ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.27/23
8 March, 2021

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Twenty-Seventh Meeting
Bonn, Germany (Virtually held) 22-23 March 2021

Agenda Item 8 a)

PROPOSAL FOR INNOVATION SMALL GRANT FOR BHUTAN

Background

1. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

> *(a) To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and*
>
> *(b) To request the secretariat:*
>
> *(i) To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;*
>
> *(ii) To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and*
>
> *(iii) To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.*
>
> *(Decision B.30/42)*

2. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph b (ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

3. The draft implementation plan also contains suggestions for specific funding windows that might be opened under the MTS in complement of the Fund's existing funding windows for single-country and regional adaptation projects and readiness support projects. Following the approval of the implementation plan, the secretariat would present specific proposed details for each new funding window at subsequent meetings of the Board for its consideration, in accordance with the timeline contained in the implementation plan.

4. At its thirty-first meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

> *(a) To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);*
>
> *(b) To request the secretariat:*
>
> *[…]*

(iii) To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;

(iv) Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and

[…]

(Decision B.31/32)

5. At its thirty-second meeting, the Board considered document AFB/PPRC.23/4/Rev.2, *Program on Innovation: Small Grants Projects through Direct Access Modality,* and the Board decided:

(a) To approve the process for providing funding for innovation through small grants to National Implementing Entities (NIEs), as described in document AFB/PPRC.23/4/Rev.2, including the proposed objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features as described in the document; and

(b) To request the secretariat to prepare the first request for proposals to NIEs for US$ 2 million, to be launched at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2018.

(Decision B.32/4)

6. Subsequently, the first request for proposals to NIEs for US$ 2 million was launched at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in December 2018.

7. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25.15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted or with track changes.

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Innovation Small Grant

Country/Region: **Bhutan**
Project Title: **Building Adaptive Capacity through Innovative Management of Pests/Disease and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Bhutan to Enhance Sustainable Agro-Biodiversity and Livelihoods**
Thematic Focal Area: **Innovation**
Implementing Entity: **Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC)**
AF Project ID: **AFRDG00056**
IE Project ID:
Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): **250,000**
Reviewer and contact person: **Alyssa Gomes**
Co-reviewer(s): **Eleanor Saunders, Claudia Lasprilla**
IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary	The project aims to address climate change impacts that affect agriculture and pose a threat to the livelihoods of the people in the district of Mongar; due to the unusual outbreak of diseases, pests and invasive alien species. The project also aims to introduce innovative and adaptive technology in pest management, with a focus on eradicating the invasive Giant African Land Snails (GALS) in Gyelpozhing under Mongar district, using trapping systems adapted to Bhutan. This will be done through the three components below: Component 1: Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity (USD 131,000) Component 2: Develop strategy and models for pest management (USD 57,000) Component 3: Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests, diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment (USD 35,000) Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 20,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 243,000 Implementing Fee: USD 7,000 Financing Requested: USD 250,000

	The initial technical review found that the proposal needs further development in terms of the extent of the project components and justification of the innovation rationale of the proposed interventions. Similarly, it raises several issues such as: definition and clarity of objectives and outcomes, time-frame of the activities, technologies to be tested and implemented, targeted population, and areas of intervention, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review. The concept of rapid testing of snail management solutions and using this to deliver widespread change to the current management practices (salt and hand picking) is an innovation opportunity and allows community adaptation to a new challenge brought on by climate change. Thus, it could be supported under the small grants fund, with some development. The final technical review finds that the type of innovation being proposed by the project is 'Adaptive' – using and adapting existing approaches in new ways and new contexts. The revised proposal has clarified that the innovative solution is the adaptation of tried and tested traps for the first time in Bhutan. The project is thus bringing an existing technology and, testing and adapting it to a new location. The proposal would benefit from addressing a few pending clarifications related to ESP compliance, providing further details on the evidence base for the application of trapping and bait systems used in Florida, and further clarifying the target direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project.
Date:	02/28/2021

Review Criteria	**Questions**	**Comments**	
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol?	**Yes.**	**-**
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	**Yes.** As per the endorsement letter dates 17 January 2021.	**-**
	2. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate	**To some extent.** The frequency of outbreak of the invasive Giant African Land Snails (GALS) in in the target areas (Gyelpozhing under Mongar District) has accelerated due	**CR1: Addressed,** as per additional information provided on page 3. Climate change is expected to expedite the colonization of some

	change and build in climate resilience?[1]	to changing climate in the past decade. The increase in temperature due to climate change is the major influencing factor for distribution and the outbreak of this species. The project aims to address the lack of preparedness, technology and capacity to implement adaptation measures to control GALS. The adaptation rationale is justified, and the proposal explains to some extent the link between climate change variability and unusual outbreaks of GALS affecting agricultural production. However, the proposal is missing a clear identification of the probable future distribution of the invasive alien species under climate change scenarios. **CR1:** The proposal needs to include a stronger justification of how this invasive alien species acts synergistically with future climate change (specifically in the target areas) and might be expected to have much larger impact on local ecosystem than without climate change.	areas by GALS which will have severe ramifications on native species. The changing climate is tending towards a warmer and wetter climate, which is more favorable for the pests to thrive. In Bhutan crops affected by GALS are major cash crops for farmers in the country, not including natural vegetation. **CR2 and CR3: Addressed,** as per additional information provided on page 3-4. According to the Second National Communication (SNC 2011) of Bhutan, there was a significant increase in diversity of invasive species and that there could be a northward migration of such species in light of the northward migration of forest types in the future under a changing climate. This indicates the probability of GALS dispersing over a wider area at different agro-ecological zones. **CR4: Addressed,** as per additional information provided on page 4. The expected increase in temperature and high precipitation

[1] *A concrete adaptation project/programme is defined as a set of activities aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of and risks posed by climate change. The activities shall aim at producing visible and tangible results on the ground by reducing vulnerability and increasing the adaptive capacity of human and natural systems to respond to the impacts of climate change, including climate variability. Adaptation projects/programmes can be implemented at the community, national, regional and transboundary level. Projects/programmes concern activities with a specific objective(s) and concrete outcome(s) and output(s) that are measurable, monitorable, and verifiable.* (Source: Operational Policies and Guidelines, amended October 2017)

		Identifying the probable future distribution of invasive alien species is of paramount importance for early detection, prioritization of regions for conservation and effective management of invasive species. **CR2:** What is the potential distribution of GALS under current, and future climate change scenarios? **CR3:** How has climate change and how will climate change further aggravate the impacts of alien species naturalization and subsequent invasion across communities and ecosystems in the new ranges, thus threatening native biodiversity and human well-being?	is the major influencing factor for distribution and the outbreak of this species.
		CR4: Describe more clearly the influencing factors - Annual Mean Temperature, Temperature Annual Range and Annual Precipitation and how these major environmental variables contributing to the risk of invasion by GALS? Ecological niche modeling is a cost-effective, easy and early warning system that allows the identification of areas at risk from a potential invasion, thus giving the opportunity to prioritize the region and target management actions as well as	**CR5: Addressed,** as per additional information provided on page 7 (activity 2.2.2). In order to carry out niche modelling, local research-based institutions under the Royal University of Bhutan (specifically the College of Natural Resources) and the Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment Research (UWICER) will be engaged. Subsequently, they will also work with the Agriculture and Research Development Centers

		investment of resources in those certain regions. There is an urgency to set up long-term monitoring studies on GALS. **CR5:** What partnerships will be leveraged to develop niche modeling? (e.g. which research organizations, universities, etc.). What is the timeframe for its development? **CR6:** The proposal refers to involve research communities, kindly clarify if some studies and research will be financed by the project? **CR7:** Please expand on the early warning system that will allow the identification of areas at risk from a potential invasion and what community-based measures will be established to manage outbreaks? **CR8:** Please provide some information on the development of management policies for controlling the spread of GALS? **CR9:** Provide some details on the biological control measures and trapping systems that will be tested, and what is the criteria for selection of these measures (including environmental considerations)?	(ARDC) at Mongar. The expected time frame is 3-4 years**.** **CR6: Addressed,** under CR5. Partnerships will be leveraged with the institutions mentioned above. **CR7: Addressed,** as per additional information provided on pages 6-7 and component 3 on page 9. EWS for identification and reporting of the GALS will be through the Agriculture Extension officers and the involvement of local communities. The extension officers work at the local level and play a critical role in providing the basic technical support directly to the farmers and play a role in reporting outbreaks. Based on the protocol that will be developed under Component 1, Output 1.2 will highlight the importance of engaging the communities as part of the early warning system as they are critical in being the first line of defense in reporting signs of snail infestation. Capacity building of communities in the identification and reporting of outbreaks will be part of the outreach and awareness programs under component 3. **CR8: Addressed,** as per additional information provided under output 2.1 on page 8.

