites completed.</p> <p>In Uttarakhand, waste management work has been upscaled in the Govind landscape, with funding support through corporate social responsibility. Mid-term review of METT score has been completed for GNP &amp; GWLS/NP with active participation of park managers &amp; frontline staff. GNP, METT score increased from 45 to 64. GWLS &amp; NP METT score increased from 32 to 55.</p> <p>In Sikkim, mid-term review of METT scores has been completed with active participation of KNP &amp; Shingba Management staff. The mid-term score of KNP has increased from 48 to 69 and that of Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary from 58 to 60.</p> <p>Solid waste management initiatives have been undertaken at tourist check posts in north Sikkim.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2. Improved institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of multiuse landscape level plans as measured by</p>	<p>Limited institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of multiple use landscapes. UNDP Capacity</p>	<p>Increase of institutional capacity as measured by a 50% increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline value</p>	<p>To enhance people's participation in conservation of high-altitude birds, participatory bird surveys have been conducted in Ladakh with active involvement of youth from project villages. Experts on avi-fauna were invited to enhance the department's capacity in bird monitoring. This initiative has been successfully institutionalized by the wildlife management department.</p> <p>Exposure and learning visits conducted for Forest frontline Staff to Sikkim landscape to learn various conservation and livelihood initiatives like KCC</p>

UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Development Scorecard baseline score of 18		<p>waste Management model, KCC homestay programme, Tsongmo wetland sarakshan samiti etc.</p> <p>In Uttarakhand, sensitization workshops on protected area management, conservation of wildlife and its habitat have been conducted in the Gangotri landscape to enhance the capacity of Paramilitary forces like ITBP &amp; Army.</p> <p>To enhance people's understanding of governance and decision-making processes in Protected Areas, trainings have been conducted on legal literacy with various actors from local community representatives to forest frontline staff and members of relevant government departments</p> <p>Capacity building of forest frontline staff on scientific methodology of wildlife census &amp; biodiversity assessment in and around the protected area. This will also help in the ongoing snow leopard population assessment in the trans Himalayan region.</p> <p>In Sikkim, training and capacity building has been focused on illegal wildlife trade &amp; crime by involving the judiciary considering its legal nature and to fast track cases relevant to trade of wild animals, their parts and medicinal plants . Towards this, workshops have been conducted with civil judiciary officials including district judges, judicial magistrates, advocates and paralegal officers regarding in collaboration with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India.</p>
Indicator 1.3. Reduced pressure and prevented degradation of alpine meadows and sub-alpine forests	Approximately 700,000 ha of alpine meadows under unsustainable grazing with average 75 livestock units/km <sup>2</sup> and forests around villages lack sustainable management	Reduced grazing pressure on 700,000 ha of alpine meadows by at least 20% (from 75 to 60 livestock units/km <sup>2</sup> ) and prevented degradation in around 10,000 ha of sub-alpine forest under community-based management	<p>In Ladakh, a Sheep and Yak wool value addition initiative is under way, to enhance the quality of sheep and yak wool and lower the pressure on the grasslands of Changthang caused by Pashmina Goats</p> <p>In Himachal Pradesh, draft restoration/mitigation plans have been developed for two sub river basins i.e. Miyar SRB in Lahaul and Kundal SRB in Pangi.</p> <p>In Uttarakhand, one health integrated ambulance has been provided for mobile services in high altitude regions for monitoring and surveillance of zoonotic diseases. This will help in reducing response time at primary source of disease and</p>

	arrangements	resulting in projected 0.46-0.50 and 0.31-0.36 m tCO <sub>2</sub> /30-year period sequestered and avoided respectively.	<p>prevent its spread to remote locations of Gangotri landscape.</p> <p>Draft Action plans developed for the management of blue sheep corridors in Gangotri landscape.</p> <p>A Primary health center has been solarized (10kwh) in Gangotri landscape. This will address the issue of carbon footprint &amp; ultimately help in improving the ecosystem of Snow Leopard habitat in Gangotri landscape. The solarization of PHC will also help in providing health &amp; maternity care services to the local communities.</p> <p>Similarly in Sikkim, a Primary Health Centre has been solarized in Yuksom, completed under the RFF-One Health program. This will aid in the reduction of overall carbon footprint and provide critical power backup for required storage and dispensing procedures.</p> <p>Conservation based initiatives have been implemented in collaboration with the Lachen Dzumsa, a traditional administrative institution in the project landscape that governs a collection of villages. Conservation-based activities include awareness workshops with hotel owners and tourist drivers in Lachen and adoption of SOPs for waste management, which will reduce solid waste generation and prevent habitat degradation.</p>
Indicator 1.4. Extent of degraded alpine pastures/rangelands and sub-alpine forests under sustainable management regimes	Approximately 40,000 ha of alpine pastures and 2,000 ha of sub-alpine forests under continued degradation through overuse	40,000 hectares alpine pastures and 2,000 hectares sub-alpine forests under sustainable regeneration regimes resulting in projected 0.16 - 0.18 and 0.42 - 0.05 m tCO <sub>2</sub> /30 year period sequestered and avoided respectively.	<p>In Himachal Pradesh, community fodder banks have been established in Lahaul landscape covering a total area of 8 hectares to reduce people's dependency on alpine pastures for grazing.</p> <p>In Uttarakhand, to reduce the impact of degradation, eco-restoration works have been initiated in Gangotri landscape by strengthening the plantation capacity of nurseries and by plantation of native plant species in the project landscapes.</p> <p>Methodology and roadmap have also been finalized on the Economic Valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BDES). This assessment will be carried out in 2022.</p>

Indicator 1.5: Area of high conservation forests under improved management	High Conservation value forests lack proper management regimes	(a) Reduced direct pressure on at least 60,000 ha covering at least 18 newly designated and managed key biodiversity areas, including 30,000 ha of HCVFs to ensure connectivity and species conservation resulting in projected avoided 1.38-1.47 m tCO <sub>2</sub> over 30-year period (b) Reduced direct pressure on at least 20,000 ha of moist and dry alpine areas and sub-alpine forests managed as Biodiversity Heritage Sites <sup>11</sup> resulting in projected avoided 0.46 – 0.49 m tCO <sub>2</sub> over 30-year period	In Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, six and three potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites (respectively) have been identified with the help of local communities and assessments conducted in the Project Landscapes. The declaration process has been initiated and will take place in 2022.  In Uttarakhand, field survey of T-baccata forest under traditional community forest institution (van panchayat), covering 2.7 hectares of Gangotri landscape for planning OECMs (other effective area-based conservation measures) areas. This will contribute to ecologically representative and well-connected conservation systems, integrated within wider landscapes, and in doing so, generate a range of positive conservation outcomes.  Sattal wetland in Gangotri landscape has been identified as one of the key biodiversity-rich areas (1.94 hect). The waste management activities have been initiated towards conservation of the local Biodiversity of the wetland. Biodiversity heritage sites have also been identified for improved management. These sites support rare, endangered and threatened species of medicinal plants and animals.  Winter Biodiversity assessment of 4 eco-trails (1.4 Km) has been conducted in Govind area. These are the new trekking destinations for diversification of tourism activities in Govind landscape.
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**Description of project output level results achieved in 2021:**

