



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.38/7
3 September 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty eighth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 19 - 23 October 2026

Agenda Item 4 (d)

PROPOSAL FOR NEPAL

Background

1. The Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPG) for Parties to Access Resources from the Adaptation Fund (the Fund), adopted by the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board), state in paragraph 45 that regular adaptation project and programme proposals, i.e. those that request funding exceeding US\$ 1 million, would undergo either a one-step, or a two-step approval process. In case of the one-step process, the proponent would directly submit a fully-developed project proposal. In the two-step process, the proponent would first submit a brief project concept, which would be reviewed by the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and would have to receive the endorsement of the Board. In the second step, the fully-developed project/programme document would be reviewed by the PPRC, and would ultimately require the Board's approval.

2. The Templates approved by the Board (Annex 5 of the OPG, as amended in March 2016) do not include a separate template for project and programme concepts but provide that these are to be submitted using the project and programme proposal template. The section on Adaptation Fund Project Review Criteria states:

For regular projects using the two-step approval process, only the first four criteria will be applied when reviewing the 1st step for regular project concept. In addition, the information provided in the 1st step approval process with respect to the review criteria for the regular project concept could be less detailed than the information in the request for approval template submitted at the 2nd step approval process. Furthermore, a final project document is required for regular projects for the 2nd step approval, in addition to the approval template.

3. The first four criteria mentioned above are:

- (i) Country Eligibility,
- (ii) Project Eligibility,
- (iii) Resource Availability, and
- (iv) Eligibility of NIE/MIE.

4. The fifth criterion, applied when reviewing a fully-developed project document, is:
(v) Implementation Arrangements.

5. It is worth noting that at the twenty-second Board meeting, the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Fund was approved and at the twenty-seventh Board meeting, the Gender Policy (GP) of the Fund was also approved. Consequently, compliance with both the ESP and the GP has been included in the review criteria both for concept documents and fully-developed project documents. The proposal template was revised as well, to include sections requesting demonstration of compliance of the project/programme with the ESP and the GP.

6. At its seventeenth meeting, the Board decided (Decision B.17/7) to approve "Instructions for preparing a request for project or programme funding from the Adaptation Fund", contained in the Annex to document AFB/PPRC.8/4, which further outlines applicable review criteria for both

concepts and fully-developed proposals. The latest version of this document was launched in conjunction with the revision of the Operational Policies and Guidelines in November 2013.

7. Based on the Board Decision B.9/2, the first call for project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Fund was sent out on April 8, 2010.

8. The following project concept document titled “GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions” was submitted for Nepal by the National Trust for Nature Conservation of Nepal (NTNC), which is the National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

9. This is the seventh submission of the project concept proposal using the two-step submission process. It was first submitted as project concept ahead of the forty-sixth Board Meeting.

10. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-seventh Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal, assigned it the diary number AF00000474, and completed a review sheet.

11. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with NTNC and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.

12. 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.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
"GREEN-KOSHI: GROUNDING RESILIENCE AND ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT THROUGH
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS"

Project Title GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions

Project ID AF00000474

Category Regular size project (over \$1 million)

Type Single country project

Stage Concept

Country Nepal

Implementing Entity NTNC

Financing Requested USD 9,927,750.00

Reviewer Alyssa Maria Gomes

Co-reviewer(s)

IE Contact Person

Dr. Manish Raj Pandey, Lina Chalise

Secretariat's Overall Comment

The project “GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions” aims to enhance the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Chure–Terai landscape of Koshi Province.

The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant of USD 150,000.

The initial technical review raised several issues, such as the lack of both an initial gender analysis and information about the stakeholder consultations, and a more comprehensive cost-effectiveness justification, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.

The second technical review raised several issues, such as ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits and the incorporation of gender considerations; estimates of the economic, social, and environmental benefits; and the roles of each institution in the Learning and Knowledge Management Strategy, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.

The third technical review raised some issues, such as a comprehensive narrative for the Theory of Change of the proposal, a sound justification for the use of UPSs, the required financial arrangements for sustainability, among others, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.

The fourth technical review raised some issues, such as the lack of targets for some outcomes and outputs, the lack of a clear justification for the use of UPSs, and inconsistencies with the project’s activities budget, among others, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.

The fifth technical review raised some minor issues, such as strengthening the explanation of the participation target of 20% women and a summary table with outcome and output targets and correctly completing the results alignment table, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.

The sixth technical review found that most of the CRs and CARs of the fifth review are addressed, except revising the proposal submission date and components financing table, revising components description,

aligning the AF RF alignment table as per AF latest guidance, among other issues/ notes raised in the review.

The final technical review finds that the pending CRs and CARs are addressed.

Country Eligibility

Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol, or the Paris Agreement?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Yes. The country has ratified both the Kyoto Protocol (September 16, 2005) and the Paris Agreement (October 05, 2016).
(11 November 2025)

Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Yes. Nepal is a developing country which is vulnerable to climate change. Koshi Province, a climatically and ecologically diverse region of Nepal, is experiencing intensifying climate-driven risks, ranging from erratic rainfall and glacial lake outburst floods to prolonged droughts and ecosystem degradation.
(11 November 2025)

Project Eligibility

Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Yes. As per the Endorsement letter dated 03 August 2025.
(11 November 2025)

Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes. The concept note proposal has 31 pages.

CR1:

1. Please ensure all tables are labelled with captions and all page numbers are visible. Consider adding paragraph numbers.

2. Please comply with the AF template headings and organize the information as per the heading
(11 November 2025)

Yes. The concept note proposal is 50 pages.

CR1:

1. Cleared.
2. Not cleared.

Please ensure titles are correctly numbered.

CR1(NEW): Please ensure that the content in each section of Part II aligns with the requirements specified.

CAR1 (NEW):

1. Please update the stage of completion section of the proposal on the cover page.
 2. Please remove the co-financing figure on the cover of the proposal.
 3. Please remove all decimal points for financing information presented in the proposal. See also CAR17.
- (17 December 2025)

CR1:

2. Cleared.

All titles and tables are correctly numbered.

CR1(NEW): Cleared.

CAR1 (NEW):

1. Cleared.

The stage of completion section of the proposal was updated on the cover page.

2. Cleared.

The co-financing figure was removed on the cover of the proposal. All decimal points have been removed throughout the CN.

(03 February 2026)

Not Cleared.

CR1 (re-opened): Please address the following:

1. Double check/ revise the last submission date on p.1.
2. In Table 2 "Project Components and Financing", Add a row to indicate total at component level.
3. The amounts in the Project/Programme Components and Financing table do not align with what is shown on the online submission platform. Please verify and ensure consistency across both.

Editorial notes:

To improve the quality and navigation of the document, please consider the following:

1. Add table of contents and lists tables, figures and abbreviations (will not be counted towards document length AF limits).
2. Spell out abbreviations when first used and refer to tables, figures and annexes at related discussions/ sections.
3. Conduct a quick round of editing/ proofreading after addressing the review comments.

(27 July 2026)

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR1: Cleared (pp. 1 and 8). The last submission date has been confirmed, component-level totals have been added, and the component titles and amounts are consistent with the online platform. The difference in ordering of Components 1 and 4 is a technical platform issue and does not affect the substance or financing of the concept.

Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes. However further information is required. The proposed project includes five specific objectives, including intermediate outcomes and targets for each one. The proposal provides a clear adaptation intent. The set of activities aim to address climate change in the province of Koshi (north of Nepal), including activities such as early warning systems and nature-based solutions. In addition, it includes the diagram of the Theory of Change (Figure 2, page 6), that shows how the activities will lead to substantial outcomes. However, both output and outcomes should be revised and the Adaptation Fund Strategic Objectives supported by this programme should be included. A clear, overarching objective is also missing in the narrative.

CR2: Please include a general objective for the proposed programme, englobing the five specific objectives already included in the concept note.

CR3: Kindly revise the main project's outcomes and outputs to ensure they are clearly and appropriately stated. For each output, explicitly detail the corresponding activities that will be undertaken. Please also remember to number each outcome, and number their associated outputs and activities as done in the ToC diagram

CR4: Please also provide the Theory of Change (ToC) narrative to show how the chosen interventions are most suitable adaptation responses under future scenarios.

CAR1: Kindly indicate explicitly how the project supports one or more of the Adaptation Fund Strategic Objectives at Part II Section B of the proposal.
(11 November 2025)

CAR2 (NEW): Please confirm if the proposal contains USPs as some of the language suggests that some of the adaptation actions are not yet known. Please consult Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects and amend the proposal accordingly.

CR2: Cleared.

As per information provided in Project/Programme Objectives (pages 3-4)

CR3: Not cleared.

- Please follow the AF template structure for concept notes. All information regarding components, outcomes, outputs, and activities should be included in Part II.A.
- Kindly specify targets for the proposed outputs under each component.

CR4: Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 48 (page 8). The concept note proposal also includes a Theory of

Change Diagram (Figure 2).

CAR1: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part III.C (pages 39-40, paragraphs 135-139)
(17 December 2025)

CR1(New1): Please adjust the following:

1. The annexes are included in the total page limit (maximum 50 pages). If the ToC diagram is in Annex D, please ensure that it is clearly referenced in paragraph 15.
2. In addition, please combine paragraphs 15, 16 and 17, as without the ToC diagram it is difficult to follow the different pathways. It is strongly recommended that all the ToC narrative be consolidated under paragraph 15, following the structure below: (i) Main problem and causes; (ii) Main objective and specific objectives; (iii) Components; (iv) Outcomes and outputs; (v) Risks and assumptions. The narrative should clearly present the vertical logic of the proposed project.
3. The activities associated with each output were presented more clearly in the previous submission. It would be helpful to clearly show which activity corresponds to each activity number.

CAR2 (NEW): Not cleared.

While paragraph 27 confirms that UPSs are part of the proposed project, please follow the Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects and include in the CN the following:

1. A duly justified explanation for the use of UPSs;
2. The specific benefits of not formulating the activities in advance; and
3. An explanation of how these benefits outweigh the potential risks of non-compliance with the ESP and GP.
4. At paragraph 102 please indicate that the UPSs will also be subject to the ESMP.

CR3: Not cleared.

While the content under Part II.A is appropriate, please specify targets for the proposed outcomes and outputs under each component.

(03 February 2026)

CR1(New1):

1. Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 15.

Annexes are included in the total page limit and the ToC diagram in Annex D is properly referenced.

2. Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 15.

Original paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 have been combined into paragraph 15. The ToC narrative is described under structure: (i) Main problem and causes; (ii) Main objective and specific objectives; (iii) Components; (iv) Outcomes and outputs; (v) Risks and assumptions.

3. Not cleared.

While activities are properly numbered and identified in Annex E, please revise and amend the following outputs, as they appear to be outcomes:

- (i) Output 4.1. Increased awareness is a medium-to long- term result and therefore it is an Outcome. Please amend to reflect an output.
- (ii) Output 4.2. Enhanced adaptive capacities are medium-to long- term results and therefore it is an Outcome. Please rephrase to be an output.

Please adjust the related activities accordingly to ensure consistency with the revised outputs.

CAR2 (NEW):

1. Not cleared.

While an explanation is provided for the use of USPs, the justification is unclear. Please explain why priority sites cannot be selected beforehand without risking maladaptation and exclusion of vulnerable groups.

2. Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 25.

It is explained that the use of USPs provides three benefits. These benefits are (i) targeting the most vulnerable communities; (ii) sequencing investments according to readiness and safeguards clearance; and (iii) technical tailoring of measures.

3. Not cleared.

Please provide a clear explanation on how these three identified benefits outweigh the potential risks. The current explanation is not clear about how this is achieved.

4. Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 100.

It has been included that USPs will also be subject to the ESMP.

CR3: Not cleared.

While specific targets have been provided for some outcomes and outputs under Part II.A, please include targets for all outcomes and outputs in Annex E, next to each corresponding item, as their current presentation is confusing.

(08 May 2026)

CR1(New1):

3. Not cleared.

Please include summary table of all targets for outcomes and outputs under Part II.B.

CAR2 (NEW):

1. Cleared.

As per information provided on page 8. A sound justification has been provided to support the use of USPs.

3. Cleared.

As per information provided on page 8. A sound justification has been provided to support three benefits of the use of USPs.

CR3: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Annex E, targets have been defined for each outcome and output.

Please note that the FP should include the methodology for calculating these targets.

(22 June 2026)

CR1(New1): Not cleared/ re-opened.

Revise Part IIA components description layout and contents as per the below:

1. Components description layout should include Component title along with the AF outcomes it supports, followed by the outcome/s under each component, the output/s under each outcome, and the activities under each output along with supporting quantification of these activities and beneficiaries to substantiate the requested funds.

2. Reflect as appropriate in Part IIA discussions the information provided in Table 4a, and delete Table 4a from Part IIB, as its key information are reflected in that section and are sufficient for CN stage.

3. Reflect as appropriate the information provided in the last column of Annex F table in the components description under Part IIA.

4. Please see below some guidance notes to consider in the preparation of full proposal.

Notes to consider in the project design/ preparation of full proposal:

1. A typical project design would have an overall objective and a set of specific objectives. (note: specific objectives are different than project components and hence their respective statements should be different).

2. A typical project will include a number of components. A project component is a key part/ main deliverable of the project that would contribute to the achievement of its objectives.

3. Each component should have its own outcome/s that reflect the associated outputs under the component and would fully or partially lead to the related desired specific objective and/ or project overall objective.

4. An outcome is the desired impact/ sub-specific or specific objective that results from a specific set of outputs (one or more output) under the component. The outcome/s under the component should be distinct to that component only (note: a component would typically have one outcome but could have more depending on the size of component).

5. An output would typically include a set of activities with well-defined targets.

6. Considering the above is highly recommended to enable the adequate monitoring and evaluation of the project (note: the above are meant to avoid some gaps/ deviations observed in the project design at CN stage. (27 July 2026)

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR1 (New1): Cleared (pp. 10–12 and Annexes E–F).

Paragraphs 19–23 now describe each component with the relevant AF outcome(s), project outcome(s), outputs, activity ranges, quantified targets or beneficiaries, output budgets and principal cost drivers. The detailed numbered activities remain available in Annex E, which is sufficient at concept-note stage. Table 4a has been deleted through tracked changes and its relevant information incorporated into Part II.A. The remaining guidance is appropriately noted for the full-proposal stage.

Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: No. As per Section A (pages 11 - 12), the proposal provides a broad overview of economic, social and environmental benefits but estimates of these benefits are not quantified. In addition, it states the vulnerable communities in the Chure-Tera region as beneficiaries, but no more details are provided. The concept note does not clearly identify the specific vulnerable groups or demonstrate how benefits will be equitably distributed. On indigenous people, particular benefits provided for this group is not clearly stated or calculated. The proposal does not provide an initial gender analysis.

CAR2: Please quantify the economic, social and environmental benefits in Part II Section B, whenever possible, including a brief explanation of the method used for these calculations. In cases where exact figures are not available, please provide reasoned estimates or qualitative proxies to support the anticipated impact of the project.

CAR3: Please include an Initial Gender Analysis, in line with the Gender Policy requirements, to assess the distinct needs, capacities, roles, and knowledge resources of women and men, and/or to identify how evolving gender dynamics may influence potential changes.

CAR4:

1. Please indicate the overall direct and indirect beneficiaries for this proposal.
2. Kindly state the estimated direct and indirect beneficiaries (gender-disaggregated) for each project outcome. Also, please specify the vulnerable groups (e.g., women, indigenous peoples) who will benefit from the project.

CR5: Please describe how benefits will be equitably distributed, including how gender considerations have been integrated.

(11 November 2025)

CAR2: Not cleared.

- Please provide estimates of the economic, social, and environmental benefits in Part II, Section B.
- Kindly expand the explanation of these benefits to clarify the rationale linking the proposed project activities to the expected economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- Please include the specific actions the proposed project will take to avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the AF ESP and the AF Gender Policy.