		CR10: What measures will be in place to ensure that the chosen biological control measure will not negatively impact native species? **CR11:** The proposal needs to provide details of ESP screening and risk assessment of the proposed interventions.	The proponent has clarified that the project aims to develop a protocol and a response guideline to prevent and manage the outbreak of GALS. Development of policy is outside the scope of the small grant. The project will develop a strategy or framework for pest management. The experiences from the field and the information from the diagnostic protocol, response guideline under component 1 and population dynamics and niche modeling under component 2 will provide adequate information for development of a strategy/framework on pest management. **CR9 and CR10:** Addressed, as per details provided on page 11. The proponent has clarified that biological controls will not be included, and the focus of the project is only on trapping systems. This is due to the time and additional assessments required for biological controls as well as unforeseeable long-term impacts from biological controls. Details of commercially available trapping systems mentioned include Snailer Snail and Slug

			Trap, Snail Buster, and slug math among others. **CR11: Not adequately addressed** Please include details of the ESP Risk screening against the 15 AF ESP principles. The focus of the risk's identification should not be about the outcome of the balance of negative impacts and positive outcomes. This section needs to explain in detail what the risks are, and assumptions in the risk assessment need to be stated and justified.
	3. Does the project encourage or accelerate development of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies?	**Needs further development.** The proposal aims to test, pilot and later scale-up best practices to control the spread of GALS. Here there is potential for innovation, but first the problem statement needs to be more clearly stated, to ensure the development of a focused solution. The project aims to establish "strategies/frameworks for pest, diseases and IAS management as well as models and systems will be developed for up scaling the initiatives and outreach and awareness programs for building capacity in managing and control of pests/disease and IAS will be implemented" (p.3).	**CR12: Addressed,** as per information provided on pages 11 and 12. The type of innovation being proposed by the project is 'Adaptive' – using and adapting existing approaches in new ways and new contexts. The proponent has clarified that the innovative solution is the adaptation of tried and tested traps for the first time in Bhutan. The project is thus bringing an existing technology and adapting it to a new location. The testing of the traps will be implemented by the EE - Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) as the technical

		CR12: The project eludes to there being 'innovative solutions chosen' for snail management. Please clarify how they are chosen or through what methods? **CR13:** The project results framework mentions impact results: Number of innovative solutions on pest/diseases and IAS management received, with reference to a competition (p.12). Please provide further details on these outputs in the proposal. The proposal mentions complementarity with an on-going GCF project. Connection to a larger project funded by the GCF shows potential for systemic innovation across climate resilient agricultural practices. Currently the project is intended to be working alongside the GCF project to simply gather knowledge on a new area (p.2). This is not intrinsically an innovation practice. **CR14:** Please provide additional information about the complementarity with the GCF project, especially related to how the small grant would leverage learnings from the GCF project to advance an area of innovation.	agency. BAFRA will engage the community through stakeholder consultation workshops and field work while rolling out the traps. **CR13: Addressed,** as per further information provided under output 3.1 on page 9. The proposed competition is a strategy to raise awareness about GALS as well an opportunity to source innovative ideas for pest management from universities. It will be held at the national level and is currently targeted at universities, comprising 100 students. The criteria will be finalized based on a discussion with sectoral experts from the agriculture, education and forest sectors. Some key criteria that may be used are application of technology, innovativeness, environmentally friendly and cost effectiveness. Three winners are expected to be selected. **CR14: Addressed**, as per additional information provided on page 3. The small grant project aims to play a role in raising the importance of comprehensively addressing climate change impacts on the agriculture sector by looking at all

		CR15: Please further define and explain what type of 'innovative methods' will be used to manage GALS, and explain why the selected methods were chosen and why they are innovative ideas?	issues related to agriculture such as water availability, crops resilience, disasters as well as pest and diseases. The issues of pest and diseases have largely been omitted primarily due to lack of data and support. The project aims to fill that gap. It further aims to take advantage of the tailored climate information generated from the GCF project that will be disseminated to the farmers, if available within the project time frame, to determine the probability of GALS spread and distribution to the areas targeted by the GCF project. **CR15: Addressed.** The project proposes trapping mechanism that will be adapted to the context in Bhutan. Innovation under the project is also envisaged from a social development perspective by developing strategies and building capacity.
		The project will establish a national response team to coordinate and provide guidance during an outbreak of pest and disease and management of IAS (p.5). **CR16:** Please provide additional details how the national response team will be formed, who will be	**CR16: Addressed,** as per details of the national response team provided on page 7. **CR17: Partially addressed** It is well noted that the project will test and use traps that have been implemented in South Florida. However, some additional

		selected and provide further information on its role. **CR17:** Please provide details on whether the project has considered whether similar programmes/best practices around the world and in neighboring countries (e.g. India) are addressing the issue. **CR18:** Please clarify the eligibility criteria for the competition. Is it throughout the country or just in the town of Gyelpozhing? Would the project provide smaller grants for innovative ideas?	information is requested. Please describe in further detail why these traps will be considered suitable to the context in Bhutan. Describe the evidence base generated from the South Florida Giant African Snail, eradication program. What are the lessons from the GALS eradication program in Florida, that have provided an opportunity to field test the use of these bait and trapping systems in the target areas in Bhutan? **CR18: Partially addressed.** The eligibility criteria are not finalised at this time, making a comprehensive assessment of the activity challenging. It is unclear if the competition is open to universities in only the target area or throughout the country. Criteria will be finalized based on a discussion with sectoral experts from the agriculture, education and forest sectors. Some key criteria, however, are described such as the application of technology, innovativeness, environmentally friendly and cost effectiveness. Furthermore, please clarify if the winning ideas will be field tested under the project.
	4. Does the project help generate evidence base of effective,	**Unclear.**	**CR19: Addressed.** The projected timeframe for testing

	efficient adaptation practices, products or technologies, as a basis for potential scaling up?	**CR19:** Please clarify what is the timeframe for the 'several processes of testing, learning and scaling-up'. **CR20:** Please describe how the scale-up strategy will work in practice. Please also clarify specific project outputs and outcomes that will enable scaling up of best practices. **CR21:** Please describe the process to be followed when implementing the proposed technology, and what are the expected results (numbers of farmers benefited/ number of outreach activities, etc) **CR22:** Please provide details on the sustainability of the project in the medium term.	is two years allowing 2 summer seasons (as the highest infestation takes place in the summer) to test different methods and traps. The remaining two and half years will be used for reaffirming findings and up scaling to other potential areas of infestation. **CR20: Addressed.** Details on the scale up strategy are detailed under component 1 (output 1.3) on page 7. Although the selected site for the project interventions are at Gyalpozhing in Mongar as this was the first and highly infested area, other nearby areas (Chali, Saling, Limithang) in Mongar have also reported infestation since 2015. Sharing knowledge and best practices will be carried out among local communities through field trips to site and participating in application of traps. **CR21: Partially addressed** The response sheet mentions that the target population is 50 farmers (90 male and 60 female) for the application of the technology. Additionally, a total of 250 people (60% male and 40% female)] will be trained. On page 10 a few additional details of the beneficiary

			population are provided. Please clarify the direct and indirect target beneficiaries of the project. **CR22: Addressed,** as per additional information provided on page 16. It is expected that the government will be in the position to continue with the best practices as it earlier did not have the capacity or resources to explore innovative solutions for the management of the pest. Furthermore, the project envisages that with the setting up of a national task force, protocols and guidelines there will be an integrated flow of information and recommendation for action on the ground that will ensure the sustainability of the project in the medium term.
	5. Does the project engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups?	**Unclear.** The concept mentions community involvement mainly with regard to providing them with a commercially available trap to use for the purpose of data collection. **CR23:** The project could benefit from providing additional details of the groups that will benefit from these projects as well as how the project	**CR23: Addressed,** as per additional information on pages 6-7 that describes the community engagement strategy to be carried out by the EE, BAFRA through stakeholder consultation workshops and field work while rolling out the traps. **CR24: Addressed.** The proponent has clarified that there are no identified young

		intends to involve community members more comprehensively. Sections C and E state that communities in the area will be engaged prior to the process, during the process and training on the most viable options will be imparted to them. However, this is not clearly developed throughout the proposal. **CR24:** Please provide some details in terms of the use of local innovators for the engagement process and in terms of how viable options are chosen and training on them imparted. **CR25:** The proposal needs to provide further details on the potential for seeking solutions through competitions including the involvement of young innovators in the proposed competition.	innovators at this time. However, the proposal aims to source innovative idea for GALS management under component 3 through a competition. **CR25:** Please refer to CR 18 above.
	6. Does the project advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls?	**Unclear.** The proposal provides some background information and context on women and their difficulties in voicing their needs, accessing technologies and other resources that would reduce their drudgery and build their resilience to environmental changes. As no initial gender assessment has been conducted at the formulation of the	**CR26: Needs additional clarification.** The population data provided on page 10, is well noted. However please clarify if the target population is 250 farmers who will be included in outreach activities or is it the population of the town of Gyalpozhing, as mentioned in the response sheet. It is acceptable to distinguish between direct and

		project, details on vulnerable groups /communities, disaggregated by gender that will benefit the project are missing. In addition, under Implementation Arrangements section, it is unknown if individuals or groups involved in the implementation of the project have gender expertise. **CR26:** The proposal needs to further define the targeted population, disaggregated by gender, as well as gender differentiated impacts. **CR27:** The Proposal needs to outline how the technology will be made available to women, and how their participation will be ensured within trainings and other outreach activities. **CR28:** Please clarify how the awareness programs will take a targeted approach towards ensuring gender and youth are taken into consideration. In the Results Framework, please include gender-responsive indicators broken down at the different levels (objectives, outcomes and outputs). **CR29:** Please clarify the presence of ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups, if applicable and	indirect beneficiaries when providing disaggregated data of the target beneficiaries. Furthermore on pages 9 & 10 it is mentioned that "the proportion of females (51.7%) working in the agriculture sector is higher than that of males (41.8%)", then please explain why would the beneficiaries be 90 male and only 60 women for the application of the technology and 60% male, 40% female for the campaigns?" Please also see CR21 above. **CR27: Addressed,** as per information provided on page 10. The proportion of females (51.7%) working in the agriculture sector is higher than that of males (41.8%). Therefore, the project will target women in the trainings and technology will be made available to them. In order to affirm that women are engaged in the trainings as well as have access to the technology, the local leaders will be guided to encourage the participation of women under the project. **CR28: Addressed,** as per information added on pages 17 and 18 of the results framework.