**Indicator 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of protected areas and biological rich areas in alpine and sub-alpine landscape**

Under this Output, the project continues to provide extensive support to improve the management of six target PAs based on assessing gaps identified in 2019. This includes providing technical support, capacity building for park managers, and strengthening participatory monitoring. Training for officers and the front-line staff was organized to enhance capacities to fight wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade. High-altitude monitoring equipment was provided to improve monitoring in PAs, which should significantly help improve monitoring during winter months in hard to access locations. For several PAs, the management plans have been revised and are being implemented, namely in the Khangchendzonga National Park and Seichu Tuan WLS, while in the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary, the management plan is under revision, along with revision in the boundary of the PA. In Govind WLS, efforts are underway to improve solid waste management, which emerged as a critical issue within that landscape. Given the

extent of the support provided to the PAs to date, it is reasonable to note that the METT scores have increased. Key results include -

**Landscape level participatory management strategy and plans have been prepared for project landscapes in Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and Standard framework and guidelines of Landscape management strategy prepared**

The framework for landscape level management is indispensable for the long-term conservation of India's rich forests, wildlife corridors and protected areas. While India's efforts in the protected area approach is unparalleled, the periphery of its forests are placed in a heterogenous mix of varied land use due to pressures of an increasing population, people's dependence on natural resources and essential demands of infrastructure and development.

Placed within this context, the framework for landscape level management involves actors, outside the protected area network of India, towards balancing socio-economic-ecological needs of any green landscape in the country. With large landscapes continuously going through a transformation, this framework is principal in creating the right balance to secure India's rich biodiversity that provides essential ecosystem services for human wellbeing.

- **Multi-stakeholder landscape level coordination committees** led by district administration authorities have been formed in project landscapes for effective implementation of management strategies
- Support in the improvement of **management effectiveness (METT) of PAs** through capacity building, equipment support, community engagement, joint patrolling, tourism facility development etc.

**Indicator 1.2. Improved institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of multiuse landscape level plans as measured by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard**

The project continues to provide a range of capacity development training courses and workshops designed to address the capacity needs and gaps identified through the training need analysis. In addition, a strong training programme on combatting wildlife crime and illegal wildlife crime, strengthening wildlife crime investigations, and wildlife forensics capabilities has been carried out during this reporting period. It is clear that extensive capacity-building support has been provided to date and that some increase in the capacity scores should be expected by mid-term. Key results include –

- **Capacity gap assessment of stakeholders and capacity building framework** developed at landscape-level and State/UT levels in HP, Uttarakhand and Sikkim
- **Capacity building modules** on biodiversity conservation, sustainable management & livelihood, sustainable tourism, Manuals on monitoring of flora and faunal diversity, mitigation of wildlife crime and illicit trade etc. developed across SECURE Project States
- **Training/workshops** involving local community, local institutions (BMCs, Van Panchayats etc.), front-line staff of FD and line depts., & senior level officers have been conducted (around 2200 government and community stakeholders trained under different training programmes)
- **Women involvement** in all capacity development trainings/workshops have been prioritized (around 36%) are women participants

### **Indicator 1.3. Reduced pressure and prevented degradation of alpine meadows and sub-alpine forests**

Two indicators are targeting threat reduction to alpine ecosystems and improvement of sustainable pasture management, namely 1.3 and 1.4. The project is supporting the mitigation of habitat degradation in Himachal and Uttarakhand. Restoration strategies and plans have been developed and targeted interventions carried out to reduce pressure and prevent degradation of alpine and subalpine forests. In the Khangchendzonga-Upper Teesta landscape of Sikkim, activities have been initiated on delineating and declaring two grazing free reserves in North Sikkim in consultation with the village authorities and herders. These activities contribute towards the target of the prevention of degradation in these ecosystems. **Key results include -**

**Restoration strategies and plan developed covering a total of 6,146 Ha across 27 pastures in Uttarakhand (3,292 Ha across 16 pastures in Gangotri-Govind landscape, & 2,854 Ha across 11 pastures in Darma-Byans landscape) and 1,05,387 Ha across 2 valleys in Himachal Pradesh i.e. Miyar (96,731 Ha) & Kundal (8,656 Ha) valleys** - Alpine pastures in the project landscape face varying intensities of degradation due to change in species composition, legume deficiency, anthropogenic pressures, landslides, livestock issues, conflict with pastoral communities and livelihood issues. Towards this, the project has developed strategies and plans to reduce such pressures by working closely with local communities and the tourism sector in developing sustainable initiatives, spreading awareness and strengthening plantation works of the forest and wildlife department,

**Sustainable harvesting protocols and strategies for conservation and management of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant species developed** - Biodiversity resources, particularly medicinal and aromatic plants, are usually harvested in an unorganized manner by the local communities to not only address health concerns, but also for sale as a key source of their livelihood. However, this trade happens largely in an unorganized manner resulting in under-realization of the economic value at the grassroots, while delivering higher returns for intermediaries as we move upstream in the value chain.

With increasing demand, the intensity of harvesting/ collection from the wild increases and can result in degradation of the wild resource bases in the region. The assessment of availability, harvesting systems, corresponding sustainable methods of collection, and compliance of statutory provisions of Biological Diversity Act on Access and Benefit Sharing, therefore become critically important for optimizing the benefits to the local communities and to ensure adoption of concepts of sustainable harvesting and the consequent conservation.

**Pilots on alternate energy solutions done in select areas across all states i.e. Bio-digester (Ladakh), Innovative solar water heaters (H.P), Solarisation of Healthcare centre, Forest Chowki (U.K) –** In the harsh cold climate of the project landscapes, there is an ever-increasing demand on natural resources and fossil fuels for cooking, space heating and electricity. Towards this, the project is constantly searching, testing and deploying solutions to reduce this pressure on natural resources. One such solution has been successfully deployed in Ladakh, a region that is close to the Indian border with China and has a large presence of army and paramilitary forces. Considering the ecological fragility of the landscape and pressures of the armed forces, the project has developed a biogas digester that utilizes all the food waste from a paramilitary unit and converts it into biogas, which is used by the unit to cook food. Owing to low oxygen levels and dry arid nature of the landscape, this circular approach has been proven successful for the first time in the region. It ensures that food waste is not discarded leading to proliferation of feral dogs and habitat degradation. This model has been recommended by the UT administration for all institutions to



adopt. Similarly, the project is reaching out to experts to find solutions for space and water heating and electrification in remote villages.

**Establishment of Community fodder banks under progress in H.P. and grazing free areas/rotational grazing in U.K.** – Pastoralism is one of the most common livelihood activities in the project landscapes. People rear sheep and goat for subsistence and the wool collected is sold in the textile sector. However, with rising demand for high quality wool, especially pashmina, average livestock holdings are increasingly expanding leading to the degradation of alpine pastures and a long-drawn conflict between local administrations and local communities for access to open grazing lands. This conflict also limits the lands available for wild ungulates like ibex and blue sheep, which form the primary source of food for apex predators like snow leopards. With unavailability of grazing lands in winters owing to the excessive snowfall and lack of fodder, local communities often depend on govt supplies to feed their livestock. Considering this, the project is developing community fodder banks as a solution to not only reduce grazing pressures but also protect the economic interests of the local community.