CAR3: Cleared. As per information provided in Annex B (pages 44-46).

CAR4:

1. Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.B, paragraph 62 (pages 14–15), approximately 387,810 people will be direct beneficiaries, and a total of 1,939,050 people will be indirect beneficiaries.

2. Not cleared.

While the concept note proposal provides information disaggregated by gender, district, and ethnicity, please also provide the estimated direct and indirect beneficiaries (gender-disaggregated) for each project outcome.

CR5: Not cleared.

Kindly include in Part II.B, the approach for ensuring equitable distribution of benefits and the incorporation of gender considerations.

(17 December 2025)

CAR2: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.B, paragraphs 31–37, estimates for the economic, social, and environmental benefits have been included. In addition, the proposal outlines measures to avoid or mitigate negative impacts, such as the application of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as the adoption of a gender-responsive design for all interventions.

CR2(New1): Not cleared. Please include a brief explanation in the footnote to indicate how the participation target of 20% women was determined.

CAR4:

2. Cleared.

As per information provided in Table 4. The direct and indirect beneficiaries per outcomes 1, 2 and 3 are

included.

CR5: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.B, paragraphs 29–30, the equitable distribution of benefits will be ensured through equity-based targeting of project interventions, including inclusive selection criteria. In addition, a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system will be implemented to track participation and the distribution of benefits.

(03 February 2026)

CR2(New1): Not cleared. Please include a brief explanation in the footnote to indicate how the participation target of 20% women was determined.

(08 May 2026)

CR2(New1): Not cleared. Please strengthen the explanation in the footnote 1 about how the participation target of 20% women was determined.

(22 June 2026)

CR2(New1): Cleared. See Part IIB, paragraph 31 note p. 12 (TC version).

(27 July 2026)

Is the project / programme cost effective?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however further information is needed. The proposal provides some logical explanation of cost-effectiveness of the project. There is some initial thinking around the analysis of alternatives e.g. NbS vs concrete embankments/grey infrastructure. However, the sustainability point of view if the cost-effectiveness is not demonstrated. A comparative cost-benefit analysis is expected during implementation.

CAR5: Kindly include:

- (i) the selected scope and approach of the project's cost-effectiveness; and
- (ii) the sustainability point of view of the proposed interventions.

Where possible, provide quantitative estimates through proxies or qualitative justifications to support the comparison. Please also briefly expand on the analysis of alternatives and ensure a cost-benefit analysis is conducted during the PFG to inform the full proposal.

(11 November 2025)

CAR5:

- (i) Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II.C, paragraph 79, page 18.

- (ii) Not cleared.

Kindly elaborate further on the sustainability aspects of the proposed project. Please note this is not a reference to the AF Outcomes and outputs, but rather to explain how adaptation benefits and project outcomes continue long after the initial funding.

(17 December 2025)

CAR5:

(ii) Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.C, paragraph 42, the sustainability of the project's benefits will be based on natural regeneration processes, as the interventions are primarily NbS.

In addition, from a financial perspective, revenues are expected to be generated through ecotourism and community-based enterprises.

(03 February 2026)

Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however further information is needed. Part II Section C (pages 13-15) outlines 6 national plans (specifically the NAP (2023-2050), NDC 3.0 and Nepal's 16th Five-Year Plan (2024/25–2028/29), 3 sub-national plans; and 2 international commitments. However, broad information is provided in each case. Notably the proposal is somewhat consistent with the plans as it promotes ecosystem-based approaches.

CAR6: Kindly include the identified plans/strategies in a table-listing, including at least:

(i) Specific name of the plan/strategy and years of implementation,

(ii) Main objective,

(iii) Explain the relevance to the proposed project, including its alignment with the existing plan or strategy. A suggested structure could be: 'The proposed project is aligned with [Plan XX], under [Specific Action XX], contributing to [Outcome XX].'

CAR7: Please include any other sectoral plan/strategy related to the proposed project, including the ones related to water, agriculture, and SMEs. Please confirm whether the NAP was launched in 2023 as online show the period of 2021-2050.

(11 November 2025)

CAR6: Cleared.

As per information in Tables 6, 7, 8, and 9 (pages 19-22).

CAR7: Cleared.

As per information in Part II.D, paragraph 83 (the Government of Nepal endorsed the NAP in 2023) and Table 7.
(17 December 2025)

Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Unsure. As per Part II Section D (pages 15-16), the proposal identifies national legal and technical standards relevant to the project. In addition, the document states that an environmental and social management framework will be developed during the full proposal stage. However, a comprehensive list of the specific regulations and standards is required as evidence of compliance.

CAR8: Kindly provide a comprehensive table listing of all specific technical standards applicable to the proposed

project, including agricultural codes/regulations and water quality standards

The table should include:

- (i) specific name/number of the standard/regulation, and goals/objectives,
- (ii) how it is related to the proposed project and the project's compliance status.

In the case that compliance is required, please include the steps needed to comply with it and include the name of the competent authority.

(11 November 2025)

CAR8: Not cleared.

Please include the key compliance requirements for the project as steps and provide details where applicable. In addition, kindly explain how it is related to the proposed activities and its compliance status.

(17 December 2025)

CAR8: Not cleared.

Please revise Table 10 to include the key compliance requirements of the project for each identified technical standard, clearly outlining the main steps to achieve compliance.

(03 February 2026)

CAR8: Cleared.

Key compliance steps have been included in Table 10 for each identified technical standard.

(08 May 2026)

Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Unsure. As per Part II, Section E (Pages 16-17), the proposal refers to the GCF project "Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)" implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE) with technical support from FAO. This project is within the intervention zone. It states that there is no duplication based on geographical coverage. Besides the BRCRN, two more projects are broadly mentioned. However, more comprehensive information is required as well as a sound justification for non-duplication.

CAR9: Kindly include a comprehensive table listing all projects that are or have been implemented previously in Koshi, Nepal and that are complementary to the proposed project. For each project, please indicate the following:

- (i) Project title
- (ii) Donors/Funding Entity
- (iii) Main project interventions
- (iv) Timeline and specific location within country
- (v) Target population
- (vi) Implementing Entity
- (vii) Lesson learned, where applicable
- (viii) Overlaps and synergies with the proposed project, including how the proposed project will build upon interventions of existing and previous projects

The no duplication statement should be clearly justified (e.g. by indicating the distinct geographic locations and/or types of interventions) for each related project identified.

(11 November 2025)

CAR9: Not cleared.

The table listing should be comprehensive. If there are no other complementary projects beyond BRCRN, please state that explicitly in the concept note proposal.

In addition, please note that “no duplication” statement should be clearly justified (e.g. by indicating the distinct geographic locations and/or types of interventions). For example: “There is no duplication of activities between BRCRN and GREEN-Koshi. The latter has been specifically designed to be complementary and synergistic, filling both geographic and thematic gaps”, should be accompanied by an explanation on how the proposed project will ensure that.

(17 December 2025)

CAR9: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.F, paragraphs 62–67 and Table 11, there is no duplication with current projects. In addition, the proposal establishes mechanisms to avoid duplication throughout project implementation.

This should be further elaborated at the Full Proposal stage.

(03 February 2026)

Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, to a limited extent. The proposal does not have a separate learning and knowledge management component. As per Part II Section F (pages 17 – 19), the proposed project includes knowledge management and dissemination of lessons learned activities through different components. It includes knowledge products (e.g. policy briefs and technical manuals); multiple platforms to share these products e.g. existing repository- Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC); and peer learning instances. However, the proposal would benefit from additional details regarding the specific actions planned, the mechanisms for monitoring experiences, and how these actions would be sustained in the long run.

CR6 Please ensure there is a clear learning and knowledge management sub-component to highlight the well-thought-out knowledge management efforts.

CR7: Kindly include details to respond to:

- More details of the specific activities for Learning and Knowledge Management of the proposed project. This should include the institutions involved, specific activities, and main goals. For example, the policy briefs will be about what subject, or the case studies will be focused on what matter.
- who will be responsible for tracking the experiences gained, how this will be done, and when the tracking will take place.
- how the knowledge generated will be sustained after the project concludes.

CR8: Kindly specify what type of information will be collected and how it will be disseminated. For this, please refer to what multiple platforms will be used for dissemination (existing or new ones?) and how that is related to the CCKMC as central hub for dissemination. Also, kindly include the arrangements needed to support these actions.

(11 November 2025)

CR6: Not cleared.

Please include explicitly which component will be the one dedicated to learning and knowledge management of the proposed project.

CR7: Not cleared.

Please refer to the roles of each institution in the Learning and Knowledge Management Strategy. If easier, you may include a table listing this information. The roles for each institution must be specific.

CR8: Not cleared.

Please specify the type of information to be collected. In addition, indicate the arrangements needed to support learning and knowledge management actions. For example: Does the link through the Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC) require signing an agreement? What about financial arrangements?
(17 December 2025)

CR6: Cleared.

As per information in paragraph 71, Component 5 is fully dedicated to LKM activities.

CR7: Cleared.

As per information in Table 12, which includes the role for: (i) NTNC; (ii) MoFE/CCMD; (iii) CIFOR-ICRAF; (iv) Provincial and local governments; and (v) Multi-stakeholder NbS Platforms.

CR8: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.G, the type of information to be collected is included in paragraph 75, and the arrangements with CCKMC are explained in paragraph 16.
(03 February 2026)

Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is required. As per Part II Section G (pages 19-20), the proposal refers broadly to preliminary consultations with a diverse set of stakeholders, including local government representatives, community-based user groups, NTNC field staff, and research partners.. However, the timeframe of this engagement is unclear as well as the details of the consultative process.

CAR10: Kindly provide detailed information on the consultative process covering the following elements:

- (i) Participants of each meeting (i.e. Name of government agency, NGO etc), including the total number of attendees disaggregated by sex
- (ii) Date and location of each meeting
- (iii) Summary of the subjects/issues discussed, and any agreements reached
- (iv) Specify how their interests have been incorporated in proposal
- (v) Explanation of the gender considerations addressed, along with the considerations for other vulnerable groups.

Note this information may be included in a tabular format for easy reference.

CR9: Using existing documents, provide an initial gender analysis which highlights gender dynamics and

differentiated impacts between men and women from a national or sector-wide perspective in areas such as education, employment, health, income, and political participation. Please see CR7.

(11 November 2025)

CAR10: Not cleared.

Please ensure the following in Table 12:

- (i) Expand on the subjects/issues discussed, and highlight the agreements reached
- (ii) Specify how their interests and gender considerations have been incorporated into the proposal, explicitly linking them to the outputs of the proposed project. For example, if the concept note states: “Yes. Dedicated measures to strengthen female leadership and economic opportunities,” it should be expanded to refer to the specific outputs and activities where this was considered.

CR9: Cleared.

As per information in Annex B.

(17 December 2025)

CAR10: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Table 13, the summary of stakeholder consultations now considers the number of participants disaggregated by gender, the issues discussed and decisions reached, and how interests and gender considerations were included in the proposal.

(03 February 2026)

Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Unsure. As per Part II Section H (pages 20 – 21), the concept note outlines the rationale for the benefits associated with the component’s activities, emphasizing that these benefits would not be achievable without Adaptation Fund resources. However, it does not provide clear information regarding additional funding sources. More details are needed.

CR10: Please provide information about whether this project will meet its outcomes and outputs solely with the resources provided by the Adaptation Fund and clarify the co-financing (in-kind contribution) on Page 8.

CR11: Please provide information on how the proposed project’s objective will be achieved in regards adaptation. Also, refer to the costs of the proposed activities.

(11 November 2025)

CR10: Cleared.

As per information provided in Part II.H, paragraph 114, page 29.

CR11: Not cleared.

Please refer to the costs of proposed activities as estimates for this stage. Numbers may be adjusted during the full project preparation phase.

(17 December 2025)

CR11: Not cleared.

Please make reference to the costs of proposed activities. Please note that the costs of the proposed activities

are estimates at this stage and may be adjusted during the full project preparation phase.

(03 February 2026)

CR11: Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 85. An explanation to justified the adaptation cost for each one of the components have been included.

Please note that the costs of the proposed activities are estimates at this stage and may be adjusted during the full project preparation phase.

(08 May 2026)

Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?

Response:

Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however further information is required.

As per Part III Section A (pages 26-28), the alignment of the project with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework is presented considering outcome and outputs for each component. However, there is some misalignment between the Outcomes and Output indicators.

CAR11: Please update the table based on guidance and template provided at

- Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in November 2025) (77 kB, DOC)

(11 November 2025)

CAR11: Not cleared.

Please ensure that Adaptation Fund Outcomes and outputs corresponds to the updated Adaptation Fund's results framework. In addition, ensure that:

- all indicators are numbered
- the USD amount for each component is aligned with the information in Table 2.

(17 December 2025)

CAR11: Not cleared.

Although Tables 15 and 16 were updated, please ensure the following:

- Wording of AF outcomes and outputs (including indicators) are consistent with the AF Results Framework.
- Complete the table using the instructions of the AF Results Framework. For example, while the wording is the same, please note that the upper part (here, Table 15) includes the specific objectives rather than the components.
- Please follow the format indicated in the AF Results Framework. Please note that Tables 15 and 16 should be combined into a single table.

(03 February 2026)

CAR11: Cleared.

As per information provided in Table 15. Wording of AF outcomes and outputs are consistent with the AF Results Framework. The table has been completed according to instructions and original Tables 15 and 16 have been combined into a Table 15.

(08 May 2026)

CAR11 (re-opened). Please ensure that at table 15, the grant amounts are presented at the indicator level for example under outcome fir there is indicator 5 and indicator 5.1. the costs should not be lumped but presented

separately.

(22 June 2026)

CAR11(re-opened): Not fully cleared.

Revise Table 15 to address the following:

1. In the lower part of the table, distribute the allocated amounts at output indicator level.
2. Add rows to indicate totals at AF outcome level and AF output level. The total for each should be equal to the components cost (i.e., 8,280,750).
3. For guidance on the above please refer to Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in November 2025) (77 kB, DOC).

(27 July 2026)

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR11: Cleared (Table 15, pp. 38–42). The original requests have been addressed: grant amounts are distributed across the outcome- and output-indicator rows, and both totals equal USD 8,280,750.

Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, but further information is needed. As per Part II, Section I (pages 21-22), the concept note proposal outlines institutional, financial, environmental, social and knowledge and learning sustainability, providing an exit strategy for each area. It effectively emphasizes integration into local governance, community ownership and livelihood systems.

CAR12: Please clarify the following:

- (i) Have capacity retention mechanisms have been considered?
 - (ii) Given the PES schemes are only exploratory more information is required to back its viability.
 - (iii) Have maintenance arrangements been considered post-project?
 - (iv) Who will lead the update of the national platforms such as Climate Change Knowledge Management Center?
- (11 November 2025)

CAR12: Not cleared.

Please ensure to specify the following:

- Have mechanisms for capacity retention been considered?
- Have post-project maintenance arrangements been addressed?
- Is there any agreement that ensure the CCMD within the MoFE will be responsible for updating national platforms such as the Climate Change Knowledge Management Center?

(17 December 2025)

CAR12: Not cleared.

In Part II.J, paragraphs 96–98, the CN now outlines the mechanisms considered for capacity retention and indicates that post-project maintenance arrangements will depend on local governments. In addition, under Part II.G, the proposal states that the collaboration with CCKMC is expected to be formalized through an institutional agreement or memorandum of understanding.

However, please indicate whether the arrangements with local governments for financial sustainability have

already been established or if this is a future action agreed with the relevant governments.

(03 February 2026)

CAR12: Cleared.

As per information provided in paragraph 96.

It is established that, at concept note stage, the arrangements with local governments are not formalized, however, they will be a defined future action during full proposal preparation/inception through written arrangements specifying O&M financing commitments, budget-line integration, responsible entities and implementation timelines.