		how they will be included.	Gender disaggregated outputs incorporated in the results framework. **CR29: Addressed.** The proponent has clarified that there is no presence of ethnic minorities in the target area.
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project funding within the parameters for small grants set by the Board?	**Yes** (USD 250,000). **CR30:** Please clarify why is 25% of the budget is devoted to testing and samples while the main objective project is reducing and eradicating pests.	**CR30: Addressed.** The project aims to test various traps and baits to determine the feasibility of the best trap for Bhutan in terms of not only eradicating the pests but also ensuring that it has no other environmental and health impacts.
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project budget before the fee?	**Yes** (2.8%, USD 7,000).	**-**
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is the project submitted through a National Implementing Entity accredited by the Board?	**Yes.**	**-**
	2. Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?	**Unclear.** The project aims to gather and generate scientific data to understand the population dynamics of GALS in Bhutan, their area of expansion, and test different methods that will have to be considered to eradicate them. If that is the case, it is unclear if the proposed duration of 2.5 years is enough time.	**CR31: Addressed.** The timeframe of the project has been adjusted to incorporate a trail and testing phase, community outreach, learning and iteration, as well, development of protocols and a management strategy for further replication and scalability. The time frame has been modified to make the project period 4.5 years. This will give the project 2 summer seasons to test different

		CR 31: Please provide a justification of the project timeframe addressing the above-mentioned concern.	methods and traps and to reaffirm findings in the 3rd year.
	3. Is a summary breakdown of the budget for the proposed activities included?	**Yes.**	**-**

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Innovation Small Grant

Country/Region: **Bhutan**
Project Title: **Building Adaptive Capacity through Innovative Management of Pests/Disease and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Bhutan to Enhance Sustainable Agro-Biodiversity and Livelihoods**
Thematic Focal Area: **Innovation**
Implementing Entity: **Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC)**
AF Project ID: **AFRDG00056**
IE Project ID:
Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): **250,000**
Reviewer and contact person: **Alyssa Gomes**
Co-reviewer(s): **Eleanor Saunders[2], Claudia Lasprilla**
IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary	The project aims to address climate change impacts that affect agriculture and pose a threat to the livelihoods of the people in the district of Mongar; due to the unusual outbreak of diseases, pests and invasive alien species. The project also aims to introduce innovative and adaptive technology in pest management, with a focus on eradicating the invasive Giant African Land Snails (GALS) in Gyelpozhing under Mongar district, using biological control and trapping systems. This will be done through the three components below: Component 1: Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity (USD 131,000) Component 2: Develop strategy and models for pest management (USD 57,000) Component 3: Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests, diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment (USD 35,000) Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 20,000 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 243,000

[2] Additional co-reviewers include: Imen Meliane, Saliha Dobardzic, Aya Mimura (financials), and Sophie Hans-Moevi (gender).

	Implementing Fee: USD 7,000 Financing Requested: USD 250,000 The initial technical review finds that the proposal needs further development in terms of the extent of the project components and justification of the innovation rationale of the proposed interventions. Similarly, it raises several issues such as: definition and clarity of objectives and outcomes, time-frame of the activities, technologies to be tested and implemented, targeted population, and areas of intervention, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review. The concept of rapid testing of snail management solutions and using this to deliver widespread change to the current management practices (salt and hand picking) is an innovation opportunity and allows community adaptation to a new challenge brought on by climate change. Thus, it could be supported under the small grants fund, with some development.
Date:	02/04/2021

Review Criteria	**Questions**	**Comments**	**Response**
Country Eligibility	2. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol?	**Yes.**	
Project Eligibility	7. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme ?	**Yes.** As per the endorsement letter dates 17 January, 2021.	
	8. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing	**To some extent.** The frequency of outbreak of the invasive Giant African Land Snails (GALS) in the target areas (Gyelpozhing under Mongar District) has accelerated due to changing climate in the past decade. The increase in temperature due to climate change is the major influencing factor for	Climate change is expected to expedite the colonization of some areas by invasive species which will have severe ramifications on native species. As noted, invasive alien species act synergistically with climate change. Even without climte change, GALS

	adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?[3]	distribution and the outbreak of this species. The project aims to address the lack of preparedness, technology and capacity to implement adaptation measures to control GALS. The adaptation rationale is justified, and the proposal explains to some extent the link between climate change variability and unusual outbreaks of GALS affecting agricultural production. However, the proposal is missing a clear identification of the probable future distribution of the invasive alien species under climate change scenarios. **CR1:** The proposal needs to include a stronger justification of how this invasive alien species acts synergistically with future climate change (specifically in the target areas) and might be expected to have much larger impact on local ecosystem than without climate change. Identifying the probable future distribution of invasive alien species is of paramount importance for early detection, prioritization of regions for conservation and effective management of invasive species. **CR2:** What is the potential distribution of GALS under current, and future climate change scenarios?	have shown devastating impacts on the ecosystem and environment. They are known to feed on over 500 varieties of plants. In Bhutan some of the crops affected by GALS are mangoes, papaya, cabbage, tomatoes, sweet potato, and bananas etc which are some of the major cash crops for farmers in the country and this does not include the natural vegetation. Due to its high productivity rate, the pest grows and multiplies quickly thereby making their management challenging. The changing climate which is looking towards a warmer and wetter climate is more favorable for the pests to thrive. The Second National Communication (SNC 2011) of Bhutan notes that based on a survey conducted in 2010, there was a significant increase in diversity of invasive species. Further the SNC also notes that there could be a northward migration of such species in light of the northward migration of forest types in the future under a changing climate. This indicates the probability of GALS dispersing over a wider area at different agro-ecological zones. Based on national climate change scenarios, the country is expected to get warmer and wetter across all areas especially in the monsoon season. This

[3] *A concrete adaptation project/programme is defined as a set of activities aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of and risks posed by climate change. The activities shall aim at producing visible and tangible results on the ground by reducing vulnerability and increasing the adaptive capacity of human and natural systems to respond to the impacts of climate change, including climate variability. Adaptation projects/programmes can be implemented at the community, national, regional and transboundary level. Projects/programmes concern activities with a specific objective(s) and concrete outcome(s) and output(s) that are measurable, monitorable, and verifiable.* (Source: Operational Policies and Guidelines, amended October 2017)

		CR3: How has climate change and how will climate change further aggravate the impacts of alien species naturalization and subsequent invasion across communities and ecosystems in the new ranges, thus threatening native biodiversity and human well-being?	means that more areas will become favorable for the species to grow and infest in. (Please see CR4 for more details)
		CR4: Describe more clearly the influencing factors - Annual Mean Temperature, Temperature Annual Range and Annual Precipitation and how these major environmental variables contributing to the risk of invasion by GALS? Ecological niche modeling is a cost-effective, easy and early warning system that allows the identification of areas at risk from a potential invasion, thus giving the opportunity to prioritize the region and target management actions as well as investment of resources in those certain regions. There is an urgency to set up long-term monitoring studies on GALS.	As per the Second National Communication of Bhutan (SNC 2011), the mean total annual precipitation is projected to increase by ~6% in the 2010-2039 periods and by ~20-25% in the 2040-2069 periods. Both periods are expected to have wetter monsoon season and drier winter seasons. Subsequently, the mean annual temperature is projected to increase by ~0.8°-1.0°C for the 2010-2039 periods and an increase by ~2-2.4°C in the 2040-2069 period. The increase in temperature and high precipitation is the major influencing factor for distribution and the outbreak of this species. The highest infestation takes place with the onset of monsoon (June) and remains active throughout the rainy season and starts declining gradually from mid-November. The maximum invasion risk occurs between June and November during which Bhutan receives monsoon and is the peak agriculture season. The projected changes in the temperature and rainfall are favorable for the GALS to multiply and impact the agriculture and environment. These pests increase during peak agriculture season thereby destroying crops and affecting the livelihoods of farmers.

		CR5: What partnerships will be leveraged to develop niche modeling? (e.g. which research organizations, universities, etc). What is the time-frame for its development?	In order to conduct niche modeling, the local institutions under the Royal University of Bhutan (in particular the College of Natural Resources) and the Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment Research (UWICER) will be engaged. Subsequently, they will also work with the Agriculture and Research Development Centres (ARDC) at Mongar. The expected time frame is 3-4 years.
		CR6: The proposal refers to involve research communities, kindly clarify if some studies and research will be financed by the project?	In Bhutan, the research communities are generally the universities and the proposal is referring to these institutes mentioned above who will carry out the niche modeling and it will be financed by the project.
		CR7: Please expand on the early warning system that will allow the identification of areas at risk from a potential invasion and what community-based measures will be established to manage outbreaks?	The most effective early warning system for identification and reporting of the GALS will be through the Agriculture Extension officers and the involvement of local communities. The extension officers work at the Gewog (local block) level and play a critical role in providing the basic technical support directly to the farmers and also play a role in reporting outbreaks. Based on the protocol that will be developed under Component 1, Output 1.2 will highlight the importance of engaging the communities as part of the early warning system as they are critical in being the first line of defense in reporting signs of snail infestation. Capacity building of communities in the identification and reporting of outbreaks will be part of the