**Indicator 1.4. Extent of degraded alpine pastures/rangelands and sub-alpine forests under sustainable management regimes**

**Key results include –**

- **SoPs/Guidelines developed for model management planning of High-Altitude Wetlands.**
- **Integrated Management strategies and plan developed for High Altitude Wetlands: Hanle Marshes wetland complex in Ladakh, Chandratat wetland in Himachal Pradesh, Sattal and Ruinsara wetland in Uttarakhand, & Gurudongmar-Tso Lhamo wetland complex in Sikkim. Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Changthang Ladakh successfully designated as the 42nd Ramsar Site/Wetland of international importance in India. Notification for 1 wetland outside PAs in Uttarakhand initiated Ramsar Notification**

High-altitude wetlands (HAW) are critical for ensuring water, food, climate and livelihood security in the Indian Himalayan region and beyond. These ecosystems are an excellent abode for migratory species and high-altitude biodiversity which depend on these HAW to complete their annual migration cycles. The management planning of HAW accounts for their high sensitivity to climatic changes and glacial processes, seasonal human interference distinctive biodiversity forms, cultural associations and livelihoods support values. These unique characteristics demand a differentiated approach for management.

The guidelines prepared by the project is aimed at enabling wetland managers and stakeholders in translating the national guidelines and best practices for wetlands management in the HAW context. The guidebook covers various aspects of HAW management, such as defining management context, setting up a planning process, developing an integrated management plan, implementing, reviewing and adapting management plan. It also provides guidance on the process for designating HAW as a Ramsar site and notifying under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules.

Strengthened State Biodiversity Boards through preparation/updation of SBSAP and resource mobilization strategy, implementation of BD Act, formation and strengthening of BMCs, preparation of PBRs, facilitating ABS, training and capacity buildings. 141 BMCs constituted/supported under project (61 Ladakh, 35 H.P, 30 U.K, 15 Sikkim) through State Biodiversity Boards, PBRs prepared/under preparation.

**Indicator 1.5: Area of high conservation forests under improved management****Identification and management of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) in the project landscapes****Key activities include –**

- High-priority HCVAs (62) identified & demarcated in Ladakh (12), Uttarakhand (23), Himachal Pradesh (17) & Sikkim (10) covering a total area of ~ 356,345 Ha
- Biodiversity Heritage Sites identified – Process of notification and designation started for 09 BHSS in Uttarakhand, H.P and Sikkim.
- Proposal for In-situ Conservation through establishment of 03 Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Area (MPCDA) is under progress for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- 01 as biological corridor of Blue Sheep initiated in U.K and management plan being developed.

Overall Output Status (mark the output on the scale of 1 to 5 as per the following criteria): 4

Exemplary (5) *****	High (4) ****	Satisfactory (3) ***	Poor (2) **	Inadequate (1) *
The project is expected to over-achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality, and there is evidence that outputs are contributing to targeted outcomes	The project is expected to over-achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality	The project is expected to achieve targeted outputs with expected levels of quality	The project is expected to partially achieve targeted outputs, with less than expected levels of quality	Project outputs will likely not be achieved and/or are not likely to be effective in supporting the achievement of targeted outcomes

**Means of Verification:**

Quarterly and annual progress reports by UNDP, Government stakeholders' (including relevant line departments and State Governments) annual reports, and media coverage and records.

**Project Output II: Outcome 2: Improved and diversified livelihood strategies and improved capacities of community and government institutions for sustainable natural resource management and conservation**

Output 2.1 Participatory community-based village level micro plans developed for enhancing and diversifying livelihoods and improving natural resources management

Output 2.2 Pilot projects on sustainable community based natural resources management, and sustainable livelihood activities are supported

Output 2.3 New and enhanced value chain products and services providing ecologically sustainable livelihood are developed and implemented by local communities

Indicator(s):	Baseline:	Target(s):	Achievement(s):
Indicator 2.1: Extent under	0 (Currently sustainable land	At least 10,000 ha	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b> is undertaking a Conservation Oriented Ecotourism initiative, which aims to

sustainable natural resources management practices	management natural resources practices at the village level are absent or limited)	under sustainable natural resources management practices	<p>enhance household incomes by promoting homestays and green activities associated with them. One such activity is the development of nature trails. Towards this, surveys have been conducted to develop five such nature trails.</p> <p>To strengthen livestock management, a community fodder bank has been established in Tingret Panchayat of Lahahul landscape covering a total area of 8 hectare.</p> <p><b>Uttarakhand</b></p> <p>To incorporate green practices in the village plans and promote the Natural Resource Management in the landscape, GIS base model planning of 10 villages under MGNREGA schemes has been initiated with support of the UNDP social protection unit.</p> <p>Winter Biodiversity assessment of 4 eco-trails (1.41 Km) has been conducted in Govind area. These are the new trekking destinations for diversification of tourism activities in Govind landscape.</p> <p>Snow leopard Interpretation centre work initiated in Govind landscape under strengthening of eco-tourism value chain in the region. The centre will help in spreading awareness about the biodiversity of the PA among the stakeholders. The eco-tourism products can also be marketed well with the help of the interpretation centre</p>
Indicator 2.2. Average percentage increase in community incomes from sustainable livelihood, natural resource management and business activities (calculated for each community)	Baseline yet to be validated	30% increase in average incomes from sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management and business activities	<p><b>Ladakh</b></p> <p>Community consultations held with the villagers of Hanley for establishing Hanley Dark Sky Reserve in the presence of Principal Secretary UT Ladakh, Regional Wildlife Warden, Engineer In-charge of Indian Institute of Astrophysics, local elected LAHDC Councillor, Block Development Councillor, SECURE Team, Village Heads and other villagers. The villagers were sensitized about the importance of the dark sky reserve and their potential livelihood enhancements and other benefits.</p>