(08 May 2026)

Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however further information is needed. As per Part II Section J (pages 22-24), the proposal notes it will align with AF's Environmental and Social Policy. It highlights potential environmental and social risk and potential impacts. The proposal does not state the category in which the screening process has classified the project/programme. The checklist of environmental and social principles has been completed, noting the level of each risk. It highlights mitigation measures but lack the details of the risk rated.

CAR13: Please revise the Checklist of Environmental and Social Principles to ensure that column 3 (Potential impacts) includes the risk description which considers all potential direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative impacts because of the project, as well as the mitigation measures associated with the risk described.

CAR14: Please note for the checklist that Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. For more information, please visit: AF's ESP guidance.

CAR15: Please ensure an initial gender assessment is included providing qualitative and quantitative data for gender roles, activities, needs, and available opportunities and challenges or risks for men and women (please see CR7, CR15).

CAR16: Kindly state the category in which the screening process has classified the project (Category A, B or C) in section II.K. Please see the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and its guidance document.
(11 November 2026)

CAR13: Not cleared.

Please ensure the following in Table 13:

- i) If no risk is identified for a given principle, a sound justification must be provided.
- ii) All risks should be started by "There is a risk XX".
- iii) Includes all potential direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative impacts because of the project.
- iv) Includes the mitigation measures associated with each risk described. This should start by "This risk will be mitigated by XX"

CAR14: Not cleared.

Please note for the checklist that Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. Currently they appear as "No further assessment required for compliance" in Table 13.

CAR15: Cleared.

As per information in Annex B.

CAR16: Not cleared.

Kindly state the category in which the screening process has classified the project (Category A, B or C).

(17 December 2025)

CAR13: Not cleared.

While Table 14 has been updated, please ensure the following:

i) If no risk is identified for a given principle, a sound justification must be provided. In addition, if no risk is identified, no mitigation plans are needed.

ii) Expand on the impacts of the identified risks, including all potential direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative impacts.

CAR14: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.K, Table 14, now Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 apply.

CAR16: Cleared.

As per the information provided in Part II.K, paragraph 102, the proposed project is classified as category B.

(03 February 2026)

CAR13: Not cleared.

While some of the required amendments have been included in Table 14: (i) a justification for no risk and (ii) mitigation plans were deleted when no risk is identified; please expand on the impacts of the identified risks, including all potential direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative impacts.

(08 May 2026)

CAR13: Cleared.

As per information in Table 14. Identified risks have been strengthened to include potential, direct/indirect, and transboundary impacts.

(22 June 2026)

Resource Availability

Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes. Nepal's remaining country cap is \$30.47M.

Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Unsure.

CAR17: The calculations of the Total project cost is incorrect at the Components and financing table. Total project costs should be all components + executing entity costs and should therefore be \$9,279,661.

1. Please amend the Project component and financing table to reflect updated figures for total project costs.
2. Please remove the co-financing amount from the Project component and financing table (particularly since this is an in-kind contribution). Also please clarify under objective 1 outcome 2: increased stewardship and co-financing of eco-systems.
3. Please verify if the IE cost indicated which now stands at 7.76% is the actual percental that was intended to be included based on the fact that it should be 8.5% of the Total project costs which was not correctly reflected in the table.
4. Please remove all decimal points for the financing amounts in the proposal.
5. PFG:
6. Please verify if NTNC will be executing the PFG or if the PFG will be executed by the line ministries identify in the PFG. If not please replace the line ministries with NTNC if NTNC will be executing the PFG.
 - a. Please ensure that the IE fee of 8.5% (maximum) has its own line item in the PFG request form.
 - b. Please update the start date of the PFG to after AFB46 in April 2026.

(11 November 2026)

CAR17: Not cleared.

Please adjust the concept note proposal to ensure the following:

- Remove decimals, even when they are “.00”
- Remove from the Table 2 and in the concept note proposal, the in-kind contribution.
- All figures are consistent throughout the document. For example, in the cover, the Amount of Financing Requested is USD 10,00,000, while in Table 2 is 10,068,432.00

(17 December 2025)

CAR17: Not Cleared.

1-4 Cleared.

As per the information provided on the cover page, Table 2, and throughout the document. Decimals were removed, as well as the in-kind contribution.

(5). Unaddressed.

PFG:

1. Please verify if NTNC will be executing the PFG or if the PFG will be executed by the line ministries identify in the PFG. If not please replace the line ministries with NTNC if NTNC will be executing the PFG. Not addressed.
2. Please ensure that the IE fee of 8.5% (maximum) has its own line item in the PFG request form. Addressed.
3. Please update the start date of the PFG to after AFB46 in April 2026. – Addressed. Please rename “Project preparation coordination, reporting and compliance support” row as IE Fee.
4. Given that there is a PFG implementation period which pushes the project commencement date back, please update table 3 to reflect a more realistic date as the project start is dependant on the deliverables of the PFG.

(03 February 2026)

CAR17:

(5) PFG:

1. Cleared.

As the information provided in the PFG. The revised PFG identified NTNC as both the implementing and executing entities.

2. Cleared.

As the information provided in the PFG. IE fee has been rephrase as “Project preparation coordination, reporting and compliance support” with an amount of USD 10,000.

3. Not Cleared.

Since the proposal is still under consideration a date after AFB47 would now be needed. Please update.

4. Not Cleared.

The PFG implementation must be completed before the project implementation commences, therefore the project start date should reflect a date after PFG completion.

CAR17(NEW): Currently, IE fees amount to USD 850,000, which is equivalent to 9.3%. Please adjust this to 8.5%.
(08 May 2026)

CAR17:

(5) PFG:

3. Cleared.

As per Table 3 in the CN, all expected dates have been shifted by one year. For example, “start of project” have been amended from November 2026 to November 2027.

4. Cleared.

As per Table 3 in the CN, all expected dates have been shifted by one year. For example, “start of project” have been amended from November 2026 to November 2027.

CAR17(NEW): Cleared.

As per Table 2. IE fees amount has been amended to USD 777,750, which is equivalent to 8.5%. Consistently, the “Amount of Financing Requested” has been amended to USD 9,927,750.

(22 June 2026)

Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Unsure. While the budget is provided per component and in total, numbers do not add up throughout the concept note, and some items should be revised.

CAR18: The proposal cover does not indicate that NTNC will be executing the proposal. However, at Part III Section A it is indicated that NTNC will also be executing alongside the other named executing entities. Please provide justification as to why NTNC is also serving as an Implementing Entity and Executing Entity and include the components/sub-components which NTNC will be executing.

CR12: For IE and EE Fees, please use the Adaptation Fund Calculator.

CR13: Please ensure all numbers are consistent throughout the document, including all tables and figures.
(11 November 2025)

CAR18: Cleared.

As per information in the cover and in Part III.

CR12: Cleared.

As per information provided in Table 2.

CR 13: Not cleared. See CAR17.

(17 December 2025)

CR12: Re-opened.

1. Please present budget at table 2 at the output level in the last column.
2. At table 2 Execution costs is presented as 1.4% of the total budget. Given that need for reporting costs etc. and that there are 2 executing entities identified for this proposal, please consider updating the EC costs to one that will be able to appropriately cover the costs items associated with EC. Please consult <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/generic/costs-and-fees/>.

CR13: Cleared. See CAR17.

(03 February 2026)

CR12: Not cleared.

1. Cleared.

As per information provided in Table 2. The last column identified budget for each output.

2. Not cleared.

While figures have been amended, please revise the following:

- (i) IE fees need to be amended according to CAR17(NEW).
- (ii) Annex F provides a total of USD 8,666,590 for the project's activities, while according to Table 2 is USD 8,280,750. Please amend and ensure consistency throughout the document.

(08 May 2026)

CR12:

2. Cleared. As per revised Annex F. IE fees (CAR17) and Table under Annex F have been amended accordingly. The information is now consistent with Table 2.

(22 June 2026)

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Note for the full proposal: As NTNC will serve as both the Implementing Entity and an Executing Entity, the full proposal should specify the components and activities executed by each entity and provide an entity-specific execution-cost allocation. NTNC's execution costs should not exceed 1.5% of the portion of the project it executes, unless a higher amount is strongly justified for case-by-case consideration under Decision B.38/42. The overall execution-cost ceiling remains 9.5%.

Eligibility of IE

Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes. National Trust for Nature Conservation of Nepal is accredited until 19 November 2029.
(11 November 2025)



ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions

Country: Nepal

Thematic Focal Area: Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems
Food Security
Ecosystem-Based Adaptation

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal

Executing Entities: Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment and National Trust for Nature Conservation

Amount of Financing Requested: 9,927,750 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

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

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

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

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

Stage of Submission:

- ☒ This concept has been submitted before
- ☐ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: [7/9/20267/9/2026](#)

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

Table of Contents

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION	1
List of Tables	3
List of Figures	3
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	~~43~~
Project/Programme Background and Context	~~54~~
Project/Programme Objectives	6
Project/Programme Components and Financing	8
Projected Calendar:	9
PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION	10
PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	~~3737~~
PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY	43
Annex A. References	45
Annex B. Preliminary gender analysis and adaptation action plan	46
Annex C. Selected visual documentation of stakeholder consultations	49
Annex D. Theory of Change	53
Annex E. Project impact, outcomes, outputs and activities	54
Annex F. Overview of costed project activities	56

Formatted: Hyperlink, Font: 10 pt, Do not check spelling or grammar

Formatted: Hyperlink, Font: 10 pt, English (United States), Check spelling and grammar, Ligatures: None

List of Tables

Table 1. Overall vulnerability index of Koshi Province, Nepal (Source: MoFE 2021)	5
Table 2. Project/ Programme Components and Financing	8
Table 3. Project Calendar	9
Table 4: Estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries disaggregated by gender	13
Table 5: Summary of Estimated Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits.....	16
Table 6. Overview of national policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment.....	20
Table 7. Overview of relevant sectoral policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment	20
Table 8. Overview of relevant provincial policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment	21
Table 9. Overview of relevant international conventions, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment.....	21
Table 10. Comprehensive National Technical Standards and Compliance Requirements	23
Table 11. Snapshot of GCF funded project: Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)	25
Table 12. Roles and responsibilities for Learning and Knowledge Management.....	27
Table 13. Summary of stakeholder consultations	30
Table 14. Environmental and social risk screening	36
Table 15. Alignment with the Result Framework of the Adaptation Fund.....	38

List of Figures

Figure 1. Map of Nepal showing proposed project location: Terai-Chure landscape in Koshi Province, Eastern Nepal ..	6
Figure 2. Visualization of learning and knowledge management strategy	29
Figure 3. Theory of Change Diagram	53

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

Project/Programme Background and Context

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

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

	Vulnerability ranking	District
1	Very High (0.778–1.0)	Sankhuwasabha
2	High (0.623–0.777)	Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Ilam, Khotang, Okhaldhunga, Solukhumbu, Taplejung, Terhathum, Udayapur
3	Moderate (0.502-0.622)	Morang, Panchthar
4	Low (0.179–0.501)	Jhapa, Sunsari
5	Very Low (0.0–0.178)	-

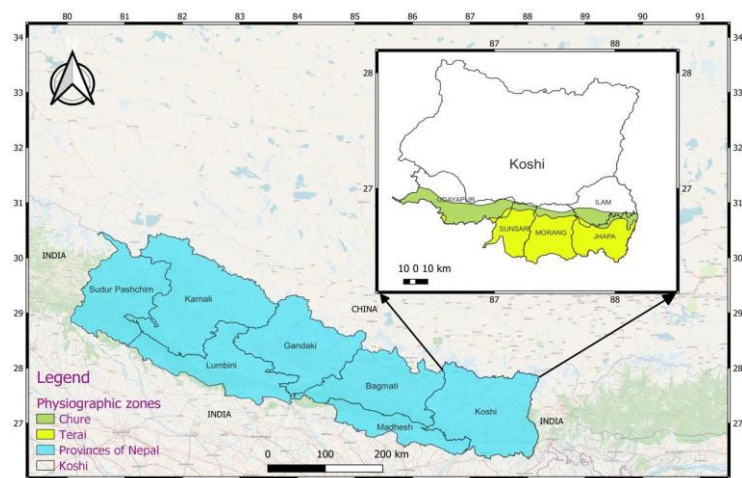


Figure 11. Map of Nepal showing proposed project location: Terai-Chure landscape in Koshi Province, Eastern Nepal

7. **Socio-ecological vulnerabilities:** Climate impacts are not felt equally. Dalits, Indigenous Peoples, women and land-poor farmers often lack access to land, water, information and finance (MoFE 2020a). Women disproportionately bear the burden of water collection and household food security. Social inequalities intersect with ecological vulnerabilities, further limiting the capacity of disadvantaged groups to adapt.
8. The degradation of natural ecosystems has led to reduced soil fertility, increased landslide risks and water scarcity. Shrinking wetlands threaten biodiversity and wetland-based livelihoods, such as fishing, reed harvesting and eco-tourism (MoFE 2018). Fragmented elephant habitats have intensified human–wildlife conflict, endangering lives and property.
9. **Rationale for intervention:** Koshi's vulnerability stems from the interplay of ecological fragility, high dependency on natural resources and institutional gaps in managing climate risk. While national and provincial policies prioritize adaptation, implementation remains constrained by limited resources and technical capacity at the local level.
10. There is a critical opportunity to deploy Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as cost-effective, inclusive and scalable responses. Integrated watershed management, wetland rehabilitation, agroforestry and community-based conflict mitigation can restore degraded ecosystems while directly enhancing food and water security. NbS-based enterprise development offers livelihood diversification pathways, particularly for women, youth and Indigenous communities.

Project/Programme Objectives

11. The **project objective** of the project is to enhance the climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Koshi Province by reducing exposure and sensitivity to climate-related hazards and strengthening adaptive capacity through integrated nature-based solutions, early warning systems, and climate-resilient livelihoods.
12. The **programme-project** supports the Adaptation Fund (AF) Strategic Objectives by: (i) reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts through ecosystem-based adaptation, disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; and (ii) increasing the adaptive capacity of communities, institutions and ecosystems to respond to climate variability and extremes.
13. This project objective is pursued through the following **five-three specific objectives**: (1) restore and sustainably manage climate-vulnerable landscapes and reduce exposure to climate-related hazards; (2) diversify and strengthen gender-responsive, climate-resilient livelihoods; and (3) strengthen institutional and

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

community capacity, knowledge systems and policy frameworks for NbS.—These objectives are operationalized through five expressed as five components:

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

14. Long-Term Impact: Increased climate resilience and ecological integrity in Koshi Province through inclusive NbS that restore landscapes, strengthen institutions and secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities. Through components 1–5, the project builds increased climate resilience and ecological integrity in Koshi Province through inclusive NbS that restore landscapes, strengthen institutions and secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

15. Theory of Change narrative:

- (i) Main problem and causes:** Climate risks in Koshi Province arise from increasing hydro-climatic extremes interacting with ecosystem degradation, livelihood fragility and governance gaps, with women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and land-poor farmers disproportionately affected.
- (ii) Main objective and specific objectives:** The overall objective is to enhance the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Chure–Terai landscape of Koshi Province, through **three outcomes**:
 - Restored and better-managed landscapes with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence;
 - More diversified, climate-resilient livelihoods for smallholders and local communities; and
 - Stronger, more inclusive institutions that plan, finance and implement evidence-based, gender-responsive NbS.
- (iii) Components:** These outcomes are pursued through five components that operationalise two main change pathways:
 - Ecosystem restoration and resilient livelihoods (Components 1–3); and
 - Inclusive NbS governance and institutional capacity (Components 4–5).
- (iv) Outcomes and outputs:**
 - Activities under Components 1–2 deliver outputs on watershed and wetland restoration, early warning and human–elephant conflict mitigation.
 - Components 2–3 generate outputs on climate-resilient agroforestry, NbS-based enterprises and value chains.
 - Components 4–5 deliver outputs on awareness, skills, tools, policies, plans, budgets and multi-stakeholder platforms for NbS.