			outreach and awareness programs under component 3.
		CR8: Please provide some information on the development of management policies for controlling the spread of GALS?	We would like to note here that there is no mention of a policy in the proposal; rather the proposal has plans to develop a protocol and a response guideline to prevent and manage the outbreak of GALS. This is because as per existing norms in the country, developing a policy must undergo several assessments before the government decides whether a certain policy is required or not which is not permissible under the timeframe of the project. Also, the initial step toward policy development is the development of strategies, frameworks and guidelines. The project will develop a strategy or framework for pest management. The experiences from the field and the information from the diagnostic protocol, response guideline under component 1 and population dynamics and niche modeling under component 2 will provide adequate information for development of a strategy/framework on pest management.
		CR9: Provide some details on the biological control measures and trapping systems that will be tested, and what are the criteria for selection of these measures (including environmental considerations)?	There are several commercially available traps and the most popular ones used for GALS management are Snailer snail and Slug Trap, Snail Buster, Slug mats and moth bucket traps. The baits used for these traps is generally banana/papaya fruit or commercially produced snail buster bait. Other methods being used are the Corry's slug and snail killer pellets and the Corry's

			slug and snail easy kill gel. They use sodium ferric and iron-phosphate as baits, both of which are safe to use around pets and wildlife and the uneaten baits degrade naturally. Different traps with various baits including use of locally available material will be tried and tested in the infested areas. As such while selecting the traps; the cost, accessibility to the traps and the environmental friendliness of the traps in terms of the baits used will be given due consideration. The fact that the National Environment Commission and BAFRA are working on this together ensures that while BAFRA will implement the core of the activities, the NEC as the national agency on environmental management will monitor and review the activities so that they adhere to the environmental safeguards of the country.
		CR10: What measures will be in place to ensure that the chosen biological control measure will not negatively impact native species?	(Based on further review and discussion, the project has decided to leave out biological controls and focus only on trapping systems due to the time and additional assessments required for biological controls as well as unforeseeable long term impacts from biological controls)
		CR11: The proposal needs to provide details of ESP screening and risk assessment of the proposed interventions.	A table on ESP screening and risk assessment has been incorporated in the proposal under Part II, Section F
	9. Does the project encourage or	**Needs further development.** The proposal aims to test, pilot and later	

	accelerate development of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies?	scale-up best practices to control the spread of GALS. Here there is potential for innovation, but first the problem statement needs to be more clearly stated, to ensure the development of a focused solution. The project aims to establish "strategies/frameworks for pest, diseases and IAS management as well as models and systems will be developed for up scaling the initiatives and outreach and awareness programs for building capacity in managing and control of pests/disease and IAS will be implemented" (p.3). **CR12:** The project eludes to there being 'innovative solutions chosen' for snail management. Please clarify how they are chosen or through what methods? **CR13:** The project results framework mentions impact results: Number of innovative solutions on pest/diseases and IAS management received, with reference to a competition (p.12). Please provide further details on these outputs in the proposal. The proposal mentions complementarity with an on-going GCF project. Connection to a larger project funded by the GCF shows potential for systemic innovation across climate resilient agricultural practices. Currently the project is intended to be working alongside the GCF project to simply gather knowledge on a new area (p.2). This	The innovation that we are alluding to is what is being proposed in the project. The innovative solutions are the adaptation of tried and tested traps for the first time in Bhutan and innovation through process and development changes by developing strategies and building capacity. It adheres to the definition of innovation as per the e-training course on Innovation Small Grant of the AF, innovation is about bringing change by renewing, advancing or changing the way things are done through application of tools, processes and knowledge to build resilience. We are bringing an existing technology and adapting it to a new location. (The description of how the traps will be chosen is reflected in response to CR9) (The details on the competition have been incorporated under Output 3.1and PART II, Section E and in this review sheet under response to CR18) The complimentarity with the GCF project is in terms of its objective of supporting climate resilience and transformational change in the agriculture sector. Although the GCF project has addressed some key issues to enhance the agriculture sector such as irrigation, crop diversity, sustainable land management; they have not addressed

		is not intrinsically an innovation practice in itself. **CR14:** Please provide additional information about the complementarity with the GCF project, especially related to how the small grant would leverage learnings from the GCF project to advance an area of innovation. **CR15**: Please further define and explain what type of 'innovative methods' will be used to manage GALS, and explain why the selected methods were chosen and why they are innovative ideas?	issues of pest and diseases which is also one of the main factors that determine agriculture productivity and resilience. This small grant project will in fact play a role in raising the importance of comprehensively addressing climate change impacts on the agriculture sector by looking at all issues related to agriculture such as water availability, crops resilience, disasters and pest and diseases. The issues of pest and diseases have largely been omitted primarily due to lack of data and support. This project could also take advantage of the tailored climate information generated from the GCF project that will be disseminated to the farmers if available within the project time frame to determine the probability of GALS spread and distribution to the areas targeted by the GCF project. The innovative methods used are: • application of an innovative technology that will be adapted to suit Bhutan's conditions for pest management in particular Giant African Land Snails (GALS • Through process and social development changes by developing strategies or a framework for pest management and promoting innovative ideas from diverse groups on pest/disease and Invasive Alien Species management.

			They are innovative ideas because traps are an existing practice which will be adapted in a new context (Bhutan) and also based on describing innovation as a process or social developments and changes by developing strategies and building capacity.
		The project will establish a national response team to coordinate and provide guidance during an outbreak of pest and disease and management of IAS (p.5). **CR16:** Please provide additional details how the national response team will be formed, who will be selected and provide further information on its role.	The National Response Team will comprise of members from various relevant agencies such as i) Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) ii) National Environment Commission iii) Department of Agriculture iv) National Plant Protection Center (NPCC) The team will be responsible for providing directives and recommendations of pest management. They will provide guidance and work with the people in the field such as the local government, extension agents of agriculture, district environment officer and representative of the Agriculture and Research Development Center. Together they will conduct risk assessments in case of reported outbreaks, review monitoring reports from the fields on GALS management, recommend domestic quarantining where required and recommend phytosantiary measures and GALS management tools and methods. They will work with the local government

		CR17: Please provide details on whether the project has considered whether similar programmes/best practices around the world and in neighboring countries (e.g. India) are addressing the issue. **CR18:** Please clarify the eligibility criteria for the competition. Is it throughout the country or just in the town of Gyelpozhing? Would the project provide smaller grants for innovative ideas?	and Agriculture extension agents to brief the communities on the recommendations and directives of the National Response Team. Yes, the project does take into consideration similar programmes and best practices from other countries. The tests and use of the traps have been done in South Florida. They have used various snail trapping systems, with different baits and also considered the time it takes to service different traps, selecting baits such as iron-phosphate that naturally occur in soil and can be used around pets and wildlife. The competition proposed as a method to raise awareness will be held at the national level and is currently targeted at universities. The criteria will be finalized based on a discussion with sectoral experts from the agriculture, education and forest sectors. Some key criteria that may be used are application of technology, innovativeness, environmental friendly and cost effectiveness. Three winners will be selected. Based on the budget proposed and available, one or more of the winners will be selected to implement the idea.
	10. Does the project help generate evidence base of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products	**Unclear.** **CR19:** Please clarify what is the timeframe for the 'several processes of testing, learning and scaling-up'.	The projected timeframe for testing is two years as it will give 2 summer seasons to test different methods and traps as the highest infestation takes place in the

	or technologies, as a basis for potential scaling up?		summer. The remaining two and half years will be used for reaffirming findings and up scaling to other potential areas of infestation.
		CR20: Please describe how the scale-up strategy will work in practice. Please also clarify specific project outputs and outcomes that will enable scaling up of best practices.	(specific output has been incorporated under component 1 as "Scaling up of tests and best practices to other communities on pest management")
			Although the selected sites for the project interventions are at Gyalpozhingas this was the first and highly infested area, in 2015 other nearby areas (Chali, Saling, Limithang) in Mongar have also reported infestation. Sharing knowledge and best practices will be carried out among local communities through field trips to site and participating in application of traps. communities, youth and the general public, partners in management of pests and IAS.
		CR21: Please describe the process to be followed when implementing the proposed technology, and what are the expected results (numbers of farmers benefited/ number of outreach activities, etc)	The project will engage 150 farmers(90 male and 60 female) for the application of the technology. A total of 250 people (60% male and 40% female) from the communities will be part of the outreach programs in order to build capacity. Existing Farmer groups in Gyalpozing will be taken into consideration to start off with for taking part in the capacity building and application of the technology and the groups will be further reviewed to ensure it adequately covers all affected household and gender will be given due consideration. During the first year, the

			technical agencies (BAFRA in collaboration with National Plant Protection Centre and Department of Agriculture) will test and apply the technology to make it adaptive to conditions in Bhutan. They will demonstrate the use of the technology to the communities and brief them on the various traps that are being used. In the following year, communities will be provided with the traps that were most successful in the first year for application. They will be guided by the technical agencies of the government. Subsequently; 3 outreach activities will be designed, one in the form of the competition that is described in CR18 and one dedicated to farmers and another for the general public as described under Output 3.2.
		CR22: Please provide details on the sustainability of the project in the medium term.	With the test and application of the traps through the project, the government will be in the position to continue with the best practices as it earlier did not have the capacity or resources to explore innovative solutions for the management of the pest. Also, with the set up of a national task force, protocols and guidelines there will be an integrated flow of information and recommendation for action on the ground. The capacity building of local communities, Civil Society Organizations and governmental institutions will help promote best practices and exchange of lessons learned which could lead to institutional growths that will make it possible for

			replicating and up scaling the initiatives beyond the project period.
	11. Does the project engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups?	**Unclear.** The concept mentions community involvement mainly with regard to providing them with a commercially available trap to use for the purpose of data collection. **CR23:** The project could benefit from providing additional details of the groups that will benefit from these projects as well as how the project intends to involve community members more comprehensively. Sections C and E state that communities in the area will be engaged prior to the process, during the process and training on the most viable options will be imparted to them. However, this is not clearly developed throughout the proposal. **CR24:** Please provide some details in terms of the use of local innovators for the engagement process and in terms of how viable options are chosen and training on them imparted.	The people living in Gyalpozhing especially the farming communities will be the direct beneficiaries of the project. As per the Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2017, Gyalpozhing town has a population of 2629 with 1374 males and 1255 females. The main output will be to use traps which have never been done before in Bhutan for the management of GALS. The engagement of local communities will be carried out by BAFRA through stakeholder consultation workshops and field work while rolling out the traps. The criteria for determining the most viable option is described in PARI II, Section C. The input from the communities will be in terms of affordability, ease of application and access to the traps. Currently there are no local innovators in this field. In terms of engaging young and local innovators, this is a separate activity whereby we are looking at finding other innovative solutions through the competitions that go beyond the traps. It could be in terms of reporting the outbreaks or locating and identifying areas that see