		(At least 40% of beneficiaries are women)	<p>Preliminary field visits conducted to gather baseline information for value addition to sheep and yak wool in the project landscape</p> <p>Socio-economic surveys conducted in Tarchit Village to identify beneficiaries as a part of Rong Eco-Tourism Plan.</p> <p>38 Homestays have been registered with Uttarakhand Tourism department through convergence aimed towards development of a sustainable ecotourism model.</p> <p>Govt. of India has awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to <i>Bhotia Dann</i> of Uttarakhand. Registration for GI has been facilitated by the project through Uttarkashi based society “Renuka Devi Katghar-Bunkar Swayatt Sahkarita” Dunda Uttarkashi. This will ultimately lead to income enhancement through recognition of products in national and international market after value addition.</p> <p>Facilitation to provide GI tag to other local products like Red Rice, Ramdana &amp; Harsil Rajma is under process.</p> <p><b>Himachal Pradesh</b></p> <p>Support provided to a local SHG, Khandoma for enhanced processing of sea-buckthorn plants. This includes establishing a processing facility and installing machines like solar dryers. The group members have successfully processed sea buckthorn product under the brand name of Kang La Basket, for which the project has provided branding and packaging support. Further, the project team also facilitated the SHG to apply for the FSSAI license in Nov 2021.</p> <p>For handicraft and handloom development, as a livelihood initiative in Lahaul-Pangi, Field visits and workshops have been conducted in all the Panchayats in Pangi Region like Sechu, Dharwas, Sach. Killar, Karyas, Kumar, Purthi &amp; Sural. This involved training workshops, design interventions, study of traditional craft processes</p>
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			<p>and their contemporary use, developing artisan cards to ensure artisans benefit from various govt. schemes. About 200 artisans have been engaged in this activity</p> <p>Under the Handloom and handicraft initiative, some artisans from active SHGs of Lahaul and Pangi were facilitated for their participation in Nature Dastkar Mela at Delhi from 19th to 27th Nov 2021 by making arrangements for their travel, food, stay and application related formalities through NIFT Kangra. A total sale of Rs. 1,22,000 was recorded in a period of 10 days by the artisans.</p> <p><b>Uttarakhand</b> Branding, packaging, transportation and exhibition support provided to local communities for strengthening Handicraft &amp; Handloom market channels in Gangotri. The total sale recorded was Rs. 3.85 lakhs, which benefitted 62 households in the month of November &amp; December.</p> <p>Growth centers improved for food processing in Gangotri landscape. This will help in income enhancement of 50 associated households.</p> <p><b>Sikkim</b> The project is reviving traditional livelihood practices like sustainable extraction and use of nettle fiber in the handloom sector. Towards this, 50 beneficiaries have been trained on sustainable harvesting, processing, and thread preparation from the Nettle plant. Following this, the project has supported applications for 34 out of the 50 beneficiaries to register themselves as rural artisans under the handloom and textiles department, Government of Sikkim and avail benefits of related schemes.</p>
Indicator 2.3. Number of community members trained, adopting community-based agricultural, agro-	0 (currently training at the community level is limited and sector specific.) and limited effort at comprehensive	At least 2,500 community members trained and adopting community	<p><b>Himachal Pradesh</b></p> <p>Basic trainings on homestay, guest management, cooking, cultural guide completed under Home Stay and Cultural Tourism Assignment in which a total number of 61 homestay and other beneficiaries (56 male and 5 female) were</p>

<p>pastoral, natural resource management and livelihood activities</p>	<p>training that integrates the multiple dimensions of managing resources across the different sectors and for multiple use</p>	<p>-based sustainable resource use, agro-pastoral, agricultural and other sustainable livelihood activities and receiving detectable conservation and livelihood benefits</p>	<p>trained on Basic Homestay/Hospitality and Guest Management, Cultural Guide Training Program, Basic Food Training.</p> <p>Under the conservation-oriented ecotourism initiative an exposure cum learning/training visit was conducted at the <b>Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP)</b>, Banjaar, Himachal Pradesh in 2 batches with 13 participants (26 Total) (Male: 17, Female: 09) in each batch in Nov 2021. The visit/training session covered Introductory session, Nature Park Trail at GHNP, Nature Guide Basic Training, Soft Adventure Training, Session on Forest Right Acts and PESA, Session on Eco-Tourism, Waste Management Activity Session, Cultural Exchange Through Dance, Feedback Session: Video and Written Documentation.</p> <p>Basic level <b>ecotourism and soft adventure trainings</b> have been conducted in the project villages of Seichu, Hillu Towan in the Pangti belt, and Tindi, Lahaul in which a total number of 66 community members (Male: 31, Female: 35) were trained on different aspects of ecotourism and adventure tourism. Further, Socio economic baselines have been completed along with the carrying capacity at household and community level. This was supplemented by interactions and meetings with various line departments and other stakeholders. A cadre of nature guides has also been identified to be further trained under the programme.</p> <p><b>Uttarakhand</b> Training programs organized for women Self Help Groups in Gangotri landscape to develop apple value chain. The trainings involved fruit processing, business development, market analysis, certification and license of products.</p> <p>Hospitality &amp; Home stay management training programs organized in the Govind Landscape. Total 30 youth (1 female) were trained on different modules like housekeeping, aesthetic, local culture &amp; tradition, Itinerary preparation etc. This will help to operate the homestays professionally.</p>
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			<p>Residential nature guide training programs organised to promote self-employment in the project landscape. The skills of 15 youth, 5 forest officials and 7 self-paid tourists (9 female) have been enhanced on bird watching, identification of butterflies and wildflowers.</p> <p>A cadre of 35 youth (11 female) have been trained (2nd batch) in Para taxonomy to encourage citizen science and self-employment among local youth. This will also address outmigration of youth from project villages.</p> <p>Low altitude guide training program Total 8 (4 male &amp; 4 Female) was organized in project landscapes in convergence with the Tourism department Uttarkashi. That will strengthen the path to enhanced livelihoods for local communities.</p> <p>Mountaineering leadership training program organized in convergence with the District Tourism department (50% cost). A total of 20 candidates (3 females) have participated from Govind &amp; Gangotri landscape. The participants learned the technical aspects of trekking, rescue, first aid etc.</p> <p>A single window system (e-commerce) website is under development for marketing of rural products which are being promoted under the project. The framework and domain <a href="http://www.essenceofhimal.com">www.essenceofhimal.com</a> has been finalized. This will give an opportunity to the OFPO to display and sell their products online. the portal will also be used for developing market linkages for online homestay registration and booking tour guides, tourist attraction and destination details.</p>
<p><b>Description of project output level <u>results achieved</u> in 2021:</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Indicator 2.1</u>: Extent under sustainable natural resources management practices</b></p>			
<p>500 ha area directly supported through promoting sustainable natural resource management practices</p>			

**Improved agricultural land through micro irrigation activities, adaptation of organic farming practices (through convergence) - HP 5.0 ha. UK 435.12 ha:** Given the harsh and arid nature of the high-altitude project landscapes, agricultural productivity is low and the growing season for crops is limited. Given these constraints, local communities often rely on fruits and vegetables from lower elevations and have limited stock in winters, when the villages are inaccessible due to excessive snowfall. Due to this, the project is constantly working with experts in the field of agriculture to introduce innovations in growing off-season crops and green the existing practice by using organic farming practices.

**Wetland Management activities-** UK 1.94 ha. - High Altitude Wetlands (HAWs) are sources of rivers supporting crucial needs for life such as food, water, nutrients, carbon sequestration and climate regulation, biodiversity, as well as cultural and recreational services. The contribution of ecological services of these wetlands to human life and ecosystem has a major significance. However, the high dependence on natural systems and their products leads to degradation and loss of the benefits and services which is occurring not only at local, but also regional and global level. Towards this, the project is working with local community, youth, citizen scientists to take action for conservation of these wetlands by ensuring that tourists and other stressors to these oases do not lead to their degradation over time.

**Solid/Plastic Waste Management efforts in 2 villages - UK 50 ha -** “Today, plastic and plastic products are found in villages even without road access. And this plastic is being burnt, littered, and dumped into river streams in the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary.” Says Devraj Saundan, solid waste management community mobilizer in Doni village, only 70 km from India’s border. Govind Wildlife Sanctuary is an extremely popular destination for the world’s tourists. Given the rise in access to packaged foods, plastic waste generation is only an upward trend in this area. Considering this, the project is implementing a waste management initiative, wherein youth from the project villages are successfully running a self-financed waste management system. This not only prevents habitat degradation but also significantly improves protected area management, especially those areas that have settlements inside the designated PA.