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

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

16. The project prioritizes no-regrets, ecosystem-based adaptation measures that remain beneficial under multiple climate futures, such as restoring forests and wetlands, improving soil and water management, local biodiversity and diversifying livelihoods. These measures are complemented by risk-informed planning, early

warning systems and conflict-mitigation tools that reduce losses from floods and human–elephant interactions under more extreme climate conditions. If the planned outputs are delivered, the combined effect of restored ecosystems, diversified and more climate-resilient livelihoods and stronger, more inclusive institutions is expected to lead to the impact of enhanced resilience of communities, ecosystems and local economies in Koshi Province to current and future climate variability and change.

Project/Programme Components and Financing

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

Table 2. Project/ Programme Components and Financing

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

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

Projected Calendar:

Table 3. Project Calendar

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	~~November-March 20287~~
Mid-term Review (if planned)	~~November-March 2029~~ 2030
Project/Programme Close	~~November-March 2032~~ 2033
Terminal Evaluation	~~January-June 2033~~

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

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

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

19. **Component 1: Integrated watershed management, wetland restoration, and nature-based tourism,** strengthens climate resilience and contributes to Outcome 1 (Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards) (primary) and Outcome 5 (Increased ecosystem resilience) (secondary) by restoring and sustainably managing climate-vulnerable landscapes in Koshi Province through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), contributing to reduced exposure for approximately 400,000 people experience reduced losses from floods, erosion, droughts and human-wildlife conflict and around 15% of the provincial population have reduced exposure to floods, landslides, erosion and water stress. Gender-responsive, participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments are conducted to identify priority vulnerabilities and NbS intervention sites (Output 1.1; Activities 1.1.1-1.1.2), followed by community-led watershed restoration and training for operation, maintenance and monitoring (Activities 1.1.3-1.1.4). In parallel, at least 20 sub-watersheds and at least 15 degraded wetlands are mapped, assessed and restored and managed sustainably using an evidence-based landscape approach (Output 1.2; Activities 1.2.1-1.2.4), improving water regulation, flood buffering, groundwater recharge, sediment control, habitat connectivity and ecosystem health under climate stress. To reinforce livelihood resilience and incentivize conservation, the project assesses and revitalizes nature-based tourism and cultural heritage potential, developing climate-sensitive tourism products and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms (Output 1.3; Activities 1.3.1-1.3.3), contributing to a 15-20% increase in household income among participating households. Together, Outputs 1.1-1.3 reduce climate-related hazards, enhance ecosystem services and support safer human-elephant coexistence. Integrated watershed management, restoring and managing wetlands, and nature-based tourism promotion. AF Outcome supported: AF Outcome 5 – Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress. Project Outcome 1: Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human-elephant coexistence. Output 1.1 (US\$2,125,000; Activities 1.1.1–1.1.4) supports participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments, design and implementation of watershed NbS, and community operation, maintenance and monitoring, with the majority of the budget reflecting the labour- and material-intensive nature of on-the-ground bioengineering, planting and check-dam works, complemented by technical design and community training costs. Output 1.2 (US\$790,000; Activities 1.2.1–1.2.4) maps, assesses and restores degraded watersheds and wetlands, targeting at least 20 sub-watersheds and 15 degraded wetlands under restoration or improved participatory management, with costs driven mainly by habitat rehabilitation and small-scale civil works, supported by assessment, planning and local governance strengthening. Output 1.3 (US\$85,000; Activities 1.3.1–1.3.3) assesses and revitalizes nature-based tourism and cultural heritage potential, targeting at least 15 small-scale climate-resilient tourism facilities, services or products, reflecting light-touch technical assistance and facilitation rather than physical works. Together, these interventions contribute to reduced climate-related water and disaster risk for approximately 400,000 people.

20. **Component 2: Climate-resilient agroforestry systems promotion and human-elephant conflict mitigation.** AF Outcomes supported: AF Outcomes 6 and 1. Project Outcomes 1 and 2: reduced climate-related hazards and more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihoods. Output 2.1 (US\$1,824,750; Activities 2.1.1–2.1.4) co-designs and scales climate-resilient agroforestry through nurseries, extension, demonstration plots and farmer-to-farmer learning, bringing at least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems, with nursery infrastructure/planting material and field extension services accounting for the bulk of costs, consistent with the scale of area targeted. Output 2.2 (US\$425,000; Activities

2.2.1–2.2.5) maps human–elephant conflict and climate-risk hotspots, strengthens community-based early-warning systems, conducts preparedness activities, implements non-lethal mitigation measures and integrates these into local DRR and land-use plans, targeting a ≥20% reduction in reported human–elephant conflict incidents, with early-warning equipment (sensors, sirens, communication tools) as the largest single cost item, alongside community training and lower-cost mitigation and planning measures. Climate-resilient agroforestry systems and human–elephant conflict mitigation contributes to Outcomes 1 and 2 by reducing climate risks and strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods through integrated land use and risk management measures. Climate-resilient agroforestry systems are co-designed with smallholder farmers and community forest user groups, bringing at least 1,000 hectares under climate resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems supporting diversified and resilient income sources (Output 2.1; Activities 2.1.1–2.1.4). These systems are supported by nurseries supplying resilient planting material, on farm extension services, demonstration plots and farmer to farmer learning. These interventions improve soil health, water retention, productivity stability and income diversification under increasing climate variability, together with components 1, 2 and 3 contributing to a 15–20% increase in household income among participating households, (contributing to AF Output 6 Strengthened livelihood strategies) while reducing pressure on natural forests. Simultaneously, climate and wildlife-related risks are addressed by mapping human–elephant conflict hotspots, installing community-based early warning systems, conducting preparedness drills, implementing non-lethal mitigation measures and integrating these actions into local disaster risk reduction and land-use plans (Output 2.2; Activities 2.2.1–2.2.5). Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 jointly reduce climate-related losses, enhance preparedness and strengthen adaptive capacity at household and landscape levels.

20.

21. Component 3: Enterprise promotion, value chain development, and inclusive financing supports Outcome 2 by enhancing the economic viability and sustainability of NbS-based livelihoods, thereby strengthening adaptive capacity. Inclusive and climate-resilient SMEs and value chains for agroforestry and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are developed through market and value chain analysis, business model development, targeted business development services, and investments in aggregation, processing and storage facilities (Output 3.1; Activities 3.1.1–3.1.5). The project will support at least 20 NbS-based enterprises and create a minimum of 100 full-time equivalent jobs, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, contributing to diversified and resilient livelihood strategies. To enable long-term financing and scaling of adaptation benefits, the project assesses ecosystem services and carbon benefits of agroforestry systems by developing monitoring protocols, analyzing economic performance and trade-offs with grey infrastructure, and identifying pathways to climate, performance and results-based finance accessible to smallholders (Output 3.2; Activities 3.2.1–3.2.3). Together, Outputs 3.1 and 3.2 expand diversified, gender-responsive and climate-resilient income opportunities while ensuring the financial sustainability of NbS investments. Enterprise promotion and value-chain development for improved livelihoods. AF Outcome supported: AF Outcome 6 – Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas. Project Outcome 2: Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. Output 3.1 (US\$1,075,000; Activities 3.1.1–3.1.5) supports market and value-chain analysis, business development, processing and storage facilities, and market and finance linkages, targeting at least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups and at least 100 FTE jobs, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples small-scale processing and storage infrastructure the principal cost driver, reflecting the capital needs of value-chain development. Output 3.2 (US\$125,000; Activities 3.2.1–3.2.3) assesses ecosystem services, carbon benefits and the economic performance of NbS and identifies sustainable finance pathways, including comprising primarily analytical and advisory work (methodology development, cost-benefit analysis, finance mechanism design) rather than physical investment, and identifying at least one Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), climate-finance or green-finance mechanism. Together with Components 1 and 2, these interventions contribute to an expected 15–20% increase in household income among participating households.

22. Component 4: Capacity strengthening of institutions and communities contributes to Outcome 3 by producing and applying practical capacity development outputs that enable institutions and communities to plan, implement and sustain NbS-based climate adaptation. Under Output 4.1, the project will develop NbS and climate adaptation training curricula, deliver trainings, exchanges and exposure visits, and produce targeted communication materials on climate risks and NbS practices. The project will train approximately 1,500

individuals, disaggregated by gender and social group, in climate adaptation, NbS, ecosystem governance and disaster risk reduction, ensuring at least 40% participation of women and meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and marginalized groups through FPIC-aligned processes. Under Output 4.2, the project will facilitate participatory planning that integrates climate risks and NbS, provide technical support packages for NbS sub-project design and delivery, develop simple gender-responsive monitoring, evaluation and learning tools, and document and share good practices. Together, Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 provide practical tools, training products, technical support and knowledge materials that support institutional and community capacity to sustain adaptation actions over time. Capacity strengthening of institutions and communities. AF Outcomes supported: AF Outcomes 2 and 3, Project Outcome 3: Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies, Output 4.1 (US\$700,000; Activities 4.1.1–4.1.3) develops and delivers NbS and climate-adaptation curricula, training, exchanges and communication materials, reaching approximately 1,500 people, disaggregated by gender and social group, with training delivery, travel and logistics the dominant cost, reflecting the scale of direct participant engagement. Output 4.2 (US\$100,000; Activities 4.2.1–4.2.4) provides participatory planning tools, technical support, gender-responsive MEL tools and documentation of good practices, consisting of lower-cost, facilitation- and advisory-based support. The component will support application of NbS tools and guidance by 12 government institutions, 50 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs.

23. Component 5: NbS mainstreaming and integrating in national, sub-national and local policies, plans and programmes. AF Outcomes supported: AF Outcomes 2 and 7 – Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures. Project Outcome 3: Institutions and communities better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development. Output 5.1 (US\$515,500; Activities 5.1.1–5.1.3) reviews policies and plans, supports NbS integration and promotes climate-responsive budgeting, targeting integration of NbS into at least one national and five sub-national or local policies, plans or budgets, including support to a Provincial Adaptation Plan of Action driven mainly by technical assistance and advisory support for policy drafting and budget integration, rather than capital works. Output 5.2 (US\$515,500; Activities 5.2.1–5.2.3) establishes or strengthens at least one nested multi-stakeholder platform, develops a simple system to track NbS integration and performance, and facilitates policy dialogue and learning to support scaling and institutionalization a multi-stakeholder platform, develops a tracking system and facilitates policy dialogue, with platform operation and facilitation costs the largest share, alongside lighter-cost system development and knowledge events. Mainstreaming NbS into sub-national and local policies, plans and programmes reinforces Outcome 3 by institutionalizing NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation within policy, planning and budgeting frameworks to ensure long-term sustainability and scale. The project reviews global, national, sub-national and local policies and plans to identify NbS entry points, supports the integration of NbS into key policies, plans and regulations, and promotes climate-responsive budgeting to increase public allocations for NbS (Output 5.1; Activities 5.1.1–5.1.3). In parallel, a nested multi-stakeholder coordination platform is established or strengthened to coordinate action, advocate for NbS, track integration and performance, and facilitate policy dialogue and learning at local, provincial and national levels (Output 5.2; Activities 5.2.1–5.2.3). Together, Outputs 5.1 and 5.2 embed NbS into routine decision-making processes, enabling institutions and communities to sustain and scale climate-resilient development pathways benefiting approximately 400,000 people through reduced climate risks and strengthened ecosystem resilience. Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies.

24. Increased resilience through the combined components:

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

- See Annex D for a visual presentation of the theory of change, Annex E for the project results chain including impact, outcomes, outputs and activities and Annex F for a list of costed activities.

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

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

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

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

Outcome 1: Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence	Male	Female	Total
Direct beneficiaries	112657	120028	232685
Indirect beneficiaries	563286	600144	1163430
Total	675943	720172	1396115
Outcome 2: Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities	Male	Female	Total
Direct beneficiaries	75105	80019	155124
Indirect beneficiaries	422464	450108	872572
Total	497569	530127	1027696

Outcome 3: Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies	Male	Female	Total
Direct beneficiaries	65716	70017	135733
Indirect beneficiaries	328583	350084	678667
Total	394299	420101	814400

Table 4a: Summary of outcome and output targets

Outcome / Output	Summary target
Outcome 1 — Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence.	Approximately 400,000 people, or around 15% of the provincial population, benefit from reduced exposure to floods, landslides, erosion, water stress and human–elephant conflict.
Outcome 2 — Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities.	Participating households benefit from diversified climate-resilient income sources, including agroforestry, NTFPs, ecotourism and NbS-based value chains, with an expected 15–20% increase in household income.
Outcome 3 — Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies.	Approximately 1,500 individuals are trained, and sub-national and local planning, budgeting and coordination systems are strengthened to support NbS integration.
Output 1.1 — Gender-responsive local adaptation actions identified and implemented to promote NbS, including ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction.	Participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments completed and priority local adaptation actions implemented in selected sites.
Output 1.2 — Degraded and critical watersheds and wetlands, including elephant corridors and habitats, are identified and prioritized for restoration through an evidence-based landscape approach.	At least 20 sub-watersheds and at least 15 degraded wetlands are mapped, assessed, restored or placed under improved participatory management.
Output 1.3 — Nature-based tourism and cultural heritage potential assessed and revitalized to support sustainable livelihoods.	At least 15 small-scale climate-resilient nature-based tourism facilities, services or products are developed or revitalized in priority sites.
Output 2.1 — Climate-resilient agroforestry systems co-designed, demonstrated and scaled with smallholders.	At least 1,000 ha are brought under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems, supported by nurseries, demonstration plots and extension services.
Output 2.2 — Community-based early-warning systems and measures reducing climate risks and human–elephant conflict in target areas.	Human–elephant conflict hotspots are mapped, community-based early warning and monitoring systems are strengthened or established, and reported incidents are reduced by at least 20% in targeted areas.
Output 3.1 — Inclusive and climate-resilient SMEs and value chains for agroforestry and NTFPs developed and promoted with strong participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.	At least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups are supported and at least 100 full-time equivalent jobs are created, with targeted participation of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.
Output 3.2 — Ecosystem services and carbon benefits of agroforestry systems assessed to inform sustainable financing and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.	Ecosystem service and carbon-benefit assessment protocols are developed and at least one PES, climate-finance or green-finance mechanism is identified or supported.
Output 4.1 — Climate change adaptation and NbS awareness materials, training curricula, trainings and exchange activities developed and delivered.	Approximately 1,500 people, disaggregated by gender and social group, are trained in climate adaptation, NbS, ecosystem governance and disaster risk reduction, with at least 40% women's participation in training and community processes.