		CR25: The proposal needs to provide further details on the potential for seeking solutions through competitions including the involvement of young innovators in the proposed competition.	new infestations through platforms such as apps or GIS coordinates etc or eradicating the pests. We do not want to pre-empt ideas as this will narrow or curb the innovativeness. (The details on the competition are addressed under CR18.)
	12. Does the project advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls?	**Unclear.** The proposal provides some background information and context on women and their difficulties in voicing their needs, accessing technologies and other resources that would reduce their drudgery and build their resilience to environmental changes. As no initial gender assessment has been conducted at the formulation of the project, details on vulnerable groups /communities, disaggregated by gender that will benefit the project are missing. In addition, under Implementation Arrangements section, it is unknown if individuals or groups involved in the implementation of the project have gender expertise. **CR26:** The proposal needs to further define the targeted population, disaggregated by gender, as well as gender differentiated impacts. **CR27:** The Proposal needs to outline how the technology will be made available to	As per the Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2017, Gyalpozhing town has a population of 2629 with 1374 males and 1255 females. In Mongar 63.2% of the population depend on agriculture which is higher than the population engaged in agriculture at the national level which is 51.1% (Labor Force Survey 2019). Also, the proportion of females (51.7%) working in the agriculture sector is higher than that of males (41.8%). Therefore, women will be engaged in the trainings and technology will be made available to them. In order to affirm that women are engaged in the trainings as well as have access to the technology, the local leaders will be guided to encourage the participation of women. Although no gender assessment has been done for this project, a research study on “Equitable and meaningful participation in climate change adaptation and water governance in rural Bhutan” carried out by Tarayana Foundation; a local CSO in Bhutan under the auspices of the NAPA

		women, and how their participation will be ensured within trainings and other outreach activities. **CR28:** Please clarify how the awareness programs will take a targeted approach towards ensuring gender and youth are taken into consideration. In the Results Framework, please include gender-responsive indicators broken down at the different levels (objectives, outcomes and outputs). **CR29:** Please clarify the presence of ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups, if applicable and how they will be included.	project provides relevant information that can be adapted for this project. The study was conducted based on the recommendation from the National Environment Commission who was then managing the NAPA II Program. In the research study, there is an indication that men's participation in project related meetings was low in Mongar and Tsirang from an assessment of 4 targeted districts. This has been mainly attributed to the fact that women remain at home while men engage in wage labor that take them out of the community (TF 2018). While this may indicate the probability of having more women from Gyalpozhing, Mongar to participate; Tarayana Foundation will be engaged as they have expertise in community mobilization and also experience ingive importance to gender consideration. (Gender disaggregated outputs incorporated in Part III, Section C) There are no ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups in the proposed area of intervention.
Resource Availability	3. Is the requested project funding within the parameters for small grants set by the Board?	**Yes** (USD 250,000). **CR30:** Please clarify why is 25% of the budget is devoted to testing and samples while the main objective project is reducing and eradicating pests.	Please note that the budget also covers traps aside from samples and tests. This is now clearly indicated in the budget under PART III, Section E. As noted in PART II, Section C; some of the commercially available traps are bait and barrier technology which could include Snailer Snail and Slug Trap, Snail Buster, and slug math among others. We will need

			to test these various traps and baits to determine the best trap that is feasible for Bhutan in terms of not only eradicating the pests but also ensuring that it has no other environmental and health impacts.
	4. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project budget before the fee?	**Yes** (2.8%, USD 7,000).	
Implementation Arrangements	4. Is the project submitted through a National Implementing Entity accredited by the Board?	**Yes.**	
	5. Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?	**Unclear.** The project aims to gather and generate scientific data to understand the population dynamics of GALS in Bhutan, their area of expansion, and test different methods that will have to be considered to eradicate them. If that is the case, it is unclear if the proposed duration of 2.5 years is enough time. **CR 31:** Please provide a justification of the project timeframe addressing the above-mentioned concern.	The time frame has been modified to make the project period 4.5 years. This will give the project 2 summer seasons to test different methods and traps and to reaffirm findings in the 3rd year. The month has also been shifted to September as the summer season in Bhutan is from May-August. The project closing has been set at September 2026 with the understanding that project closing is considered 6months after project completion as per project preparation guidelines.
	6. Is a summary breakdown of the budget for the proposed activities included?	**Yes.**	

PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION:
SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS THROUGH DIRECT ACCESS MODALITY

REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

The annexed form should be completed and transmitted to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by email or fax.

Please type in the responses using the template provided. The instructions attached to the form provide guidance to filling out the template.

Please note that a project must be fully prepared when the request is submitted.

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN P4-400
Washington, D.C., 20433
U.S.A
Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org

ADAPTATION FUND

PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION: SMALL GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Country: Bhutan

Title of Project: *Building Adaptive Capacity through Innovative Management of Pests/Disease and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Bhutan to Enhance Sustainable Agro-Biodiversity and Livelihoods.*

National Implementing Entity: **Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BTFEC)**

Executing Entity/ies: National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS)
Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)

Amount of Financing Requested: 250,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Background and Context:

Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate.

The Himalayan country of Bhutan is typically an agrarian country with more than half of the population depending on agriculture. However, farming has been constrained by the mountainous topography and rapid changes in environmental variability. With climate change, agricultural production and food security face one of the biggest challenges of the twenty-first century. The country has already been experiencing several impacts of climate change, such as erratic rainfalls, winds and hail storms, crop loss to unusual outbreaks of diseases and pests, flash floods and landslides annually. Most villages across Bhutan are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, and have low adaptive capacity attributed to their limited resource base and precarious socio-economic status.

In order to address some of the issues of climate change impacts on the agriculture sector; Bhutan has been successful in securing support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through the project “Supporting climate resilience and transformational change in the agriculture sector in Bhutan”. The GCF approved project aims to promote climate resilient agricultural practices, integrate climate change risk data into water and land management to support smallholders and reduce the risk and impact of climate change-induced landslides during extreme events that disrupt market access.
This AF innovation project will complement the GCF project in terms of addressing other climate change impacts that affect agriculture and pose a threat to the livelihoods of the people due to the unusual outbreak of diseases, pests and invasive alien species. This

small grant project will in fact play a role in raising the importance of comprehensively addressing climate change impacts on the agriculture sector by looking at all issues related to agriculture such as water availability, crops resilience, disasters and pest and diseases.. The issues of pest and diseases have largely been omitted primarily due to lack of data and support. This project could also take advantage of the tailored climate information generated from the GCF project that will be disseminated to the farmers if available within the project time frame to determine the probability of GALS spread and distribution to the areas targeted by the GCF project.

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One of the main issues and threats to agro-biodiversity in Bhutan due to change in climate that are reducing the productivity of the crops and affecting livelihood is the emergence and spread of pests/diseases and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and lack of preparedness, technology and capacity to implement adaptation measures for these threats.

Some of the reported pest and disease incidents in Bhutan include the epidemics of rice blast disease in 1995 and 1996 which caused 80-90% yield loss and is correlated to persistent wet, humid and cloudy weather conditions during the cropping season (SNC 2011). In 2006, *Turcicum* leaf blight and gray leaf spot disease of maize due to prolonged wet conditions resulted in harvest loss by more than 50% (NAPA: Update of Projects and Profiles 2012). In May 2013, an armyworm outbreak was reported from 7 dzongkhags (Districts) eating away all the paddy saplings and maize, which are one of the main staple diets of Bhutanese. These are now recurrent pest and diseases that impact the agricultural sector on an annual basis.

Similarly, the frequent outbreak of the invasive Giant African Land Snails (GALS) in Gyelpozhing under Mongar District since 2010 has had major impact on the livelihood of the communities in the area. The snail feeds on a wide range of vegetation such as trees, vegetables, and crops and also calcareous substances such as concrete and is of great concern to the farmers. Its length can reach 20 cm or more, and in a year it lays around 1,000 to 1,200 eggs with a life expectancy of up to 10 years. GALS is listed as one of the top 100 invasive species in the world, and can adapt to wide-ranging climatic conditions from sub-tropic to temperate regions. In the presence of abundant vegetations it can multiply very fast. The snails are also known to harbor nematodes that cause meningitis, if it is not handled properly and is a great concern for human health. Even without climate change, the GALS have shown devastating impacts on the ecosystem and environment. They are known to feed on over 500 varieties of plants. In Bhutan some of the crops affected by GALS are mangoes, papaya, cabbage, tomatoes, sweet potato, and bananas etc which are some of the major cash crops for farmers in the country and this does not include the natural vegetation. Due to its high productivity rate, the pest grows and multiplies quickly thereby making their management challenging.