**Trails and Nursery Development for plantation-** UK 2.79 ha

As part of technical support provided by the project to enhance livelihoods, project beneficiaries have been provided with poly houses, medicinal, horticulture and fruit nurseries on a cost-sharing basis to ensure long term sustainability of the initiative. With an ever-increasing demand on agriculture and inflated costs in bringing agricultural produce from villages far away, the project focusses on building the capacity of local communities to provide for their own agricultural requirements by investing resources in developing nurseries.

**Indicator 2.2. Average percentage increase in community incomes from sustainable livelihood, natural resource management and business activities (calculated for each community)**

900 households (67% male & 33% female) covered through strengthening value chain of the select products, income enhancement and natural resource management

**Indicator 2.3. Number of community members trained, adopting community-based agricultural, agro-pastoral, natural resource management and livelihood activities**

1326 community members (53% male and 47% female) trained on various aspects of community based natural resource management and sustainable livelihood practices.



**141 BMCs** formed and strengthening of BMCs on sustainable management of NR ongoing (PBR prepared, engagement in BHS, biodiversity conservation, solid waste management, monitoring and surveillance, and sustainable livelihood promotion)

Pilot projects on sustainable management of resources and value chain initiated on following:-

- **Nettle fibre-based handloom** value chain in Sikkim with 51 beneficiaries
- **Sheep and yak wool-based traditional handicrafts** in Ladakh with 60 women
- **Handloom based enterprise development in Uttarakhand** with 177 members in off-farm producer organization
- **Eco-tourism and homestay promotion** Gangotri and Govind with 126 beneficiaries
- **Eco-tourism and homestay promotion** in Lahaul and Pangi covering 23 Households
- **Handicraft and Handloom based enterprise development** Lahaul and Pangi with 200 households
- **NTPP value chain development in Lahul and Pangi** – 15 women beneficiaries:
- **Apple processing base value chain development Gangotri**- 15 women Beneficiaries.
- **Waste Management pilot** (2 villages in Govind landscape, Uttarkashi, 5 *safai saathi*, 2 *community volunteers*)
- GI registration and strengthening of Bhotia Dann Uttarakhand:- One society with 10 members
- **Convergence with ongoing programmes/schemes** of Govt. initiated – with UREDA, NABARD, NAFED, SRLM, JICA

Overall Output Status (mark the output on the scale of 1 to 5 as per the following criteria): 4

Exemplary (5) *****	High (4) ****	Satisfactory (3) ***	Poor (2) **	Inadequate (1) *
The project is expected to over-achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality, and there is evidence that outputs are contributing to targeted outcomes	The project is expected to over-achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality	The project is expected to achieve targeted outputs with expected levels of quality	The project is expected to partially achieve targeted outputs, with less than expected levels of quality	Project outputs will likely not be achieved and/or are not likely to be effective in supporting the achievement of targeted outcomes

Means of Verification:

Quarterly and annual progress reports by UNDP, Government stakeholders' (including relevant line departments and State Governments) annual reports, and media coverage and records.

**Project Output III: Outcome 3: Enhanced enforcement, monitoring and cooperation to reduce wildlife crime and related threats**

Output 3.1 Wildlife Agencies enforcement supported through intelligence have information on hotspots and pathways of illegal trade to organize targeted operations against wildlife crime

Output 3.2. Law enforcement agencies are provided with technical support and training to increase capacity for combating wildlife crime

Output 3.3. Community based surveillance, monitoring and wildlife crime and conflict prevention system developed and tested

Output 3.4 Mechanisms for partnerships on inter-state and transboundary cooperation for tackling wildlife crime and improving species conservation in Himalayan ecosystem are developed and implemented			
Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target(s)	Achievement(s)
<b>Indicator 3.1.</b> Number of community members actively volunteering in security monitoring and surveillance	0 (There is no coordinated program for community participation in surveillance and monitoring of wildlife crime)	200 community members actively engaged in wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance in community battalions (At least 20% women) to serve as deterrent to wildlife crime	<p><b>WCCB volunteer program</b> 4 Volunteers across project landscapes in Uttarakhand and Sikkim enrolled under the WCCB volunteer program to enhance people's participation in monitoring and surveillance of wildlife crime.</p> <p><b>Ladakh</b> Wildlife Watchers Programme initiated with Local Youth from the Landscape - in preliminary talks with WCCB to conduct training for the Wildlife Watchers + Honorary Wildlife Wardens selected by the Chief Wildlife Warden, UT Ladakh.</p> <p><b>Himachal Pradesh</b> Patrolling kits procured to equip the patrolling teams with requisite technical equipment to carry out patrolling drills in the project landscape</p> <p><b>Uttarakhand</b> Camera traps deployed in High conservation value areas (50 sqkm) in the Gangotri landscape. This will be helpful in monitoring the movement of wildlife &amp; census.</p>
<b>Indicator 3.2.</b> Number of international agreements for enhancing trans-boundary cooperation between China, Nepal, Bhutan and India	0 (a number of trans-boundary plans exists, but coordination is limited)	At least 3 trans-boundary agreements effective and collaborative implementation	