Formatted Table

~~Output 4.2—Participatory NbS planning tools, technical support packages, gender-responsive MEL tools and documented good practices developed and applied.~~	~~Participatory—NbS—planning—tools,—technical—support packages, gender-responsive MEL tools and good-practice documentation are developed and applied to support local adaptation planning and implementation.~~
~~Output 5.1—Sub-national and local policies, plans and budgets reviewed and updated to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities.~~	~~Relevant sub-national and local policies, plans and budgets are reviewed and updated to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities.~~
~~Output 5.2—A nested multi-stakeholder platform established or strengthened to coordinate, advocate for and monitor NbS integration in planning and budgeting.~~	~~A—nested—multi-stakeholder—coordination—platform—is established—or—strengthened—to—support—coordination; advocacy,—monitoring—and—policy—dialogue—on—NbS mainstreaming.~~

27. The project will enhance climate resilience while ensuring that adaptation benefits are equitably shared among women, men and marginalized communities. It recognises that climate risks disproportionately affect women, Indigenous Peoples, marginalised groups and poor households due to unequal access to resources, decision-making processes and livelihood opportunities. Project interventions will apply equity-based targeting, informed by social and climate vulnerability assessments conducted during the project preparation stage. These assessments will identify the most climate-exposed and socially disadvantaged groups, including women-headed households, smallholder farmers, Indigenous and forest-dependent communities, landless households and other vulnerable groups, ensuring that adaptation benefits are allocated based on vulnerability and need.
28. Access to project-supported training, livelihood support and nature-based enterprises will follow transparent and inclusive selection criteria, with targeted measures to support youth-, women-led and community-based initiatives. The project will implement a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system to track participation, benefit distribution and changes in adaptive capacity using sex- and socially disaggregated indicators. The project aligns with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and Action Plan and will develop a detailed Gender Action Plan at the full proposal stage to guide implementation and ensure accountability for equitable and gender-responsive outcomes.
29. **Economic Benefits.** The project will generate significant economic benefits by enhancing climate-resilient livelihoods, creating employment, and reducing economic losses from climate-induced hazards. Through the promotion of agroforestry, ecosystem restoration, watershed and wetland management, eco-tourism and NbS-based enterprises, direct beneficiary households are expected to increase annual incomes by approximately 15–20 percent through improved productivity, diversified income sources, and enhanced market access. Restoration and bio-engineering activities, including watershed and wetland rehabilitation, nursery establishment, and maintenance of ecosystem infrastructure, are projected to generate at least 100 full-time equivalent jobs through 20 NbS enterprises. In addition, flood, landslide, and erosion mitigation measures are expected to reduce climate-related economic losses to crops, infrastructure, and natural assets, ~~by 10–15 percent in targeted watersheds,~~ contributing to greater income stability, ~~reduced lower~~ recovery costs, and improved economic resilience at ~~both~~ household and local government levels.
30. **Environmental Benefits.** The project will deliver substantial environmental benefits by restoring ecosystem functions, improving water security, and enhancing biodiversity across the proposed project intervention sites of Koshi Province. Integrated watershed and wetland management will improve groundwater recharge, regulate surface water flows, and enhance water quality, contributing to improved water security for approximately 400,000 people. The establishment of 1,000 hectares of climate-resilient agroforestry systems and the restoration of ecological corridors will stabilize degraded landscapes, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and strengthen habitat connectivity, supporting biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience. These interventions will also contribute to climate regulation through increased carbon sequestration and reduced disaster risks, while community-based coexistence strategies are expected to reduce human–elephant conflict by approximately 20 percent in targeted areas. Restored habitats and corridors using native species will improve ecological connectivity. The project will create carbon co-benefits through reforestation, agroforestry and wetland restoration.
31. **Social Benefits.** The project will generate strong social benefits by strengthening community governance,

enhancing social inclusion, and building adaptive capacity among vulnerable populations. It helps reduce climate risks for approximately ~~400,000 people~~ 15% of the population of Koshi Province. By prioritizing women, youth, and ~~Indigenous Peoples~~ indigenous communities, the project will promote inclusive participation in NbS enterprises, training, and local planning processes, with at least 20 percent representation in livelihood and employment opportunities. Approximately 1,500 individuals—including local officials, farmers, forest users, and entrepreneurs will be trained in NbS, eco-tourism and climate adaptation, with at least 40% women's participation in training and community processes, activities which will strengthen knowledge and skills. The integration of indigenous and local knowledge with technical approaches will enhance culturally appropriate and sustainable adaptation outcomes. Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and marginalized groups participate in planning, implementation and benefit-sharing through FPIC-aligned processes

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

Benefits	Project Component	Estimated Benefits	Alignment with AF Results Framework
Economic Benefits	1	~400,000 people experience reduced losses from floods, erosion, droughts and human–wildlife conflict through restored watersheds, wetlands and early warning systems	<u>AF Outcomes 1 and 5</u> <u>Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate hazards</u>
	2	≥1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems, supporting diversified and resilient income sources	<u>AF Outcome 6 (Indicator 6A)</u> <u>AF Outcome 4: Increased adaptive capacity</u>
	1, 2, 3	15–20% increase in household income among participating households from agroforestry, NTFPs, ecotourism and NbS-based value chains	<u>AF Outcome 6 (Indicator 6B)</u> <u>AF Output 6: Strengthened livelihood strategies</u>
	3	≥20 NbS-based enterprises supported; ≥100 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs created, with ≥20% women, youth and Indigenous Peoples	<u>AF Outcome 6</u> <u>AF Core Indicator: Diversified livelihoods</u>
Social Benefits	1	Reduced exposure to floods, landslides, erosion and water stress for <del>~15% of Koshi Province population</del> <u>400,000 people</u>	AF Outcome 1
	4	~1,500 people trained (disaggregated by gender and social group) in climate adaptation, NbS, ecosystem governance and DRR	<u>AF Outcome 3 / Output 3.1</u> <u>AF Output 3.1 & 2.1</u>
	1, 2, 3, 4	≥40% women participation in training and community processes; increased leadership roles in CFUGs, watershed and livelihood institutions	AF Gender Policy
	1, 2, 3, 4	Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and marginalized groups participate in planning, implementation and benefit-sharing through FPIC-aligned processes	AF ESP: Access and Equity
	1, 2, 3	Improved food and nutrition security	<u>AF Outcome 6</u> <u>AF Outcome 4</u>
Environmental Benefits	1	≥20 sub-watersheds and ≥15 degraded wetlands restored and sustainably managed	<u>AF Outcome 5 (Indicator 5)</u> <u>AF Outcome 5: Increased ecosystem resilience</u>
	1, 2	Improved water regulation, groundwater recharge, reduced sedimentation and erosion across Chure–Terai landscapes	AF Outcome 5
	2	Restored habitats and corridors using native species; improved ecological connectivity and human–wildlife coexistence	AF ESP: Biodiversity
	1, 2	Climate benefits through reforestation, agroforestry and wetland restoration (non-monetized co-benefit)	AF Co-benefits

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

- 32. Linking activities to benefits.** These benefits are directly linked to the proposed activities. Early warning systems reduce exposure to climate-related hazards by enabling timely response, thereby lowering economic losses and safeguarding lives. Ecosystem restoration and agroforestry reduce sensitivity to floods, droughts and erosion while improving ecosystem productivity and services. Climate-resilient livelihood interventions enhance adaptive capacity by diversifying income sources and reducing dependence on climate-sensitive activities. Institutional strengthening ensures that these benefits are sustained and scaled beyond the project period.
- 33. Actions to avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the AF ESP and the AF Gender Policy.** The project will apply the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP) and Gender Policy throughout design, implementation, and monitoring to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential negative impacts while maximizing equitable and sustainable adaptation benefits. All proposed activities will undergo environmental and social screening to identify risks related to land use, biodiversity disturbance, water access, labor conditions, and social exclusion, with site-specific mitigation measures incorporated into implementation plans. Ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, and infrastructure interventions will prioritize native species, avoid critical habitats, and apply low-impact, nature-based techniques to prevent soil disturbance, invasive species introduction, and downstream hydrological impacts. FPIC will be ensured for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with transparent consultations conducted prior to any land-use change or corridor restoration. The project will adopt gender-responsive design by ensuring meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in decision-making bodies, targeting at least 20 percent representation in training, employment, and enterprise support, and scheduling activities in ways that do not increase unpaid care burdens. Safeguards will be applied to prevent elite capture, labor exploitation, and inequitable benefit distribution through clear beneficiary selection criteria, fair wage standards, and gender-responsive grievance redress mechanisms accessible at community and municipal levels. Gender and social disaggregated monitoring and evaluation (-M&E) indicators will be used for monitoring and Mid-term and terminal evaluations aligned with AF requirements. Monitoring, adaptive management, and independent reporting will be used to ensure compliance with AF ESP and Gender Policy requirements and to promptly address any unforeseen environmental or social risks during implementation.
- 34. Environmental Risk Management.** All proposed activities will undergo environmental and social screening in accordance with AF ESP to identify and categorize risks related to land use change, biodiversity disturbance, soil erosion, water access, and occupational health and safety. Site-specific ESMPs will be developed and integrated into implementation plans where risks are identified. Ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, and infrastructure interventions will prioritize native and climate-resilient species, avoid critical and protected habitats, and apply low-impact, nature-based solutions to prevent soil degradation, invasive species introduction, and downstream hydrological impacts. Construction and restoration activities will follow best practices for waste management, erosion control, and water protection to minimize temporary and cumulative environmental impacts.
- 35. Social Safeguards and Community Rights.** FPIC will be ensured for Indigenous Peoples and affected local communities prior to any land-use change, ecosystem restoration, or infrastructure development. Transparent, inclusive consultations will be conducted at all project stages, with information shared in accessible formats and local languages where necessary. Clear and equitable beneficiary selection criteria will be applied to prevent elite capture and ensure fair access to project benefits, particularly for vulnerable households.
- 36. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.** The project will adopt a gender-responsive design consistent with the AF Gender Policy by ensuring meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in planning,

governance, and implementation structures. At least 40 percent women's participation will be targeted in training and community processes, while at least 20 percent participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups will be targeted in livelihood, employment and enterprise-support activities. At least 20 percent representation of women and marginalized groups will be targeted in trainings, employment opportunities, and enterprise or livelihood support activities. Activities will be scheduled and designed to avoid increasing unpaid care and domestic workloads, and to enhance women's access to resources, skills, and decision-making power. Capacity-building activities will integrate gender awareness and prevention of gender-based discrimination and harassment.

37. Labor Standards and Grievance Redress. Fair wage standards, safe working conditions, and non-discriminatory labor practices will be applied for all project-supported employment. A gender-responsive, accessible grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be established at community and municipal levels to address complaints related to environmental impacts, social exclusion, labor conditions, or gender-based concerns in a timely and confidential manner.

38. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management. Environmental and social safeguards compliance will be monitored using gender- and socially disaggregated indicators aligned with AF requirements. Mid-term and terminal evaluations will assess compliance with AF ESP and Gender Policy, including the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Adaptive management and independent reporting will be used to promptly address any unforeseen environmental or social risks identified during implementation.

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

39. Cost-effectiveness rationale: maximizing resilience gains per dollar. The project adopts a cost-effective adaptation strategy by prioritizing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) over conventional grey infrastructure. NbS interventions deliver equal or superior climate-resilience benefits at substantially lower lifetime costs by addressing climate risks at their ecological source. Investment decisions are guided by evidence-based criteria, including cost per hectare restored, expected reductions in erosion, flood peaks and drought stress, livelihood co-benefits, low operation and maintenance requirements, and the potential for sustainable revenue generation through agroforestry, ecosystem services and nature-based tourism. By sequencing interventions to first restore degraded upstream watersheds and wetlands—where preventive impacts are highest, the project reduces downstream expenditures on embankment repairs, dredging, disaster response and recovery, resulting in high marginal returns on public investment.

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

41. Scalability, learning, and synergies with existing programmes. The project is designed to be scalable and catalytic, increasing cost-effectiveness beyond the initial investment. NbS are mainstreamed into provincial and local plans, budgets, disaster-risk-reduction strategies and land-use frameworks, creating institutional pathways for replication without long-term reliance on external financing. Knowledge products, such as field manuals, policy briefs, and NbS investment cases, will support uptake by other provinces and

federal ministries. Community-to-community learning exchanges and strengthened agroforestry and wetland-based value chains further enable demand-driven scaling. The project builds on and complements existing initiatives, notably the GCF-funded Building a Resilient Chure Region in Nepal, leveraging institutional experience, avoiding duplication and maximizing synergies. Alignment with the Chure–Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan and the Koshi Province Second Periodic Plan enhances efficiency, coordination and long-term impact.

42. Alignment with Adaptation Fund results and economic evidence. The project is fully aligned with the Adaptation Fund's objective of reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity. It contributes directly to AF Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, covering reduced exposure to climate hazards, strengthened institutional capacity and awareness, increased ecosystem resilience, diversified climate-resilient livelihoods, and improved policies and planning frameworks to multiple AF outcomes, including reduced exposure to climate hazards (Outcome 1), strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation processes (Outcome 3), increased ecosystem resilience (Outcome 5), diversified and climate-resilient livelihoods (Outcome 6), improved policies and planning frameworks (Outcome 7), and the diffusion of innovative adaptation practices (Outcome 8). Empirical evidence underscores the project's strong value for money: reforestation and bio-engineering measures typically cost USD 1,500–2,000 per hectare, substantially less than hard infrastructure, while wetland restoration in Nepal and South Asia yields benefit–cost ratios between 2.1 and 4.5. NbS investments have been shown to generate benefits worth two to five times their initial costs over a 20-year period when ecosystem services and avoided damages are included. By reducing future public expenditure on disaster response and infrastructure repair while strengthening inclusive, NbS-based value chains, the project delivers high economic, social and environmental returns, making it a highly cost-effective adaptation investment.

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

43. The project is fully aligned with Nepal's national and sub-national climate adaptation and sustainable development priorities. It responds directly to the country's commitments under national policies and international frameworks, ensuring coherence with ongoing development efforts. The formal collaboration with technical partner, CIFOR-ICRAF, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), which outlines strategic areas of collaboration, including agroforestry, watershed management, sustainable land use and climate adaptation, strongly supports direct oversight of links to Government policies and programmes during the participatory design stage of the project.

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

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

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

47. The project is also in harmony with the objectives of the upcoming **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2026–2030) and Nepal’s Long-Term Strategy for Net- Zero Emissions**, both of which call for ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and enhanced community stewardship of natural resources.
48. Further, it is consistent with **sectoral strategies**, such as the National Forest Policy (2019), which promotes agroforestry and private forest development, and the National Agriculture Policy (2004), which highlights sustainable natural resource management as a core pillar for agricultural resilience.

Table 66. Overview of national policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project’s relevance and alignment

Policy/plan/strategy	Main objective	Relevance of the proposed project
16 th Five-Year Plan (2024/25–2028/29)	Achieving “Good Governance, Social Justice and Prosperity” through structural transformation. It emphasizes environmentally friendly, green and climate-resilient development pathways.	The proposed project is aligned with the 16 th Plan, under outputs 1 to 5, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.
National Climate Change Policy 2019	Building a climate-resilient society to promote socio-economic prosperity, enhancing adaptation capacity for vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and fostering a low-carbon development pathway.	The proposed project is aligned with the National Climate Change Policy 2019, under outputs 1.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.
Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025-2035	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, transition to green energy, and enhance climate adaptation and resilience.	The proposed project is aligned with the third Nationally Determined Contribution, under outputs 1 to 5, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.
National Adaptation Plan 2021-2050	Reducing vulnerability to climate change by building resilience and adaptive capacity and integrating climate change adaptation into all levels of government planning and policies.	The proposed project is aligned with the National Adaptation Plan under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.
Long-Term Strategy for Net-Zero Emissions 2021	achieving carbon neutrality by 2045 through promoting clean energy like hydropower, solar, and biogas; decarbonizing the transportation sector with electric vehicles and railways; enhancing sustainable agriculture practices; maintaining and increasing forest cover; and strengthening international cooperation.	The proposed project is aligned with the Long-Term Strategy for Net-Zero Emissions under outputs 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030	Conserve, restore, and sustainable manage Nepal’s biodiversity and contribute to green, resilient and inclusive development.	The proposed project is aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 ~~to and~~ 3.
National Forest Policy 2019	Achieve sustainable forest management, improve forest productivity, and enhance national prosperity through forest resources.	The proposed project is aligned with the National Forest Policy 2019 under outputs 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 ~~to and~~ 3.
Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan 2017–2037	Attain ecological balance, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable livelihood enhancement through an integrated and multi-stakeholder approach.	The proposed project is aligned with the Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Master Plan under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.