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Invasive alien species act synergistically with climate change and it is expected to expedite the colonization of some areas by invasive species which will have severe ramifications on native species. The increase in temperature and precipitation due to climate change is the major influencing factor for distribution and the outbreak of this

species. The highest infestation takes place with the onset of monsoon (June) and remains active throughout the rainy season and starts declining gradually from mid-November. The maximum invasion risk occurs between June and November during which Bhutan receives monsoon and is the peak agriculture season. As per the Second National Communication of Bhutan (SNC 2011), the mean total annual precipitation is projected to increase by ~6% in the 2010-2039 periods and by ~20-25% in the 2040-2069 periods. Both periods are expected to have wetter monsoon season and drier winter seasons. Subsequently, the mean annual temperature is projected to increase by ~0.8°-1.0°C for the 2010-2039 periods and an increase by ~2-2.4°C in the 2040-2069 period. The projected changes in the temperature and rainfall are favorable for the GALS to multiply and impact the agriculture and environment. Further the SNC also notes that there could be a northward migration of such species in light of the northward migration of forest types in the future under a changing climate. This indicates the probability of GALS dispersing over a wider area at different agro-ecological zones.

Farmers are challenged with this pest affecting their livelihood and current measures to control or eradicate the pest have been futile. The farmers have limited capacity to manage the pest and the technical agencies lack the technology and resources to eradicate the pest. There is also lack of information and assessments to understand how pests/diseases and IAS can change with changing climate scenarios and this knowledge needs to be built and disseminated.

This project will address these impediments and challenges through innovative and adaptive technology in pest management (particularly eradicating the invasive Giant African Land Snails (GALS) in Gyelpozhing under Mongar district) using trapping systems. This will be further supported by putting in place protocols and guides for pest outbreaks. Subsequently, strategies/frameworks for pest, diseases and IAS management as well as models and systems will be developed for up scaling the initiatives and outreach and awareness programs for building capacity in managing and control of pests/disease and IAS will be implemented.

Project Objectives:

The objective of the project is to promote agro-biodiversity activities through efficient and effective management of pests/diseases and invasive alien species (IAS).

Specifically, the proposed project will address the following objectives:

i) Validate trapping systems as tools adapted to eradicate pests in Bhutan (specifically Giant African Land Snails)
ii) Develop strategies and models for sustainable management of pest/diseases and IAS.
iii) Awareness generation, capacity building of farmers and other stakeholders on the problems and management of pests/diseases and IAS.

Project Components and Financing

Deleted: The snail feeds on a wide range of vegetation such as trees, vegetables, and crops and also calcareous substances such as concrete and is of great concern to the farmers. Its length can reach 20 cm or more, and in a year it lays around 1,000 to 1,200 eggs with a life expectancy of up to 10 years. GALS is listed as one of the top 100 invasive species in the world, and can adapt to wide-ranging climatic conditions from sub-tropic to temperate regions. In the presence of abundant vegetations it can multiply very fast. The snails are also known to harbor nematodes that cause meningitis, if it is not handled properly and is a great concern for human health. ¶

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Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)
1. Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity	Trapping systems adapted to Bhutan for GALS management. Protocols and response guide developed. Technology up-scaled to other areas.	Adaptation to pests and invasive alien species for climate resilient farms.	131,000
2. Develop strategy and models for pest management	Strategies, data and models generated for pest management.	Strategies and models available for up scaling innovation	57,000
3. Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests, diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment	Innovative ideas and knowledge sharing in managing pests/diseases and IAS promoted. Community involved and trained.	Adaptive capacity of communities strengthened and innovative solutions from public encouraged.	35,000
6. Project Execution cost			20,000
7. Total Project Cost			243,000
8. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			7,000
Amount of Financing Requested			250,000

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Projected Calendar:

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project Implementation	September 2021
Project Closing	September 2026
Terminal Evaluation	December 2025

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PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION [4]

A. Describe the project components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience.

Component 1: Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity

[4] Parts II and III should jointly not exceed 10 pages.

Output 1.1: Trapping systems for GALS management

The existing method of using salt/hand picking has only been able to contain the issue but not eradicate the pests which are only going to see an increase with changing climate. The targeted interventions for applying adaptive trapping systems will be focused on managing Giant African Land Snails (GALS) problem in Gyalpozhing, Mongar District.

The project will engage 150 farmers (90 male and 60 female) for the application of the technology. Existing Farmer groups in Gyalpozing will be taken into consideration to start off with for taking part in the capacity building and application of the technology and the groups will be further reviewed to ensure it adequately covers all affected household and gender will be given due consideration. During the first year, the technical agencies (BAFRA in collaboration with National Plant Protection Centre and Department of Agriculture) will test and apply the technology to make it adaptive to conditions in Bhutan. They will demonstrate the use of the technology to the communities and brief them on the various traps that are being used. In the following year, communities will be provided with the traps that were most successful in the first year for application. By the third year, findings will be reaffirmed and the project has plans to eradicate the pest by the fourth year.

Output 1.2: Develop diagnostic protocols for pest outbreak and response guide

Based on Output 1.1, protocols will be developed to prevent future Giant African Land Snails (GALS) and an outbreak and response guideline will ensure a coordinated containment for pest management. Key lessons learned will be captured from the technologies used in Output 1.1 and shared for up scaling the innovation. The protocol will also highlight the importance of developing an early warning system for identification and reporting of an outbreak. It will include the engagement of the Agriculture Extension Officers and local communities as part of the early warning system as they are critical in being the first line of defense in reporting signs of snail infestation. The extension officers work at the Gewog (local block) level and play a critical role in providing the basic technical support directly to the farmers and also currently play a role in reporting outbreaks.

A National Response Team will be established to coordinate and provide guidance during an outbreak of pest and disease and management of IAS. The National Response Team will comprise of members from various relevant agencies such as

v) Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)
vi) National Environment Commission
vii) Department of Agriculture
viii)National Plant Protection Center (NPPC)

The team will be responsible for providing directives and recommendations of pest management. They will provide guidance and work with the people in the field such as

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the local government, extension agents of agriculture, district environment officer and representative of the Agriculture and Research Development Center. Together they will conduct risk assessments in case of reported outbreaks, review monitoring reports from the fields on GALS management, recommend domestic quarantining where required and recommend phytosantiary measures and GALS management tools and methods. They will work with the local government and extension agents to brief the communities on the recommendations and directives of the National Response Team.

Output 1.3: Scaling up of tests and best practices to other communities on pest management

The projected timeframe for testing is two years as it will give 2 summer seasons to test different methods and traps as the highest infestation takes place in the summer. The remaining two and half years will be used for reaffirming findings and up scaling to other potential areas of infestation.
Although the selected site for the project interventions are at Gyalpozhing, Mongar as this was the first and highly infested area, other nearby areas (Chali, Saling, Limithang) in Mongar have also reported infestation since 2015. Sharing knowledge and best practices will be carried out among local communities through field trips to site and participating in application of traps.

Component 2: Develop strategies/framework and models for pest management

Output 2.1: Agro-biodiversity protected through the development of strategies/ framework and institutional capacity building for the management of pest/diseases and invasive alien species.

Currently there is no proper management strategy or plan for the pest/diseases and invasive alien species (IAS) which makes the management and control challenging for the implementing agencies. Subsequently, there is a lack of technical capacity of institutions in this area thereby increasing the vulnerability as farmers are not receiving the required technical support. The experiences from the field and the information from the diagnostic protocol, response guideline under component 1 and population dynamics and niche modeling under component 2 will provide adequate information for development of a strategy/framework on pest management.
This strategy or framework will provide guidance in terms of:

1. Prevention
2. Early Detection and Rapid Response
3. Control and Management
4. Restoration and Rehabilitation.

Specific capacity building will be carried out for the technical agencies so that they are able to assist the farming communities while dealing with such issues. This will help

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reduce threat to health and food security and build adaptive capacity of the climate vulnerable rural communities in Bhutan.

Output 2.2: Data and models generated for pest management under changing climate scenarios.

2.2.1 Study population dynamics of GALS for effective pest management:

An in-depth survey and studies are necessary to generate scientific data to understand the population dynamics of the GALS population in Bhutan, their area expansion and damages caused by GALS and their subsequent economic impact. As reported by Raut and Ghose (1984), GALS has been present in Bhutan possibly for many decades in the warmer lowlands of Bhutan. These pests are now spotted in other districts such as Samdrupjongkhar, Gelephu and Mongar. Pest population and information are crucial to take appropriate phytosanitary measures based on the degree of pest severity. Therefore, a validation study is required to understand the population dynamics across the country which will serve as baseline information to project changes in population and areas that may become affected under different climate projections. The Agriculture and Research Development Centres (ARDC) at Wengkhar, Mongar and Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment Research (UWICER) will be engaged for the study. This will help build preparedness and targeted measures for specific locations.

2.2.2 Environmental niche modelling for spread of GLAS will be conducted under different climate change scenarios:

With information generated from the Output 2.2.1 on the population of GALS, niche modelling to forecast GALS outbreak will be developed to assist regulatory authorities with inspection and monitoring of potential risk areas. In order to carry out niche modelling, local research based institutions under the Royal University of Bhutan (in particular the College of Natural Resources) and the Ugyen Wangchuk Institute for Conservation and Environment Research (UWICER) will be engaged. Subsequently, they will also work with the Agriculture and Research Development Centres (ARDC) at Mongar. The expected time frame is 3-4 years. Based on the pest projections developed through the modelling, regulatory measures will be implemented to effectively manage GALS populations in the focused potential areas. This will prevent damages to agricultural crops and the surrounding environment thereby protecting the health and livelihoods of the farmers and communities.