<p><b>Indicator 3.3.</b> Annual Number of human-wildlife conflicts leading to livestock and crop losses and retaliatory killings of wildlife</p>	<p>Baseline yet to be validated</p>	<p>At least 50% decrease in HWCs</p>	<p><b>Ladakh</b>  26 predator-proof corral pens have been built across 7 severe conflict-prone villages in the landscape. A committee was constituted to inspect the groundwork of HRECF, an agency hired under the project to supply raw materials and supervise the construction of predator proof corral pens in 7 villages in Changthang. The committee conducted a random survey of the villages where these Predator Proof Corral pens were constructed, wherein the committee inspected and interacted with the beneficiaries to understand the effect of Predator Proof Corral pens in reducing Human Wildlife Conflict.</p> <p>Collated all HWC Data in Ladakh since 2017 as recognised by the Department of Wildlife Protection, UT Ladakh.</p> <p><b>Himachal Pradesh</b>  A Rapid Response Team has been notified and the project is in process of procuring equipment for enhanced response to human-wildlife conflict.</p> <p>Composite Solar Fencing work in collaboration with Agriculture Department under Crop diversification pilot initiated at Tai village with community participation. foundation stone layed for initiating the work. The installation work</p>
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		<p>will be completed by next quarter.</p> <p><b>Uttarakhand</b>          Fox light, Camera traps and ANIDERS have been successfully installed in selected villages of Govind landscape under Human wildlife conflict pilot intervention in experiment and control sites. The village response team has also been constituted under the same.</p> <p>A human-wildlife conflict mitigation workshop was organized with a key focus on the black bear conflict in the landscape. Total 15 community members (2 female) &amp; 1 range officer were trained on monitoring &amp; maintaining the equipment deployed at site. They were also oriented for keeping records to check the frequency of effectiveness of the deployed equipment.</p> <p>MIS Workshop has been organized for forest staff (Total 43 participants including 3 female) to ensure a streamlined rollout of software with minimal confusion and to maintain the system and knowledge base after handing over the Wildlife Database Centre to Uttarakhand Forest Department.</p> <p>Sikkim: Under an activity to pilot improved solar fencing designs for reducing human wildlife conflict, consultations were held at the pilot sites in</p>
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			North and West Sikkim to finalize exact locations and to mobilize the local community for the installation.
<p>Description of project output level results achieved in 2021:</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1. Number of community members actively volunteering in security monitoring and surveillance</b></p> <p><b>WCCB Volunteer Program</b></p> <p>With a view to encourage the participation of wildlife enthusiasts in the country in wildlife protection &amp; conservation, WCCB has initiated “WCCB Volunteers Scheme” and intends to enroll volunteers to assist in collection of information on wildlife crime, capacity building, awareness generation etc. The objective of the Scheme is to associate volunteers in the following activities of the Bureau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To collect information on wildlife crimes and activities of wildlife criminals and pass it on to the Bureau or other relevant enforcement agencies for requisite action.</li> <li>• To assist the State Forest Department officers in building awareness and capacity of stakeholders for combating wildlife crimes.</li> <li>• To conduct public education campaigns/ programmes on wildlife, wildlife crime and relevant policies and laws.</li> </ul> <p>This has been supplemented by nominating honorary wildlife wardens to enhance monitoring of wildlife trade and crime. Select government representatives in various districts have been nominated as honorary wildlife wardens and are supported with local youth for intelligence sharing and quick reporting to the department.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2. Number of international agreements for enhancing trans-boundary cooperation between China, Nepal, Bhutan and India</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 3.3. Annual Number of human-wildlife conflicts leading to livestock and crop losses and retaliatory killings of wildlife</b></p> <p>As part of the strategy to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, participatory predator-proofing of corral pens in Changthang landscape has been completed. The said initiative is one of a kind wherein, the project is providing for some basic raw material in form of chain-link fencing and wood; whereas the community contributes with stones and their labor. Through this initiative 26 predator-proof corral pens have been built across 7 severe conflict-prone villages in the landscape, namely; Sumdo Gongma, Shriyul, Relay Iching, Samad Rokchen, Khera Pullu, Yurgo and Mogleb, with the eventual outcome of reduced cases of human-wildlife conflict in the region.</p> <p>Barking deer, macaque, snow leopard and wolf reported as the key species involved in human-wildlife conflict. Hotspots of Human Wildlife Conflict identified along with figures of seasonal and diurnal patterns of conflict.</p> <p>Technology interventions undertaken to digitize Management Information System in Uttarakhand to collect and collate information related to human wildlife-conflict, wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade.</p>			

<p>A total of 400 cases of human wildlife conflict reported by communities through mobile application developed in Uttarakhand</p> <p>Infra-red based animal detection devices (ANIDERS) installed in Uttarakhand (in progress in Sikkim) to prevent animal encroachment in village areas.</p>				
<p>Overall Output Status (mark the output on the scale of 1 to 5 as per the following criteria): 3</p>				
<p>Exemplary (5) *****</p>	<p>High (4) ****</p>	<p>Satisfactory (3) ***</p>	<p>Poor (2) **</p>	<p>Inadequate (1) *</p>
<p>The project is expected to over-achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality, and there is evidence that outputs are contributing to targeted outcomes</p>	<p>The project is expected to over-achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality</p>	<p>The project is expected to achieve targeted outputs with expected levels of quality</p>	<p>The project is expected to partially achieve targeted outputs, with less than expected levels of quality</p>	<p>Project outputs will likely not be achieved and/or are not likely to be effective in supporting the achievement of targeted outcomes</p>
<p>Means of Verification: Quarterly and annual progress reports by UNDP, Government stakeholders' (including relevant line departments and State Governments) annual reports, and media coverage and records.</p>				

<p><b>Project Output IV: Outcome 4: Improved knowledge and information systems for promotion of landscape conservation approaches</b></p> <p>Output 4.1. Project implementation achievements inform policy and legislative changes for conservation of high range Himalayan areas</p> <p>Output 4.2. Communication and gender strategies and awareness campaigns to increase awareness on conservation, sustainable resource use and reduction of wildlife crime, and mainstream gender in promotion of community-based conservation developed and implemented at national, state and local Level</p>			
Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target(s)	Achievement(s)
<p><b>Indicator 4.1:</b> Number of policy and regulatory mechanisms for improved management of high Himalayan areas provisioned</p>	<p>0 (A number of areas where policy reform is required exists)</p>	<p>3 policy recommendations officially approved and implemented</p>	<p>Management plans and guidelines have been developed for the following policy and regulatory mechanisms at sub-national level to improve management of high Himalayan areas across all project landscapes:</p> <p>1. Landscape level management</p>

			<p>2. Snow leopard population assessment in India</p> <p>3. Management of high-altitude wetlands</p> <p>4. State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>5. Areas of high conservation value</p> <p>6. Waste management in Protected Areas</p> <p>7. Inter-agency coordination and intelligence sharing to curb illegal trade in wildlife</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.2:</b> Number of project best practices used in development and implementation of other conservation initiatives</p>	<p>0 (A few best practice publications etc., but the project will make efforts for additional project specific lessons to be documented)</p>	<p>10 best practices documented, disseminated and up scaled in non-project areas</p>	<p>Video documentation of 10 existing best practices conducted in project landscapes and 20 practices documented in print on wildlife conservation in India</p> <p>The project has supported policy recommendations by adopting the new snow leopard monitoring protocol, preparing the high-altitude wetland management handbook for managers, manuals on wildlife crime scene investigation, and supporting State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 4.3:</b> Percentage of participating households aware of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p>	<p>Baseline yet to be validated</p>	<p>50% of participating households have good awareness of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits</p>	<p>The project is closely working with the local communities across six landscapes to raise awareness on sustainable NRM practices, while documenting traditional conservation practices as well.</p> <p>Some of these interventions include:</p> <p>1. Training and capacity building on various aspects</p>

		<p>of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and documentation of various socio-economic-ecological issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Participatory monitoring of snow leopards</li> <li>3. Participatory decision-making processes and community led consultations</li> <li>4. Conducting extra - curricular activities with tribal youth to conserve traditional conservation practices, promote citizen science and communicate key aspects of biodiversity conservation and wildlife crime prevention.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Description of project output level <u>results achieved</u> in 2021:</b></p> <p><b><u>Indicator 4.1:</u> Number of policy and regulatory mechanisms for improved management of high Himalayan areas provisioned</b></p> <p>Management plans and guidelines have been developed for the following policy and regulatory mechanisms at sub-national level to improve management of high Himalayan areas across all project landscapes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Landscape level management</li> <li>2. Snow leopard population assessment in India</li> <li>3. Management of high-altitude wetlands</li> <li>4. State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>5. Areas of high conservation value</li> <li>6. Waste management in Protected Areas</li> <li>7. Inter-agency coordination and intelligence sharing to curb illegal trade in wildlife</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Indicator 4.2:</u> Number of project best practices used in development and implementation of other conservation initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Good Practices emerging from the project:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wildlife Database Centre and Management Information System established in Uttarakhand collects temporal data of Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Human Wildlife Conflict for analysis and further interventions to reduce the same.</li> </ol>		