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

Table 77. Overview of relevant sectoral policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project’s relevance and alignment

Policy/plan/strategy	Main objective	Relevance of the proposed project
----------------------	----------------	-----------------------------------

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

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

Table 88. Overview of relevant provincial policies, plans and strategies, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment

Policy/plan/strategy	Main objective	Relevance to the proposed project
Second Periodic Plan (2024/25-2028/29) of Koshi Province	Make the province happy and prosperous. It prioritizes climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration, disaster risk reduction and the mitigation of climate change impacts. The Plan also underscores the promotion of greenery and nature-based tourism.	The proposed project is aligned with the Second Periodic Plan (2024/25-2028/29) of Koshi Province under <u>Outputs 1.1–5.2</u> ~~outputs 1 to 5~~ , contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.
Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Koshi Province, 2024	Restore degraded ecosystems, mainstream NbS into development planning and capacity building for adaptation governance.	The proposed project is aligned with the Provincial Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Koshi Province under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.

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

Table 99. Overview of relevant international conventions, their main objectives and the proposed project's relevance and alignment

Policy/plan/strategy and years of implementation	Main objective	Relevance of the proposed project
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992	Stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that prevents 'dangerous' human-induced interference with the climate system.	The proposed project is aligned with the UNFCCC under outputs 1.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, contributing to outcomes 1 to 3.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	Conserve biological diversity, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.	The proposed project is aligned with the UNCBD under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, contributing to outcomes 1 ~~and to 3.~~
UN Convention to Combat Desertification 1992	Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas through integrated action and international cooperation to achieve sustainable development.	The proposed project is aligned with the UNCCD under outputs 1.1, 1.2, contributing to outcome 1.

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

~~53. The project is strategically aligned with Nepal's national, provincial and local development priorities and global climate commitments. It provides a coherent, integrated approach to sustainable development and climate adaptation, ensuring that project outcomes contribute meaningfully to both national goals and international frameworks.~~

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

~~54.53.~~ The project will comply with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund. All activities will adhere to the Environmental and Social Principles of the Fund. It will also adhere to National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)'s ESMF which focuses on promoting environmentally sound and sustainable conservation while its Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy aims to address social disparities and ensure inclusive participation in conservation efforts. The project will strictly adhere to national regulatory requirements for environmental and social protection during implementation. It will also follow gender-related policies and legislation for a gender-responsive agenda.

~~55.54.~~ **National Legal and Technical Standards: Environmental Protection Act (2019) and Environmental Protection Rules (2020):** All activities will be screened to determine whether Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are required. The project will secure relevant environmental clearances prior to implementation.

~~56.55.~~ **Forest Act (2019).** Restoration and agroforestry activities on community and public lands will comply with forest management regulations and the operational plans of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs).

~~57.56.~~ **Local Government Operation Act (2017).** Activities will be integrated into the annual plans and budgets of local governments through participatory planning processes.

Table 10. Comprehensive National Technical Standards and Compliance Requirements

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

	nurseries)			
--	------------	--	--	--

58-57. Alignment with Adaptation Fund safeguards. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed during the full proposal stage. It will include screening tools aligned with the Adaptation Fund's 15 ESP principles; define risk classification thresholds and mitigation protocols; be updated based on IEE/EIA findings as required; ensure FPIC for Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups; grievance redress mechanism protocols and roles at community, local government and implementing entity levels; training modules for local government and civil society partners on safeguard compliance, grievance handling, and inclusive stakeholder engagement; an Environmental and Social Risk Screening Summary.

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

59-58. GREEN-Koshi has been designed to be complementary and synergistic, filling both geographic and thematic gaps through (i) targeting a defined set of districts and sites not covered by the same combination of interventions; (ii) focusing on integrated outcomes that combine nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction (including early warning), and climate-resilient livelihoods; and (iii) applying structured coordination with Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE)/Climate Change Management Division (CCMD), provincial/local governments and project stakeholders to harmonise workplans, avoid double-financing, and build on existing investments. There is no duplication of activities between GREEN-Koshi and other identified initiatives, including the GCF-funded Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN).

60-59. The main ~~and~~ project in the area targeting conservation and livelihood resilience in the Koshi region is the GCF-funded project, BRCRN. Beyond BRCRN, the federal government's Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board and Koshi Province's Ministry of Tourism, Forests and Environment have been implementing regular annual activities for conservation and management of forests and watershed management. These efforts are, however, not sufficient in terms of area coverage and budget required. Additionally, these efforts remain fragmented and lack an integrated, resilience-focused approach at landscape scale.

61-60. GREEN-Koshi is uniquely positioned to build on these foundations by mainstreaming climate adaptation through NbS, institutionalizing inclusive planning processes and bridging the financing and capacity gaps at the subnational level. Some areas of GREEN-Koshi overlap geographically with the intervention zone of the BRCRN project, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). BRCRN focuses primarily on addressing climate-induced challenges in the Chure hills by promoting climate-resilient land-use practices, forest conservation and institutional capacity-building to reduce deforestation and climate vulnerability. Beyond the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded Building a Resilient Chure Region in Nepal (BRCRN) project, which will conclude in May 2027, no other ongoing or planned projects with overlapping geographic coverage or intervention scope were identified in the proposed project area, and GREEN-Koshi has been designed to complement BRCRN by addressing remaining geographic and thematic gaps without duplication.

Table 1111. Snapshot of GCF funded project: Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)

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

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

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

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

64.63. Geographical coverage: While BRCRN operates only in the Chure hills, GREEN-Koshi adopts a broader landscape approach, covering both the Chure and Terai, maintaining ecological connectivity from

upland watersheds to downstream wetlands and farmlands areas not covered by BRCRN.

65-64. Implementation Logic: BRCRN applies a river system-based planning model, focused on individual watersheds. GREEN-Koshi employs integrated landscape management recognizing interdependence of ecosystems, communities and climate risks across administrative and ecological boundaries.

66-65. Thematic Scope: GREEN-Koshi includes components not addressed under BRCRN, such as: Human–wildlife conflict mitigation, especially in biodiversity corridors with elephant movement; Community-led ecotourism development, linked to wetland restoration and conservation livelihoods; NbS-based enterprise development and market links, with strong focus on gender equality and Indigenous Peoples' participation.

67-66. Coordination with BRCRN and other actors will be ensured through joint technical platforms, shared stakeholder engagement processes and alignment with provincial development priorities. Lessons from BRCRN, particularly on forest governance and climate-informed planning, will inform GREEN-Koshi's design and adaptive management. The Adaptation Fund's support will enable Nepal to extend resilience outcomes beyond the reach of existing initiatives, addressing critical gaps in biodiversity protection, human–wildlife coexistence, eco-livelihoods and the inclusion of underrepresented groups.

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

68-67. Component 5 includes a dedicated learning and knowledge management sub-component responsible for consolidating, synthesising, and disseminating lessons learned and evidence generated across all project components. This component strengthens both change pathways of the project by enabling continuous learning on ecosystem restoration and resilient livelihoods, as well as on inclusive climate governance. Through this role, Component 5 ensures that learning and knowledge generated by the project are systematically captured, shared through platforms such as the Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre, and used to inform policy, planning and scaling of NbS beyond the project period.

69-68. The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), as the Executing Entity, will coordinate the tracking of experiences and lessons learned, with CIFOR-ICRAF serving as a key executing partner responsible for technical leadership on learning design, evidence synthesis, and quality assurance, in close collaboration with provincial and local government partners.

70-69. Learning will be co-created with communities, government institutions, and technical partners through training, exchange visits, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and participatory monitoring. The project will integrate Indigenous and local knowledge by creating dedicated spaces for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to document and share their ecological practices, climate coping strategies, and stewardship approaches. These insights will enrich the co-design of NbS and ensure that adaptation measures are culturally grounded and context appropriate. The learning process will also be gender-responsive, ensuring equitable participation of women, particularly Indigenous and marginalized women, who hold critical experiential knowledge. Training material, case studies, and participatory planning tools will reflect gender-differentiated climate risks, roles, and adaptation strategies. Women's leadership in community learning platforms will be actively supported.

Table 12. Roles and responsibilities for Learning and Knowledge Management

Institution	Role in Learning & Knowledge Management
NTNC (Executing Entity)	Overall coordination and oversight of learning and knowledge management; convening learning reviews; ensuring integration of lessons into implementation and reporting.
MoAFE / CCMD	Facilitate national-level uptake of learning; link project knowledge to national policy processes; support hosting, updating and dissemination through national platforms such as the Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC).
CIFOR-ICRAF (Key Executing Partner)	Technical leadership on learning and knowledge management; design of the learning framework; synthesis of evidence and lessons; development of policy briefs, case studies and technical notes; quality assurance and linkage to regional and global knowledge platforms.

Institution	Role in Learning & Knowledge Management
Provincial and Local Governments (Koshi Province)	Provide implementation insights and data; participate in learning reviews; apply lessons to planning and budgeting processes; support sub-national dissemination.
Multi-stakeholder Platforms	Serve as forums for peer learning and policy dialogue; validate lessons and good practices; support scaling and replication discussions.

71-70. The Green Koshi will establish a structured learning and knowledge management system to generate, curate and disseminate evidence and lessons for scaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and climate-resilient development.

72-71. Type of information collected. The project will collect and document: (i) technical and scientific information (baseline assessments, NbS design and restoration methods, agroforestry and ecosystem management practices, early warning system configurations); (ii) operational and implementation knowledge (community-based management approaches, maintenance protocols, cost-benefit insights, value-chain development lessons); (iii) policy and planning knowledge (policy briefs, planning and budgeting tools, lessons for mainstreaming NbS into local, provincial and national plans); (iv) monitoring, evaluation and learning data (quantitative indicators, qualitative outcome stories, gender- and inclusion-disaggregated evidence); and (v) indigenous and local knowledge, documented in culturally appropriate formats.

73-72. The Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC) will serve as the central national hub for knowledge dissemination. All validated project knowledge products (guidelines, briefs, case studies, digital learning materials) will be curated and hosted through CCKMC. Dissemination will follow a multi-platform approach, combining CCKMC with linked government and partner portals, a learning management system for modular e-learning, and in-person channels such as stakeholder dialogues, community exchanges and policy roundtables. All platforms will reference and feed into CCKMC to ensure coherence and avoid duplication. The project will strengthen CCKMC's capacity to curate knowledge, manage repositories and host online learning modules, ensuring wide dissemination to provincial and local governments, community groups, and civil society.

74-73. Collaboration with CCKMC will be formalized through an institutional agreement or memorandum of understanding, clarifying roles related to content hosting, quality control, data governance, and dissemination. The project budget includes dedicated allocations for learning and knowledge management, covering content development, digital integration, dissemination events and technical support to CCKMC. Anchoring knowledge assets and Communities of Practice within CCKMC will ensure sustainability and continued use beyond the project period.

75-74. A Community of Practice will be embedded into this infrastructure to support ongoing reflection, knowledge exchange and lesson generation. Methods such as outcome harvesting and most significant change may be used to structure evidence-based learning. Lessons learned will be tracked through structured reflection sessions, facilitated multi-stakeholder learning events and digital analytics (e.g. views, downloads). These lessons will inform adaptive management throughout implementation and will be synthesized annually for wider national and regional sharing.

76-75. To ensure sustainability beyond the project period, the knowledge products, digital repositories and Communities of Practice will be anchored within CCKMC and relevant provincial platforms. This will allow continued use of learning materials, replication of NbS models and long-term uptake of inclusive climate governance practices across Nepal.

77-76. Design of the Strategy: Once this project concept moves to full development, a strategy will be elaborated across five pillars. (i) **Situational analysis of the Koshi landscape:** This will provide an overview of available knowledge, data and institutions and lead to the creation of a publicly accessible and interactive Knowledge House. (ii) **Comprehensive stakeholder analysis:** Including identification of stakeholder roles in NbS design and implementation, their existing knowledge levels and desired competencies. This includes particular attention to integrate Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' knowledge into all stages of capacity development and knowledge generation. (iii) **Identification of learning needs:** Insights gathered

from the stakeholder analysis will guide the identification of learning needs and help determine the knowledge, skills and attitudes (competencies) required for stakeholders to contribute effectively to the project's objectives. This includes particular attention to gender-responsive learning and knowledge management. (iv) **Learning needs assessment; & (v) Conversion into learning modules:** The results of the learning needs assessment will guide the collaborative learning process and lead to the production of crisp, modular learning content accessible online, offline or in blended formats.

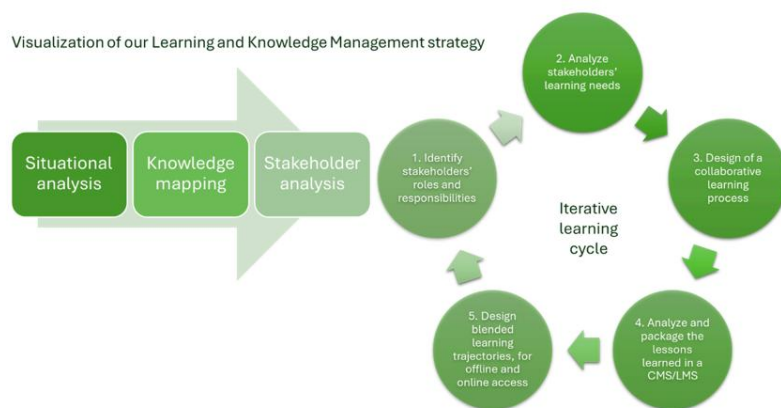


Figure 2. Visualization of learning and knowledge management strategy

78-77. Digital Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Support: In collaboration with the CCKMC, the project will design and maintain a digital infrastructure for knowledge curation, storage, learning product development, and dissemination. This will be based on a publicly accessible Content Management System paired with an open Learning Management System. Knowledge products (articles, briefs, videos, stories) will feed into micro-learnings and modular e-courses.

79-78. Sharing and Dissemination of Lessons Learned: The project will establish a learning and knowledge management infrastructure that consolidates knowledge products, learning materials and documented lessons into an accessible system. This will include technical briefs, guidelines, manuals, case studies, micro-learnings and modular e-courses, enabling wide dissemination within Nepal and to broader regional audiences. Capacity development for CCKMC staff will ensure they can manage this system effectively, while project learning specialists will support the design, packaging and scaling of learning products. Progress will be monitored through participation records for in-person events and digital analytics for online platforms. Metrics such as views, downloads and completion rates will help assess user engagement, while short assessments embedded in micro-learnings will track improvements in stakeholder capacities. To evaluate the effectiveness of the learning strategy, the project will systematically analyze lessons learned and facilitate regular reflection with stakeholders and partners. Guiding questions, such as what has been learned, how behaviours are changing and which underlying assumptions support long-term change will be used to promote deeper 'triple-loop' learning. Communication experts from CCKMC and CIFOR-ICRAF will support dissemination through web-based stories, social media, and other outreach tools. Adequate budget provisions are allocated to ensure that learning, capacity development, and knowledge management function as core drivers of project impact and sustainability.

80-79. Lessons generated through the project will inform adaptive management during implementation and

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

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

81-80. This project concept is grounded in preliminary consultations with a diverse set of stakeholders, including local government representatives, CFUGs, NTNC field staff and research partners who bring extensive experience in participatory, inclusive approaches to climate adaptation and natural resource governance in Nepal and globally as documented in the below table (photographs of meetings included in Annex C).