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Component 3: Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests/diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment

Output 3.1: Promote innovative solutions on pest/diseases and IAS management

Activities to promote innovative ideas will be carried out in the education sector (universities and research community) as well as the general public in identifying new

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ways of managing pest/diseases and IAS. This will be done in the form of competitions that will support innovative ideas. The competition will be held at the national level and it will target over 100 university students giving equal opportunity to both genders. The criteria for the competition will be finalized based on a discussion with sectoral experts from the agriculture, education and forest sectors. Some key criteria that may be used are application of technology, innovativeness, environmental friendly and cost effectiveness. It could be in terms of reporting the outbreaks or locating and identifying areas that see new infestations through platforms such as apps or GIS coordinates etc or eradicating the pests. Three winners will be selected. Based on the budget proposed and available, one or more of the winners will be selected to implement the idea. Symposiums and seminars could also be held to further discuss the innovative solutions.

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Output 3.2: Raising awareness on impacts of pests/diseases and IAS due to changing climate

This output will be focused on increasing awareness at all levels ensuring different groups (men, women, youth) have targeted awareness programs. Some of the activities proposed under this output are:

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- Design and implement awareness campaigns specifically targeting farmers (men and women) focusing on climate change adaptation. A total of 250 people (60% male and 40% female) from the communities will be part of the outreach programs in order to build capacity.
- Develop field reports and policy briefs promoting the innovative technology supported through this project for wider distribution.
- Outreach to a larger audience through various means using appropriate mediums (social media, television, websites, printed media).

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

As per the Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2017, Gyalpozhing town has a population of 2629 with 1374 males and 1255 females. There are no indigenous people living in the project sites. In Mongar 63.2% of the population depend on agriculture which is higher than the population engaged in agriculture at the national level which is 51.1% (Labor Force Survey 2019). The interventions from this project will safeguard the crops of the farming communities of Gyalpozhing and other areas in Mongar during the up-scaling process.

Although no gender assessment has been done for this project, a research study on "Equitable and meaningful participation in climate change adaptation and water governance in rural Bhutan" carried out by Tarayana Foundation; a local CSO in Bhutan under the auspices of the NAPA project provides relevant information that can be

adapted for this project. The study was conducted based on the recommendation from the National Environment Commission who was then managing the NAPA II Program. In the research study, there is an indication that men's participation in project related meetings was low in Mongar and Tsirang from an assessment of 4 targeted districts. This has been mainly attributed to the fact that women remain at home while men engage in wage labor that take them out of the community (TF 2018). While this may indicate the probability of having more women from Gyalpozhing, Mongar to participate; Tarayana Foundation will be engaged as they have expertise in community mobilization have experience with gender assessment. Also, the proportion of females (51.7%) working in the agriculture sector is higher than that of males (41.8%). Therefore, women will be engaged in the trainings and technology will be made available to them. In order to affirm that women are engaged in the trainings as well as have access to the technology, the local leaders will be guided to encourage the participation of women.

Through the management of GALS, the local ecosystem especially the plant varieties in the forest will be protected. Subsequently, health of the people is also protected with the removal of GALS as they are known to carry several pathogens and including a parasitic nematode capable of causing meningitis.

C. Describe how the project encourages or accelerates development of innovative adaptation practices, tools or technologies and/or describe how the project helps generate evidence base of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products or technologies, as a basis for potential scaling up.

This project will apply innovative methods in two forms by:

i) application of an innovative technology that will be adapted to suit Bhutan's conditions for pest management in particular Giant African Land Snails (GALS)

The current practice of GALS containment and eradication management in Bhutan are hand collection, salt and pesticide application which has not been effective in managing the issue and innovative measure are required to change the way things are being done. These management practices will now be replaced with trapping systems in the targeted area. Some of the commercially available traps are bait and barrier technology which could include Snailer Snail and Slug Trap, Snail Buster, and slug math among others. The baits used for these traps is generally banana/papaya fruit or commercially produced snail buster bait. Other methods being used are the Corry's slug and snail killer pellets and the Corry's slug and snail easy kill gel. They use sodium ferric and iron-phosphate as baits, both of which are safe to use around pets and wildlife and the uneaten baits degrade naturally. Different tests will be used and adapted to determine the most viable option for Bhutan that will take into consideration effectiveness, economic and environmental friendly parameters that will not only eradicate the pests but also ensure that it has no other environmental and health impacts. These options will undergo several processes of testing, learning and scaling up. The fact that the National Environment Commission and BAFRA are working on this together ensures that while BAFRA will implement the core of the activities, the NEC as the national

Deleted: The increase in the occurrence of pests/diseases and IAS with climate change is not only impacting the agricultural sector but also the health and natural environment. This project will generate environmental and social benefits through enhanced awareness at various levels and protection of environment through pest management. The awareness programs will take a targeted approach ensuring gender, youth and children are taken into consideration. ¶

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agency on environmental management will monitor and review the activities so that they adhere to the environmental safeguards of the country.

Communities in the area will be engaged prior to the process, during the process and training on the most viable options will be imparted to them. The testing of the traps has to be implemented by BAFRA as the technical agency who in turn will engage the community through stakeholder consultation workshops and field work while rolling out the traps. The input from the communities will be in terms of affordability, ease of application and access to the traps as they will have to be imported. The projected timeframe for testing is two years as it will give 2 summer seasons to test different methods and traps as the highest infestation takes place in the summer. The remaining two and half years will be used for reaffirming findings and up scaling to other potential areas of infestation.

ii) These methods will be documented in the form of field reports, Pest management Protocols and guidelines and disseminated to wider stakeholders for up-scaling. Through process and social development changes by developing strategies or a framework for pest management and promoting innovative ideas from diverse groups on pest/disease and Invasive Alien Species management.

Without a framework or a strategy for pest/disease and IAS management; most of the management practices are ad-hoc and need based. Through this project, a strategy or framework will be developed for management of pest/diseases and IAS. This will provide guidance to the regulatory and enforcement agencies in ensuring the smooth implementation of outbreaks, containment and eradication of pests & IAS. Subsequently; the various awareness interventions will bring about a social change in making communities, youth and the general public, partners in management of pests and IAS. The capacity building of local communities, Civil Society Organizations and governmental institutions will help promote best practices and exchange of lessons learned which could lead to institutional growths that will make it possible for replicating and up scaling the initiatives beyond the project period.

D. Please confirm whether the project meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and is in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The National Environment Commission Secretariat, who will serve as the overall coordinating agency of this project, is also the agency that enforces and monitors environmental compliance and as such will ensure that this project meets all relevant national standards and codes. The proposed interventions will be implemented by the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) who ensures food safety and an integrated biosecurity system to safeguard the environment from biosecurity threats. Lastly, BTFEC; the National Implementing Entity through its vast experience in management of resources will ensure that the project meets the highest fiduciary standards.

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Additionally, the activities of this project are aligned with:

- Policy goals of the **Food and Nutrition Security Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan (2014)** that includes "Ensure availability of safe and adequate varieties of food to meet food requirements of the population at all times".

- **Plant Quarantine Act of Bhutan, 1993** prevents the introduction of pests into the country through regulation of import and export of plants and plant products.
- **Bio-security Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2010** promulgates protection of agricultural production systems form pests and diseases.
- Further, the **National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), the Second and Third National Communications** also highlight the importance of addressing the growing concerns of pests and diseases from climate change.
- Bhutan's **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** particularly states "Promote climate resilient agriculture to contribute towards achieving food and nutrition security through:
  - Developing and institutionalize surveillance of crop pests and diseases.
  - Enhancement of national capacity to develop and implement emergency response to agricultural pest and disease outbreaks/epidemics.

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

The project includes a specific component on knowledge management and enhancement of capacities (component 3), at various levels targeting different groups. The knowledge management and dissemination of lessons learnt will be conducted as follows:

a) For local communities, engagement during the application of the technology and transfer of knowledge to the farmers. Capacity building of communities in the identification and reporting of outbreaks will also be carried out. The lessons learnt will be captured through monitoring, evaluation and field reports and shared with all stakeholders.
b) Local research communities from the Royal University of Bhutan and UWICE will be on board to collect data, carry out environmental niche modeling of pests and their population dynamics in the face of climate change which will be shared at research seminars and be openly available.
c) Competitions at universities and the larger public will be undertaken, which will be shared through various media platforms (videos, social media etc). The competition will be held at the national level and the criteria for the competition will be finalized based on a discussion with sectoral experts from the agriculture, education and forest sectors. Some key criteria that may be used are application of technology, innovativeness, environmental friendly and cost effectiveness. Three winners will be selected. Based on the budget proposed and available, one or more of the winners will be selected to implement the idea.

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F. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project. Describe how the project will engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups, including gender considerations, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Environmental and Social screening and Risk Assessment

	Potential Environmental and Social Risk	Level of significance (Low, Medium, High)	Risk Management Measures
1.	Human Rights	Low	The project does not foresee any risk to human rights. It will consider affected communities that are impacted by GALS infestation.
2.	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Low	Women will especially benefit from crop being protected from pest/diseases and IAS given their major role in manually removing them during cropping season. Women participation will be considered and encouraged through involvement of local leaders and Tarayana Foudation (CSO)
3.	Environmental sustainability	Medium	The application of commercial traps will need to further undergo impact assessment on the surrounding environment and native species. An initial assessment of existing native species will be carried out to generate a baseline of existing flora and fauna. The selection of traps will consider all environmental safeguards.
4.	Community health	Low	GLAS are known to carry several plant and animal pathogens incuding a parasitic nemoatode capable of

			causing meningitis in humans. The project will be removing GALS which in turn have a positive impact on the health of the communities.
5.	Cultural herigate and displacement/resettlement	Low	There are no foreseen impacts on culture nor any displacement or resettlement is required
6.	Indigenous People	Low	There are no indigenous people in the project site.
7.	Institutional sustainability and compliance with law	Low	The implementation arrangement of NECS and BAFRA working together as partners will strengthen coordination efforts and also bring more sectors on board to address the impacts of climate change and build institutional capacities at various agencies. The program conforms with all national laws, policies and strategies as listed under Part II, section D.