2. Participatory snow leopard monitoring being conducted in project landscapes. This has been achieved by training local youth in citizen science and taxonomy under the project.
3. Off-Farm Farmer Producer Organizations (OFPO) established in Uttarakhand and Sikkim towards income enhancement of local communities, with a focus on women empowerment
4. Greening practices of key contributors to habitat degradation by installing new and innovative high-altitude biogas Digesters in Ladakh
5. Video documentation of 10 existing best practices conducted in project landscapes and 20 practices documented in print on wildlife conservation in India
6. Fellowship provided to over 40 youth from the local community for community radio and video documentation and dissemination to document issues of biodiversity conservation and spread awareness

**Indicator 4.3: Percentage of participating households aware of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and wildlife crime prevention benefits**

Local communities in the project landscapes have been engaged from data collection to implementation of interventions for sustainable natural resource management. Cumulatively the following activities address awareness generation in project villages:

1. Training and Capacity Building of local community on citizen science, taxonomy, snow leopard monitoring, development of predator proof corals, deployment of IT equipment to prevent human-wildlife conflict, afforestation, emerging sustainable livelihood opportunities, audio and video documentation of key issues in the landscape, ecotourism, celebration of key biodiversity and environment days, art and writing competitions.
2. Participatory decision-making processes including consultations on the future of livelihoods and tourism in the project landscapes, community led discussions on prevention of human-wildlife conflict, methods to sustainably extract medicinal plants, women's empowerment and economic self-sufficiency.
3. Development of knowledge products to nudge local communities and key stakeholders for action towards conservation at the landscape level. These products range from manuals to raise legal literacy, films to educate actors responsible for habitat degradation, signboards and posters on important wildlife species and how to save them, making scientific more accessible and easily understood by local communities.
4. Involvement of school children and youth to spread awareness by conducting street plays, flash mobs, extra-curricular activities to connect with traditional ecological knowledge.

Overall Output Status (mark the output on the scale of 1 to 5 as per the following criteria): 4

Exemplary (5) *****	High (4) ****	Satisfactory (3) ***	Poor (2) **	Inadequate (1) *
The project is expected to over-	The project is expected to over-	The project is expected to	The project is expected to	Project outputs will likely not be

achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality, and there is evidence that outputs are contributing to targeted outcomes	achieve targeted outputs and/or expected levels of quality	achieve targeted outputs with expected levels of quality	partially achieve targeted outputs, with less than expected levels of quality	achieved and/or are not likely to be effective in supporting the achievement of targeted outcomes
<b>Means of Verification:</b> Quarterly and annual progress reports by UNDP, Government stakeholders' (including relevant line departments and State Governments) annual reports, and media coverage and records.				

#### 4. Project Risks and Issues

*This section identifies and analyses project risks and issues that:*

*1) had an impact on project deliverables<sup>1</sup> (quality, schedule, etc.) During the reporting period, or  
2) were newly identified during the reporting period and are being addressed by the project (in the case of risks, "addressed" means to mitigate their effects or decrease the likelihood of impact, and in the case of issues, how to resolve them).*

##### **Brief overall narrative of project risks and issues:**

##### RISKS

Project Risk: COVID-19 global pandemic and associated lockdown have created risk to live and livelihoods of the communities in the landscape.

**Actions taken:** A detailed analysis of impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on project landscapes was undertaken through the project. Tourism emerged as the most vulnerable sector, followed by employment of migrant workers. Activities related to facilitating sustainable tourism and capacity development of local communities have been included accordingly in the current year' Annual Work Plan.

##### ISSUES

Project Issue 1: Project implementation in 2021 has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project reported impacts from limited staff in government, slowing down file moments and delaying key decisions; delays in Project Steering Committee and Technical Committee meetings; delays in constituting a new Project Steering Committee in Ladakh after bifurcation

<sup>1</sup> A deliverable is defined as the result of an activity or in other terms the product which contributes to the achievement of project outputs).

of Jammu & Kashmir into the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir; and an inability to visit project villages to consult with communities members and community institutions like Biodiversity Management Committees and Van Panchayats or conduct field visits to collect technical data which slowed down deliverables of technical partners. The project reported high impacts of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries through negative impacts on socio-economic situations at project landscapes, especially on households that depend on the tourism sector.

**Actions taken:** The COVID-19 crisis impacted the project activities significantly as most project landscapes start becoming accessible from March onwards. However, alternative strategies were set in place. For capacity building and training activities, virtual platforms were activated. Technical agencies with assignments on the ground were guided to recruit local staff (including those trained under the project) to continue with their fieldwork. The project team has conducted a rapid situational analysis and realigned the livelihood plans to cater to the emerging needs of the community stakeholders.

The timeline for implementation of tourism-based alternative livelihood promotion activities will be reviewed due to complete lockdown of the sector to confirm feasibility and resilience of project livelihood support. Other livelihoods-based activities have also been delayed, although these implementation challenges are expected to improve over the next few months as restrictions are slowly lifted. In support of COVID-19 recovery, the project will focus livelihoods improvements towards the most impacted communities. As part of the effort to prevent future pandemics, the project will be integrating information on zoonotic virus and its prevention in awareness-raising activities as part of its focus on illegal wildlife trade and promoting a One Health approach. Rapid assessments will be conducted in the project landscapes to assess at-risk species and areas and suggest management measures to increase disease preparedness and response to prevent future pandemics. These do not require any changes to project scope or budget, rather a rescheduling/profiling of existing activities to account for delays and capitalize on opportunities.

#### Project Issue 2: Fund Transfer related concerns

The project faces a recurring challenge linked to project funds flow in several States. In the State of Sikkim, discussions are ongoing through its' project board regarding the feasibility of changing the financial modality given the lengthy approval processes via multiple administrative levels needed to release the funds. These delays have started hampering the implementation again. Further, the COVID-19 related lockdowns have significantly reduced the attendance of staff in government departments. The flow-on impacts and severe backlogs have delayed the implementation of this project and many others in the State, despite the efforts to prioritise the processing of funds

**Actions taken:** NPMU and MoEFCC have been raising these concerns to the relevant state government departments.

#### Project issue 3:

Extreme weather conditions (Snowfall/road blockage) in the project landscapes results in limited working period ranging between 4-5 months. Majority of the project landscapes become inaccessible during October -April.

**Actions taken:** The implementation of the activities are planned in such a way that maximum output can be derived during the year. However, the COVID-19 related restrictions further slowed down the implementation.

**a. Updated Project Risks and Actions**

Project Risk 1: COVID-19 global pandemic and associated lockdown have created risk to live and livelihoods of the communities in the landscape.

**Actions taken:** A detailed analysis of impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on project landscapes was undertaken through the project. Tourism emerged as the most vulnerable sector, followed by employment of migrant workers. Activities related to facilitating sustainable tourism and capacity development of local communities have been included accordingly in the current year' Annual Work Plan.