Table 13. Summary of stakeholder consultations

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

Modernization Project, Jhapa Male: 4 Female: 0		(i)Agreement to prioritize NbS-based watershed and landscape restoration as a provincial adaptation priority (ii)Agreement that provincial forest and agriculture agencies will coordinate with municipalities during implementation (iii)Agreement to support integration of project activities into district-level planning and implementation mechanisms	capacity strengthening).	and inclusive enterprises.
Local Government 1. Ms. Khadga Maya Parajuli, Deputy Mayor, Arjundhara Municipality 2. Sunil Niraula, Administrative Officer, Bhadrapur Municipality Male: 1 Female: 1	March 2025, Jhapa	Issues Discussed (i)Insufficient municipal budget to independently finance climate-resilient infrastructure and ecosystem restoration (ii)Increasing climate risks affecting vulnerable households, agriculture and water access (iii)Need for external technical and financial support aligned with municipal priorities Agreements Reached (i)Agreement to integrate project-supported NbS activities into annual municipal plans and budgets (ii)Agreement to provide local coordination, facilitation and institutional support during implementation (iii)Agreement to align project activities with municipal disaster risk reduction and land-use plans	(i)Inputs directly informed Activity 1.1.2, ensuring municipal priorities guide NbS site selection. (ii)Municipal integration is reflected across Outputs 1.1, 2.2 and 5.1, strengthening local ownership.	Women municipal representatives highlighted disproportionate impacts of floods and water stress on women's unpaid labor. Addressed through Output 1.1 (gender-responsive local adaptation actions) and scheduling of trainings to reduce time burdens under Component 4.
CFUGs 1. Mr. Yogesh Bhattarai 2. Mr. Shanti Chimariya 3. Mr. Bhola Neupane 4. Ms. Shanti Sharma 5. Mr. Balkrishna Sapkota 6. Ms. Laxmi Karki 7. Ms. Kalpana Rai Male: 4 Female: 3	March 2025, Jhapa	Issues Discussed (i)Increasing exposure to floods, erosion and declining forest productivity (ii)Limited livelihood diversification options under climate stress (iii)Need for community-led ecosystem restoration and external support Agreements Reached (i)Agreement to support community-led NbS implementation within community forests (ii)Agreement to participate in restoration, monitoring and maintenance activities (iii)Agreement to collaborate with municipalities and project partners during implementation	Inputs guided selection of intervention sites under Output 1.2 and community-led restoration under Activities 1.1.3–1.1.4. Livelihood concerns directly informed Output 3.1 on NbS-based enterprises.	Women CFUG members highlighted time constraints and limited leadership roles. Addressed through Output 1.1 (gender-responsive planning), leadership opportunities under Component 4, and women-targeted enterprise support under Output 3.1.
Total Male: 12 Female: 6				

~~82-81.~~ Stakeholder consultations were operational in nature and directly informed project outputs, activities and institutional arrangements. Agreements reached during consultations shaped site selection, coordination mechanisms, gender-responsive livelihood design and policy integration, ensuring that stakeholder inputs are embedded in implementation rather than remaining advisory.

~~83-82.~~ NTNC's longstanding work in engaging Indigenous Peoples, women's cooperatives and marginalized farming communities has informed the project's approach to locally led adaptation, agroforestry-based livelihoods and participatory ecosystem restoration. NTNC's action research and facilitation tools have proven effective in aligning stakeholder priorities while fostering equity, transparency and sustainability. In addition, the proposal builds on consultations with key Government actors, including senior officials NTNC,

Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board, Koshi Province Forest Directorate and Division Forest Offices in the proposed project area. These discussions emphasized the urgency of addressing interconnected challenges of water stress, land degradation, biodiversity loss and livelihood vulnerability, particularly in the Terai–Chure interface zones. Stakeholders highlighted the need for integrated, landscape-scale solutions that are both climate-resilient and socially inclusive. In response, the preliminary project design presented herein incorporates multi-stakeholder platforms and community governance mechanisms to ensure ownership, transparency and accountability.

84-83. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the full proposal phase to expand outreach and ensure meaningful participation of women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, youth and other marginalized groups throughout implementation. Engagement processes will be guided by principles of FPIC, participatory planning and social inclusion in alignment with both national policy and Adaptation Fund safeguards.

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

85-84. The funding requested from the Adaptation Fund reflects the full cost of delivering concrete, climate-driven adaptation outcomes under the GREEN-Koshi project and is directly aligned with the output-level budget allocations presented in Table 2. Component and output budgets are structured to cover the complete adaptation cycle, including climate risk and vulnerability assessments, technical design and implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), community engagement, capacity strengthening, safeguards compliance, monitoring and long-term functionality of adaptation measures. Larger allocations to Components 1–3 reflect the scale and capital intensity of ecosystem restoration, agroforestry and human–elephant conflict mitigation measures required to reduce exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards and to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods at landscape scale. Proportionate investments in institutional capacity strengthening and policy mainstreaming (Components 4–5) ensure that adaptation benefits are sustained, replicated and scaled beyond the project period. Overall, the requested funding represents a cost-effective and balanced investment across physical, social and institutional dimensions of adaptation, commensurate with the level of climate risk faced by vulnerable communities in Koshi Province. Proposed costs are estimates and may be adjusted during the full project preparation phase. A detailed breakdown of costed activities is provided in Annex F.

86-85. All components and activities required to achieve the project’s adaptation objective are fully costed and covered by the Adaptation Fund request. Without external financial support, the target communities, local governments and key institutions in Koshi Province would not have the resources or capacity to implement the necessary ecosystem-based adaptation measures at the scale, coverage and technical rigour required to address escalating climate risks. Public and private financing mechanisms for NbS remain nascent in Nepal and despite strong policy commitments including the NAP, NDC 3.0, and National Climate Change Policy (2019), the fiscal space of provincial and municipal governments is severely constrained.

87-86. Local governments face competing development priorities, low discretionary budgets and limited access to climate finance, leaving them unable to undertake large-scale watershed restoration, wetland rehabilitation, agroforestry systems expansion, or human–wildlife conflict mitigation without external support. The requested Adaptation Fund resources will therefore enable the project to cover the entire cost of adaptation, including the following linked intervention areas:

88-87. **Ecosystem restoration:** Reforestation, watershed rehabilitation, wetland restoration and slope stabilization through NbS directly reduce climate risks such as floods, droughts, sedimentation and erosion. These interventions increase water retention, restore ecological buffers, and strengthen landscape-scale resilience; benefits that cannot be achieved without climate finance.

89-88. **Climate-resilient livelihoods:** The development of agroforestry systems, climate-resilient value chains and NbS-based enterprises diversifies incomes and strengthens local economies against climate shocks. These livelihood transformations require initial financing for nurseries, inputs, training and enterprise incubation; costs that cannot be shouldered by vulnerable households or local governments alone.

90-89. **Capacity strengthening and institutional strengthening:** Training local governments, community-

based organizations, CFUGs and Indigenous communities is essential to ensure long-term adaptation governance. Funding is required for curricula development, extension services, technical support, monitoring systems and early-warning capacities.

91-90. Policy integration and knowledge dissemination: Mainstreaming NbS into local and provincial policies and budgets, establishing multi-stakeholder platforms and developing knowledge products and learning systems requires external support in the short term to generate long-term institutional sustainability. National institutions including MoAFE, MoALD, provincial ministries and local governments will play critical roles in sustaining outcomes, but they lack the financial capacity to launch such large-scale, integrated adaptation programmes without the Adaptation Fund. The Fund's investment is therefore not supplementary; it is indispensable to ensuring that vulnerable groups particularly women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and smallholders receive tangible, measurable adaptation benefits. Moreover, the Fund's support ensures that adaptation results are long-lasting and transformative. By restoring ecosystems, reducing exposure to climate hazards, strengthening adaptive capacities and embedding NbS within Government systems, the project creates structural change that will continue beyond its lifetime. This reduces future dependence on external assistance and positions the province and nation to scale NbS-based adaptation independently. In summary, the requested Adaptation Fund resources represent the full cost of adaptation required to implement concrete, on-the-ground NbS interventions; build and sustain climate-resilient livelihoods; strengthen institutions to manage climate risks; and mainstream adaptation into long-term governance systems. This investment will deliver enduring benefits for both people and ecosystems in Koshi Province while significantly advancing Nepal's national adaptation and development priorities.

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

92-91. Sustainability is a central pillar of the GREEN-Koshi project with the design incorporating long-term mechanisms to ensure that ecological, social, financial and institutional benefits continue beyond project completion. The project adopts a multi-dimensional sustainability approach that is institutional, financial, environmental, social and knowledge-based, supported by clear exit pathways and capacity-retention measures.

93-92. Institutional sustainability: The project embeds NbS into the core planning, regulatory and budgeting processes of provincial and local governments. Through participatory planning, legal support and creation of standard operating procedures, NbS will be mainstreamed into annual and 5-year plans, DRR strategies, land-use plans and sectoral budgets. Capacity retention mechanisms are integral to project design and include a training-of-trainers approach, institutional embedding of NbS tools and guidelines within provincial and municipal systems, and phased handover of responsibilities to local governments, CFUGs and wetland management committees. Skills developed under the project will be applied through formal roles within existing institutions, ensuring continuity beyond project closure. Capacity-retention mechanisms, including formal training modules, on-the-job learning and the adoption of NbS tools and guidelines ensure that local officials and community institutions retain knowledge after project closure. A phased handover strategy will gradually transfer responsibilities for watershed management, early-warning systems and agroforestry extension to municipalities, CFUGs and wetland committees. Institutional continuity is further reinforced through the NTNC's Field Office and existing CIFOR-ICRAF MoU with MoALD, which provides a platform for ongoing collaboration in agroforestry, capacity development, and ecosystem management.

94-93. Financial sustainability: The project cultivates long-term financing mechanisms rooted in community enterprises, eco-tourism revenue, agroforestry value chains and emerging instruments, such as ecological fiscal transfers. Livelihood and enterprise models are designed to generate sustained income streams that fund ongoing maintenance of nurseries, wetland systems, agroforestry plots and monitoring activities. Local governments will establish budget lines for operation and maintenance of EWS and NbS assets, supported by provincial climate finance allocations. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes are included on an exploratory and pilot basis to assess their technical, economic and institutional viability rather than as guaranteed financing mechanisms. The project will undertake ecosystem service valuation, cost-benefit analysis and stakeholder willingness-to-pay assessments to determine whether PES models are feasible and scalable in the

Koshi context.

~~95-94.~~ Post-project operation and maintenance arrangements have been considered. Local governments will integrate maintenance of early warning systems and NbS assets into annual plans and budgets, while CFUGs, wetland committees and producer groups will manage restored ecosystems and livelihood assets through existing governance structures and revenues generated from enterprises, eco-tourism and value chains.

~~96-95.~~ Capacity retention measures are defined at concept note stage through institutional strengthening, training-of-trainers, local platform support and integration of operational practices into local systems, while long-term post-project maintenance will be implemented through competent local government structures and routine service arrangements. At concept note stage, financial sustainability arrangements with local governments are not yet fully formalised; however, they have been agreed in principle through consultations and will be concluded as a defined future action during full proposal preparation/inception through written arrangements specifying O&M financing commitments, budget-line integration, responsible entities and implementation timelines. Progress on formalisation will be tracked through agreed milestones and reported through project governance and implementation reporting.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

~~97-96.~~ **Environmental sustainability:** The project restores and protects ecosystems that generate long-term climate resilience benefits, such as clean water supply, reduced erosion, enhanced soil fertility and enhanced biodiversity. All restoration interventions prioritize native species, ecological connectivity and landscape-scale approaches to ensure enduring environmental performance. Community institutions will receive training on adaptive ecosystem management, including habitat-health monitoring, sustainable harvesting regimes and enforcement of community rules, ensuring continued stewardship after project completion.

~~98-97.~~ **Social sustainability:** The project strengthens social institutions and promotes inclusive governance models that ensure lasting local ownership. CFUGs, wetland committees, producer cooperatives and women-led enterprises will take central roles in planning, implementation and monitoring, embedding stewardship responsibilities within local structures. Targeted capacity development for women, Indigenous Peoples and youth enhances long-term leadership in conservation and NbS-based livelihoods. By reducing human–elephant conflict through ecological interventions and EWS strengthening, the project also lowers the long-term social and economic burden on communities, preventing cycles of conflict that undermine resilience.

~~99-98.~~ **Knowledge and learning sustainability:** All project-generated tools, manuals, protocols, monitoring systems and best practices will be documented and integrated into national and subnational knowledge platforms. The Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKMC), hosted under the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE), will serve as the national repository for climate knowledge. The project will contribute technical content, data, learning products, and capacity support, while CCMD will retain responsibility for managing, updating, and sustaining the national knowledge platforms beyond the project period. Community-to-community exchanges, youth storytelling, joint monitoring missions, and policy dialogues will institutionalize continuous learning and knowledge sharing. Together, these mechanisms will ensure that knowledge remains accessible, scalable, and relevant well beyond the life of the project, with CCMD leading long-term platform ownership and updates.

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

~~100-99.~~ **Environmental and Social Risk Category:** Based on the environmental and social screening conducted in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy, the project is classified as Category B. The project is expected to have moderate, site-specific environmental and social risks that are not irreversible and can be readily mitigated through the implementation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including screening, mitigation, monitoring and grievance redress measures. All USPs identified during implementation will be screened, categorised and approved in line with AF ESP and GP requirements and will also be subject to the project ESMP, including preparation and implementation of any site-specific safeguard instruments required by screening outcomes, prior to implementation

~~101-100.~~ The GREEN-Koshi project has been designed to deliver primarily positive environmental and social impacts by restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening community resilience and enhancing local capacities.

However, recognizing that even well-intentioned adaptation projects can carry risks, a preliminary assessment has been undertaken. This aligns with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy and will be further deepened during the full proposal development. Environmental impacts and risks: The project is expected to generate substantial environmental benefits, including improved watershed and wetland health; increased biodiversity and habitat restoration; enhanced soil stability and fertility; and greater carbon sequestration through forest cover expansion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 14. Environmental and social risk screening

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

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

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

110-109. The GREEN-Koshi project is fully aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework by directly contributing to reduced exposure to climate-related hazards, increased adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and strengthened institutional capacity for climate-resilient development. Implementation arrangements translate these results into practice through integrated Nature-based Solutions, early warning systems, climate-resilient livelihoods, and policy mainstreaming across local, provincial, and national levels. Project results will be monitored using Adaptation Fund core indicators and gender- and socially disaggregated data, in compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy. By embedding adaptation measures within existing planning and budgeting systems, the project ensures coherence with the Adaptation Fund's strategic objectives and measurable results.

111-110. The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), serving as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for the Adaptation Fund, will act as the Implementing Entity for the project. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment (MoAFE) has formally endorsed the initiative and will serve as a co-executing entity alongside NTNC, drawing on its extensive experience and strong collaboration with national stakeholders across the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society. CIFOR-ICRAF as the key executing partner, shall collaborate with MoAFE and NTNC in the field-level execution of Project activities pursuant to a formal agreement, and shall be responsible for implementing delegated activities, ensuring accountability, and managing and disbursing funds as delegated by NTNC.

112.111. Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC will serve as the highest decision-making body, responsible for providing strategic direction, approving major project decisions, and ensuring alignment with national priorities. It will oversee project assurance functions, including monitoring and evaluation, performance oversight, accountability, and learning. The PSC will review and approve multi-year and annual work plans, monitor their execution, and assess progress. The committee will include representatives from relevant government ministries, Implementing Entity, key executing partners, community representatives and other project partners. One member will be selected to serve as the PSC Secretary.