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Check List ... [1]

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

Rural communities are highly dependent on natural resources and Bhutanese farmers only engage in subsistence farming. With socio economic development leading to rural urban migration, the farming communities are already under a lot of stress trying to sustain themselves. In addition to this; the increasing impacts of climate change are causing even more pressure on the livelihoods of the farmers. The adaptive capacity of these communities is low, which is largely attributable to high poverty levels. Poverty limits the ability of communities to change present behavior and adopt new approaches to overcome climate change impacts. The farmers invest all their resources into procuring seeds, livestock, irrigation etc and therefore lack the additional investment required to deal with climate change impacts.

This adaptation proposal will bear the cost incurred by farmers in managing pests/diseases and invasive alien species that are increasing due to the changing climate. The project will bear the cost of new technologies and also raise awareness and share knowledge and information. Without the additional fund and technologies, farmers are unable to eradicate the Giant African Land Snails (GALS) from their farm which pose the risk of not only losing their crops but are also exposed to health hazards that can be caused by GALS. With the test and application of the traps through the project, the government will be in the position to continue with the best practices as it earlier did not have the capacity or resources to explore innovative solutions for the management of the pest. Also, with the set up of a national task force, protocols and guidelines there will be an integrated flow of information and recommendation for action on the ground and will ensure the sustainability of the project in the medium term.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Describe the arrangements for project / programme implementation.

The National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) as the focal agency for UNFCCC will take the coordination role and implement the activities that are targeted towards development of national strategy, awareness and advocacy programs, knowledge products, in collaboration with all stakeholders. The NECS will work closely with Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) who will implement the core activities.

The oversight of the project will be done by the BTFEC as the NIE and the project managers will report physical and financial reporting to the NIE as per the requirements. As it is a fairly small grant, a project board will not be formed. However, all management decisions including but not limited to project monitoring and evaluation, accountability of deliverables and oversight will be done jointly with the head of the agencies (NECS,BAFRA,NIE). The management will approve annual work plans, review periodical reports as well approve any deviations from the approved plans.

For the implementation, the project will be managed by a **Project Manager (PM)** each, both at BAFRA and at the NECS. A **Project Director** at NECS will oversee the coordination of the activities at both BAFRA and NECS. The roles of the project manager and Director will be taken up by regular officials at the NECS and BAFRA.

B. Describe the monitoring and evaluation arrangements and provide a budgeted M&E plan.

The primary responsibility for day-to-day project monitoring and implementation rests with the Project Managers. The Project Manager will develop semi-annual status report to ensure the efficient implementation of the project which will be submitted at the end of every 6 months to the NIE. The Project Manager will inform the management any delays or difficulties during implementation, so that the appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted. The Project Manager will also ensure that all

project activities maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in monitoring and reporting project results. Based on the periodic financial statements, an audit report will be prepared at the end of the project period. The AF project will comply with formal guidelines, protocols and toolkits issued by the AF as well as follow the monitoring and evaluation plan of the government in terms of reporting annually through the Annual Performance Agreement. Periodic monitoring will be conducted through visits to the intervention sites undertaken by relevant staff.

Deliverables	Responsible Entity	Cost
Semi-Annual Status reports	Project Manager(s)	USD 2,000
Audit Report	Auditors	USD 1,500

C. Include a simple results framework for the project proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators.

Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Milestone	Means of verification
Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity.	Types of trapping systems adapted and used.	0	2	Field reports
	Protocols and response guide developed	0	1	Document
	Formation of national response team	0	1	ToR for team
	Farmers and communities with access to traps.	0	150 farmers (90 Male and 60 female) with access to traps	Field reports and list of beneficiaries
Develop strategy and models for pest management	Strategy/framework developed.	0	1	Document
	No. of officials trained to respond to pest & IAS management (gender disaggregated)	0	15	Training reports
	Models and assessments on climate change impacts on pests	0	1	Report

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Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests/diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment	Number of innovative solutions on pest/diseases and IAS management received Opportunity given to youth through universities for innovative solutions competition. Number of awareness programs (Targeting 60% male and 40% female) Communities engaged in outreach progam	0 0 0 0	3 100 (50% male, 50% female) 2 250 (60% male and 40% female)	Competition results Competition terms and conditions Program documents Field reports

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

Project Objective(s)[6]	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Validate trapping systems as innovative tools adapted to eradicate pests in Bhutan	Innovative tools for eradicating pests in place. Protocols and response guide developed National Response team in place. Up-scale to other communities	8. Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies 3. Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level	8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level. 3.1 Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses	131,000
Develop strategy and models for sustainable management of pest/diseases and IAS.	Strategies, data and models generated for pest management.	7. Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures.	7. Climate Change priorities are integrated into national development strategy	57,000
Awareness generation, capacity	Innovative ideas and knowledge	3. Strengthened awareness and	3.1 Percentage of targeted population	35,000

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[6] The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

building of farmers and other stakeholders on the problems and management of pests/diseases and IAS.	sharing in managing pests/diseases and IAS to promoted Community involved and trained	ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level	aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses	
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Component 1: Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity	trapping systems used Protocols and response guide developed National Response team in place. Up-scale to to other communities	8. Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated 3.2 Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	8.1 No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated. 3.2.1 No. of technical committees/associations formed to ensure transfer of knowledge	131,000
Component 2: Develop strategy/framework and models for pest management	Strategy/framework and models for pest/diseases and invasive alien species management developed.	7. Improved integration of climate resilience strategies into country development plans	7.2 No. of targeted development strategies with incorporated climate change priorities enforced.	57,000
Component 3: Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests/diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment	Number of innovative solutions on pest/diseases and IAS management received Number of awareness programs	3.1 Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	3.1.1 No. of news outlets in the local press and media that have covered the topic.	35,000

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E. Include a budget, including a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use, and an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs.

Project Outcome	Output	Activity	Cost (USD)	Total

Component 1: Reduce and eradicate pests and invasive alien species to save crops and biodiversity	trapping systems used	Field visits & Stakeholders consultations	12,000	131,000
		Collaborative meeting with technical department (NPPC, NBC etc)	10,000	
		Tools and equipments (Sample/tests & Traps)	50,000	
	Protocols and response guide developed	Consultancy tender (Local)	15,000	
		Stakeholders consultation	7,000	
		Sensitization/Training workshop	17,000	
		Print & Publication	4,000	
	Up scale to other communities	Tools and equipments	10,000	
		Sensitization/training	6,000	
Component 2: Develop systems and models for pest management	Strategy/framework for pest/diseases and invasive alien species management developed.	Contractual Services	9,000	57,000
		Stakeholder workshops	3,000	
		Institutional capacity building	10,000	
		Field verification	9,500	
		Print & Audio Visual	1,500	
	Models and assessments on climate change impacts on pests/diseases & IAS	Contractual Services	15,000	
		Information Technology Equipment	5,500	
		Workshops/Meetings	3,500	

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Component 3: Outreach and awareness on the impact of pests/diseases and IAS on the agriculture and environment	Number of innovative solutions on pest/diseases and IAS management received Number of awareness programs	Media expenses (Advertisements, etc) Workshop (programs with communities) Competition (education institutes etc) Print & Publication, Audio Visual	2,000 12,000 12,000 9,000	35,000
Project Management	Progress Reporting Meetings Reports print & Publication Supplies IT Equipment Field gear/equipment Audit Office equipment		8,000 2,000 1,000 2,500 3,500 1,500 1,500	20,000
Project Implementing Entity Fee			7,000	7,000
TOTAL				250,000

F. Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.

Disbursement Schedule	**Upon Signing Agreement**	**Inception workshop**	**6 months after project starts**	**1 year after project starts**	**2 years after project starts**	**Total**
Schedule Date	September 2021	November 2021	March 2022	September 2022	September 2023	
Project Funds (Component 1-3)	0	$50,000	$60,000	$58,000	$55,000	$223,000
Project Execution cost	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	0	$20,000
Project Implementing Entity Fee	$2,000	$2,500	$2,500	0	0	$7,000
TOTAL	**$7,000**	**$57,500**	**$67,500**	**$63,000**	**$55,000**	**$250,000**

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[7] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

Mr.Rinchen Wangdi Director Gross National Happiness Secretariat	Date*: January 17, 2021*

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

➢ I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans, Food and Nutrition Security Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan (2014), Plant Quarantine Act of Bhutan, 1993, Bio-security Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2010, National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), the Second and Third National Communications and Bhutan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
Signed in pdf version *Singye Dorji* Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: *January 17,2021*	Tel.*+975 (02) 339861/62* email: *singye@bhutantrustfund.bt*
Project Contact Person: *Mr. Dorji*	
Tel.*+975(02)339861/62 and email: dorji@bhutantrustfund.bt*	

Deleted: *Ugyen Lhendup*

Deleted: *ulhendup*

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

དཔལ་ལྡན་འབྲུག་གྲུང་།།
རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་དགའ་སྤྱི་དཔལ་འཛོམས་ཀྱི་ཚོགས།།

Royal Government of Bhutan
Gross National Happiness Commission

GNHC/DCD/AF/2021/*Lockdown-Nil* January 17, 2021

To:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN P4-400
Washington, D.C., 20433
U.S.A
Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org

Subject: *Endorsement for Building Adaptive Capacity through Innovative Management of Pests/Disease and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Bhutan to Enhance Sustainable Agro-biodiversity and Livelihoods.*

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation and executed by National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) and Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)

Sincerely,

Rinchen Wangdi
Designated Authority for AF in Bhutan and
Director, Gross National Happiness Commission