**b. Updated Project Issues and Actions**

Project Issue 1:

**Actions taken:**

**Lessons Learned**

*This section should capture the lessons learned to ensure on-going learning, knowledge sharing and communication within the organisation and with the partners/donors. It should include analysis on the following contents:*

- 1) *Key project successes and factors which supported these successes;*
- 2) *Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome these difficulties;*
- 3) *Analysis on what could have been done differently / better to attain the project results;*
- 4) *Recommendations to improve future programming.*

*(Suggested length – half a page to 1 page)*

**KEY PROJECT SUCCESSES**

- Wildlife Database Centre and Management Information System established in Uttarakhand collects temporal data of Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Human Wildlife Conflict for analysis and further interventions to reduce the same.
- Participatory snow leopard monitoring being conducted in project landscapes. This has been achieved by training local youth in citizen science and taxonomy under the project.
- Off-Farm Farmer Producer Organizations (OFPO) established in Uttarakhand and Sikkim towards income enhancement of local communities, with a focus on women empowerment
- Greening practices of key contributors to habitat degradation by installing new and innovative high-altitude biogas Digesters in Ladakh

- Video documentation of 10 existing best practices conducted in project landscapes and 20 practices documented in print on wildlife conservation in India
- Fellowship provided to over 40 youth from the local community for community radio and video documentation and dissemination to document issues of biodiversity conservation and spread awareness
- The project has contributed towards skill and capacity development of local communities, especially women, in the project landscapes. For example, local communities were involved in biodiversity surveys in Changthang, Ladakh; local youth were trained on mountaineering, para-taxonomy, Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR) preparation and eco-tourism in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, leading to employment in respective sectors. Himal Rakshaks have been identified in Sikkim as an important group of local.
- Climate smart energy solutions, e.g, bio-gas stoves for cooking, solar-based appliances for space and water heating, have been piloted to reduce dependency on natural resources, especially during extreme weather conditions.
- The project is implementing conflict mitigation measures through bio-fencing, crop guarding and predator proofing livestock corrals, thereby preventing loss of livestock and agricultural produce.
- Awareness of communities has been increased on the importance on financial inclusion and using formal institutions to improve access to credit, insurance and other financial services, especially for women for whom this can be an effective tool to empower and mainstream them in major financial decisions of the household.
- The project has facilitated participation of local communities, especially women, in international events and conferences, e.g. Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program's Steering Committee Meeting held in New Delhi during October 2019. This offered the local people from extremely remote areas of the Indian Himalayas an opportunity to interact with delegates from other parts of the country as well as other nations, highlight their concerns for environment and initiatives being taken by them locally, and learn from best practices being implemented in other areas.
- The project is engaging with children to impart nature education, awareness on environment and conservation of natural resources across the project States/UT, to create future stewards and also influence the elders in their families to work towards environmental conservation.
- The project has been putting extra effort to ensure gender mainstreaming in all the components. There are sectors such as adventure tourism where the participation of women is negligible in the project area, and this is being addressed. In the project landscape the women play important role in agriculture, animal husbandry and forest sectors.
- Special efforts have been undertaken to enhance participation of women in decision making and reducing drudgery in day to day tasks and livelihood activities so that their participation in consultative activities can be increased. For example, in institutions like BMCs membership and participation of women is being ensured, promotion of technologies such as equipment for value addition of produce are being provided to women groups for drudgery reduction, energy efficient solutions are being implemented to reduce dependency on natural resources, especially wood for fuel which involves a lot of time and effort in collection.
- With the launch of the Snow Leopard Population Assessment for India (SPAI) methodology, the framework for snow leopard population assessment has been set in place and government staff as well as community members are being trained to undertake field surveys.

**KEY CHALLENGES**

The COVID-19 crisis impacted the project activities significantly as most project landscapes start becoming accessible from March onwards. However, alternative strategies were set in place. For capacity building and training activities, virtual platforms were activated. Technical agencies with assignments on the ground were guided to recruit local staff (including those trained under the project) to continue with their fieldwork. The project team has conducted a rapid situational analysis and realigned the livelihood plans to cater to the emerging needs of the community stakeholders.

Extreme weather conditions (Snowfall/road blockage) in the project landscapes results in limited working period ranging between 4-5 months. Majority of the project landscapes become inaccessible during October -April. The implementation of the activities are planned in such a way that maximum output can be derived during the year. However, the COVID-19 related restrictions further slowed down the implementation.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Finalize a consolidated project-level SESP based on the five-landscape level SESP and thereafter review the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and update as needed to reflect any new risks or updated virtual engagement measures.
- Strengthen attention on M&E and ensure finalization of the outstanding baselines and submission of these to Bangkok, along with collation and synthesis of clear data against targets.
- Maintain close attention on delivery to correct as far as possible for slippages due to COVID-19 impacts.
- Continue efforts to recruit a national project manager to take overall leadership and coordination of the PMU and State-based efforts.
- Continue excellent attention on best practices and knowledge exchange, including sharing with the GWP knowledge exchange platform as opportunities arise.

**5. The Way Forward/ Key Priorities for 2021**

*This section should summarize the achievements, challenges and lessons learned as well as explain the way forward, including relevance of the project and necessary revisions that will be made to the project and plans of the upcoming reporting period. Any funding gaps, resource requirements as well as further partner engagement plans can be specified in this section. This should include any modifications that need to be made to indicators, baselines, targets as well data collection and monitoring to track progress*

*If this is a Final Report and if applicable, also mention on sustainability of the project and/or plans on future projects that may supplement / scale up the achievements of this project.  
(Suggested length – half a page to 1 page)*

The project is working in some of the remotest landscapes of the country characterized by challenging terrain, harsh weather and marginalized communities. To strengthen conservation mechanisms, the project is implementing a landscape-based approach by mainstreaming community participation in conservation, create opportunities for alternative and augmenting existing livelihoods, and enhancing capacities of managers and frontline staff in addressing the larger issue of illegal trade in wildlife.

**Key Priorities for 2021:**

- Mainstreaming the One Health Approach in the SECURE landscapes to build resilience against future zoonotic outbreaks.
- Support communities in livelihood promotion through pilots on ecotourism, solid waste management, natural fibre based handloom and handicrafts. These would not only support the livelihoods but will also promote sustainable management of natural resources.
  - Product design, diversification and marketing of traditional handloom and handicraft products (bagori wool, nettle fibre/Bamboo etc.) mainly with women community members.
- Integrating coordination to combat IWT through convergence
- Framework and guidelines for preparation of Landscape Management Strategy for conservation developed in consultation with the stakeholders, experts, and Ministry
- 100 Community Volunteer trained and engaged as Himal Sanrakshak in snow leopard range five states (UT of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh)
- Capacity building of 100 frontline staff conducted on wildlife enforcement mechanism and mitigation of wildlife crime & illegal trade
- 800 households supported for implementing improved and diversified livelihood strategies in 6 landscapes across 3 states and 1 Union Territory
- 10 Knowledge material prepared on Illegal trade in wildlife and Human Wildlife Conflict and legal literacy modules for frontline government staff, armed forces, line departments and communities in Himalaya Landscapes