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

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

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

Project Objective(s) ¹	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Objective 1: Restore and sustainably manage climate-vulnerable landscapes in Koshi Province and reduce exposure to climate-related hazards through integrated watershed and wetland restoration, nature-based tourism, and community-based risk-reduction measures. Specific objective 1: (Component 1): Implement integrated watershed management, restore and manage wetlands, and	POI 1.1: At least 20 priority sub-watersheds and 15 degraded wetlands restored or under improved participatory management by Year 5. POI 1.2: At least 15 small-scale climate-resilient nature-based tourism facilities or services operational in priority sites. At least 20 priority sub-watersheds with integrated management plans implemented as climate adaptation actions by Year 5. At least 15 degraded and critical wetlands restored or under improved participatory management by Year 5. At least 15 small-scale climate-resilient nature-based tourism facilities or services operational in priority sites. Approx. 400,000 people (~15% of Koshi Province's population) with improved water security and reduced climate-related disaster risk.	Outcome 5: Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	Indicator 5 (Core Indicator 4): Ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management in response to climate variability and change. 5. Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability-induced stress	3,000,000

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

promote climate-resilient nature-based tourism in priority sites of Koshi Province.	POI 1.3: Community-based EWS strengthened or established in identified climate and conflict hotspots.	Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats	Indicator 1: People using climate-related threat and hazard information.	425,000
	POI 1.4: Number of people using climate-related threat and hazard information from project-supported systems (target to be confirmed during full proposal preparation). POI 1.5: Approximately 400,000 people with reduced climate-related water and disaster risk. POI 1.6: At least 20% reduction in reported human-elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas by Year 5.			
Objective 2: Diversify and strengthen gender-responsive, climate-resilient livelihoods for smallholders and local communities through agroforestry, NbS-based enterprises and value chains. Specific objective 2 (Component 2): Scale-up climate-resilient agroforestry systems and human-elephant conflict mitigation measures to reduce climate-related risks and improve land and water management.	POI 2.1: At least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems by Year 5.	Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	Indicator 6A: People adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood practices.	1,824,750
	POI 2.2: Number of people adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood practices (target to be confirmed during full proposal preparation). At least 10 multipurpose tree and medicinal/aromatic plant (MAP) nurseries established with community participation.	Outcome 5: Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	Indicator 5: Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability-induced stress	425,000
	At least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and sustainable land-management practices by Year 5.	Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats	1. Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to stakeholders on a timely basis	
	≥20% reduction in reported human-elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas by Year 5.			
	No. of community-based early-warning and real-time monitoring systems (e.g. sirens, SMS alerts, watchtowers, camera traps, community scouts) strengthened or newly established in identified climate and conflict hotspots.	Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	Indicator 6B (Core Indicator 5): Households with increased income, or avoided decrease in income.	1,200,000
	POI 2.3: At least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups supported.			
	POI 2.4: At least 100 FTE jobs created, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.			
	POI 2.5: Participating households experience a 15-20% increase in household income.			
Objective 3: Strengthen institutional and community capacity, knowledge systems and policy frameworks to plan, implement, finance,	POI 2.6: Number of households with increased income or avoided decrease in income (target to be confirmed).	Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	Indicator 3A: People with strengthened awareness of climate change risks and how to better address them.	700,000±
	POI 2.7: At least one PES, climate-finance or green-finance mechanism identified or supported.			
	POI 3.1: Approximately 1,500 individuals, disaggregated by gender and social group, trained in climate adaptation, NbS, ecosystem governance and disaster risk reduction.			975,000
	POI 3.2: Number of targeted people demonstrating strengthened awareness of climate risks and appropriate responses			125,000

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

<u>monitor and scale gender-responsive Nature-based Solutions for climate adaptation.</u> Specific objective 3 (Component 3): Promote NbS-based enterprises and value chains to diversify and strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable groups.	(target to be confirmed). At least 20 NbS enterprises and producer groups supported (with business-development services and market linkages). At least 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created through NbS-based value chains, with at least 40% women and 20% Indigenous groups. Increase in the share of targeted households reporting more secure and diversified climate-resilient income sources. At least one pilot payments for ecosystem services (PES) or climate/green-finance mechanism (including carbon and biodiversity co-benefits) identified and supported.	6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	more secure access to livelihood assets 6.2: Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	
	POI 3.3: 12 government institutions, 50 CFUGs, 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs supported to apply NbS tools and guidance.	Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks	Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience.	615,500
	POI 3.4: Number of supported institutions demonstrating strengthened capacity to understand and address climate risks (target to be confirmed).	associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses		
	POI 3.5: At least one nested multi-stakeholder NbS coordination platform established or strengthened.			
	POI 3.6: At least 1 national and 5 sub-national/local policies, plans and/or budgets updated or developed to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities.	Outcome 7: Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures	Indicator 7: Policies, strategies, and/or plans adopted, implemented, and/or enforced that integrate climate risk and resilience considerations.	515,500
	POI 3.7: At least one PAPA developed or updated with clear NbS provisions.			
	POI 3.8: Number of supported policies, strategies and/or plans adopted, implemented and/or enforced (target to be confirmed).			
	Total output-outcome level grant amount			8,280,750
				7,765,250
Project outcome(s)	Project outcome indicator(s)	Adaptation-Fund Output	Adaptation-Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1. Landscapes in Koshi Province are restored and sustainably managed, with reduced climate-related hazards and more balanced human–elephant co-existence.	PRI 1.1: At least 20 priority sub-watersheds and 15 wetlands restored or under improved management by Year 5.	Output 5.1: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 5.1: Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management	3,000,000
	PRI 1.2: At least 15 nature-based tourism facilities/services operational in priority landscapes. At least 20 priority micro-watersheds and 15 wetlands restored or under improved management by Year 5.	strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	5.1. No. of natural resource assets created, maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by type and scale)	3,425,000
	≥20% reduction in reported human–elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas.	Output 5: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets	1.2 No. of early warning	
	Approx. 400,000 people with reduced climate-related water and disaster risk.			

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

		strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	systems (by scale) and no. of beneficiaries covered	
		Output 1.2: Targeted population groups covered by adequate risk reduction systems	1.2.1. Percentage of target population covered by adequate risk reduction systems	
	PRI 1.3: Number of community-based EWS established or improved (target to be confirmed).	Output 1.2: Targeted population groups covered by warning and advisory services for climate-related hazards and threats	Indicator 1.2A (Core warning systems established or improved.	425,000
	PRI 1.4: Approximately 400,000 people with reduced climate-related water and disaster risk.			
	PRI 1.5: At least 20% reduction in reported human-elephant conflict incidents in targeted areas.			
Outcome 2. Smallholder farmers and local communities access more diversified, gender-responsive climate-resilient livelihood opportunities.	PRI 2.1: At least 1,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry and NbS-based production systems by Year 5.	Output 6.1: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 6.1: People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk.	1,824,750
	PRI 2.2: Number of people receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (target to be confirmed). ≥4,000 ha under climate-resilient agroforestry systems by Year 5.		6.1. Percentage of households and communities having more secure access to livelihood assets.	3,024,750
	At least 20 NbS enterprises supported and ≥100 FTE jobs created, with at least 40% women and 20% Indigenous groups.	Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods.	
	Increase in the share of targeted households reporting more secure and diversified climate-resilient income sources.			
	PRI 2.3: At least 20 NbS-based enterprises or producer groups supported.	Output 6.1: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 6.1: People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk.	1,200,000
	PRI 2.4: At least 100 FTE jobs created, with at least 20% participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.			
	PRI 2.5: Targeted households report increased and diversified climate-resilient income sources.			
	PRI 2.6: At least one PES/climate-/green-finance mechanism identified or supported.			
Outcome 3. Institutions and communities in Koshi Province better plan, finance and sustain NbS for climate adaptation and inclusive development based on evidence and aligned with national policies.	PRI 3.1: Approximately 1,500 people, disaggregated by gender and social group, participate in training, exchanges and awareness activities on climate adaptation and NbS. At least 1,500 people (with strong participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and Dalits) trained on climate risks, NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation.	Output 3.1: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	Indicator 3.1: People participating in activities to improve awareness of climate risks and how to address them.	1,831,000
	At least 1 national and 5 sub-national/local policies/plans/budgets updated to integrate NbS.	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centres and networks to respond rapidly to extreme weather	2.1.1. No. of staff trained to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events (by gender)	700,000
	Functional multi-level NbS platform(s) (e.g.		2.1.2 No. of targeted institutions with increased capacity to minimize exposure to	

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

	provincial and/or national) meeting at least twice a year to review progress and guide scaling.	events Output 3.1: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning Output 7: Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	climate variability risks (by type, sector and scale) 3.1 No. of news outlets in the local press and media that have covered the topic 3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed (thematic, sectoral, institutional) and shared with relevant stakeholders 7.1. No. of policies introduced or adjusted to address climate change risks (by sector) 7.2. No. of targeted development strategies with incorporated climate change priorities enforced	
	PRI 3.2: 12 government institutions, 50 CFUGs, 5 SMEs and 5 CSOs receive NbS capacity and technical support.	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	Indicator 2.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience.	615,500
	PRI 3.3: At least one nested multi-stakeholder platform established or strengthened.			
	PRI 3.4: At least 1 national and 5 sub-national/local policies, plans and/or budgets updated or developed to integrate NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities.	Output 7.1: Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	Indicator 7.1A (Core Indicator 6): Policies, strategies, and/or plans developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk and resilience considerations.	515,500
	Total output level grant amount			8,280,750

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

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

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

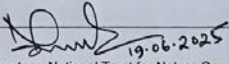
PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government²
Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:

Mr. Suman Subedi Under Secretary (Technical), Head, Adaptation Section Climate Change Management Division Ministry of Forests and Environment Singhadurbar, Kathmandu	 Date: 6/19/2025
---	--

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

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

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

² 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.

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government²



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Environment



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

Ref. No. 30

Letter of Endorsement by Government

Date: August 3, 2025

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Secretary :- 4211567 Fax:- 4211868



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Environment



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

Ref. No. 30

Letter of Endorsement by Government

Date: August 3, 2025

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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



Revised PFG Submission Form¹ (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: February 19, 2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID: AF00000474

Country/ies: Nepal

Title of Project/Programme: GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): National Implementing Entity (NIE)

Implementing Entity: National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal

Executing Entity/ies: National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	2026-11-01
Completion date of PFG	2027- ~~03~~ <u>10</u> -31

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

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

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
Comprehensive stakeholder consultations and workshops	Detailed stakeholder engagement plan and consultation reports, including specific inputs from women, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups.	30,000	Costs will cover local consultations and workshops, translation into local languages and preparation of background material to discuss project ideas.

¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

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

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

Formatted: Justified, Indent: Left: 0", Hanging: 0.01", Space After: 12.5 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.03 li

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note ²
			logistical support for the IE
Total Project Formulation Grant		150,000	

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

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

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

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

C. Implementing Entity

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

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
--	-----------	-------------------------	------------------------	-----------	---------------

Dr. Manish Raj Pandey; National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)		07-09-2026	Lina Chalise	+977 9851038357	mrpandey70@gmail.com / mrpandey@ntnc.org.np
--	---	------------	--------------	--------------------	--

Annex A. References

- ADB. 2020. *Country integrated diagnostic on environment and natural resources for Nepal*. Asian Development Bank
- DHM. 2017. *Observed climate trend analysis of Nepal (1971–2014)*. Department of Hydrology and Meteorology. Kathmandu, Nepal.
- FAO. 2025. *Evaluation of the project “Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal” – Interim report*, Project code: GCP/NEP/076/GCF. Project Evaluation Series, No. 24/2025. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7151en>.
- FRTC. 2024. *National land cover monitoring system of Nepal*. Forest Research and Training Centre. Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Ghimire SK., Karki R, Shrestha AB. 2019. *Bioengineering for slope stabilization: Experiences from Nepal*. ICIMOD Working Paper 2019/1. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. <https://lib.icimod.org/record/34796>
- GCF. 2019. *Funding Proposal FP118: Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN)*. Green Climate Fund, Republic of Korea.
- Global Commission on Adaptation. 2019. *Adapt Now: A global call for leadership on climate resilience*. World Resources Institute. <https://gca.org/reports/adapt-now-a-global-call-for-leadership-on-climate-resilience/>
- IUCN Nepal. 2022. *Nature-based solutions for adaptation: Pilot learning review*. International Union for Conservation of Nature Nepal.
- KPPC. 2024. *Second Periodic Plan (2024/25-2028/29)*. Koshi Province Planning Commission. Biratnagar, Nepal.
- MoF. 2025. *Economic survey 2024/25*. Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- MoFE. 2018. *National Ramsar strategy and action plan*. Ministry of Forests and Environment, Kathmandu
- MoFE. 2019. *Climate change scenarios for Nepal for National Adaptation Plan (NAP)*. Ministry of Forests and Environment. Kathmandu, Nepal
- MoFE. 2020. *Second Nationally Determined Contribution*. Ministry of Forests and Environment, Kathmandu
- MoFE. 2021. *Vulnerability and risk assessment and identifying adaptation options. Summary for policy makers*. Ministry of Forests and Environment, Kathmandu.
- NPC. 2021. *Nepal Multidimensional Poverty Index: Analysis towards action*. National Planning Commission Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal
- NSO. 2023. *National population and housing census 2021*. National Statistics Office, Kathmandu
- UNDP & Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal. 2020. *National Adaptation Plan (NAP) formulation process: Evidence synthesis report*. United Nations Development Programme Nepal and MoFE.
- UNDP. 2024. *Regional human development report. Making our future: New directions for human development in Asia and the Pacific*. United Nations Development Programme.
- UNEP. 2021. *State of finance for nature: Tripling investments in nature-based solutions by 2030*. United Nations Environment Programme. <https://www.unep.org/resources/state-finance-nature>.
- World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. 2021. *Climate risk country profile: Nepal*.

Annex B. Preliminary gender analysis and adaptation action plan

1. Context and purpose

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

2. Methodology

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

3. Gender roles in forestry and agriculture

3.1 Agriculture

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

3.2 Forestry

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

4. Gender gaps and barriers

Table B1. Preliminary assessment of gender gaps and barriers

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

5. Gender-differentiated climate change impacts

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

6. Opportunities for gender-responsive adaptation

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

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

Table B2. Recommended actions

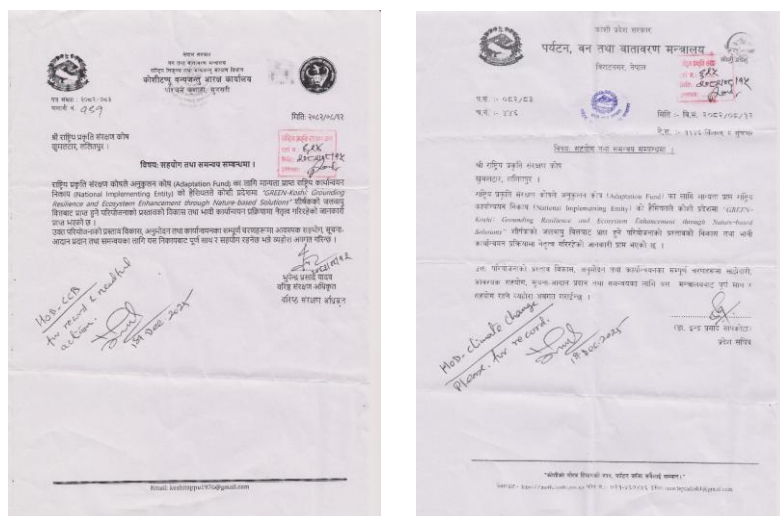
Action area	Proposed measure	Expected result	Indicator
Deliver climate-resilient agroforestry training	Conduct training for women and marginalized groups on climate-resilient agroforestry	Improvement in women's capacity and skill to implement	% women trained % women participating
Access nature-based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

7. Monitoring and evaluation

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

Annex C. Selected visual documentation of stakeholder consultations

I. Letter of Consent



Unofficial Translation:

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

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

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

उपस्थिति

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

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

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

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

१०. श्री केदार प्र. दास, रेन्जर, अद्विक्त, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष

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

प्र. ३. श्री जयकान्त चौधरी अध्यक्ष, जूँ पिपरा

192. श्री विवेक आर्टिस्त्री लेखा सहायक कोशी सराफा केन्द्र

१४. श्री लालि वहादुर ज्ञान भाग पालिका सुभाषा सुभाषा

छलफलका विषय तथा निर्णय

परियोजनाको प्रस्ताव सम्बन्धमा

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

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

प्रस्तावको मस्यौदाका लागि प्राप्त भएका राय, सुझाव र परामर्शलाई यथोचित रूपमा सम्बोधन हुने गरी समावेश गरी सम्बन्धित निकायमा पठाउन उपयुक्त हुने सर्वसम्मत निर्णय गरियो ।

Unofficial translation:

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

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

III. Photographs of consultation



Discussion 1 with Community Forest Users



Discussion 2 with Community Forest Users



Discussion 3 with Deputy Mayor and team



Discussion 4 with Forest Director, Koshi Province

Annex D. Theory of Change

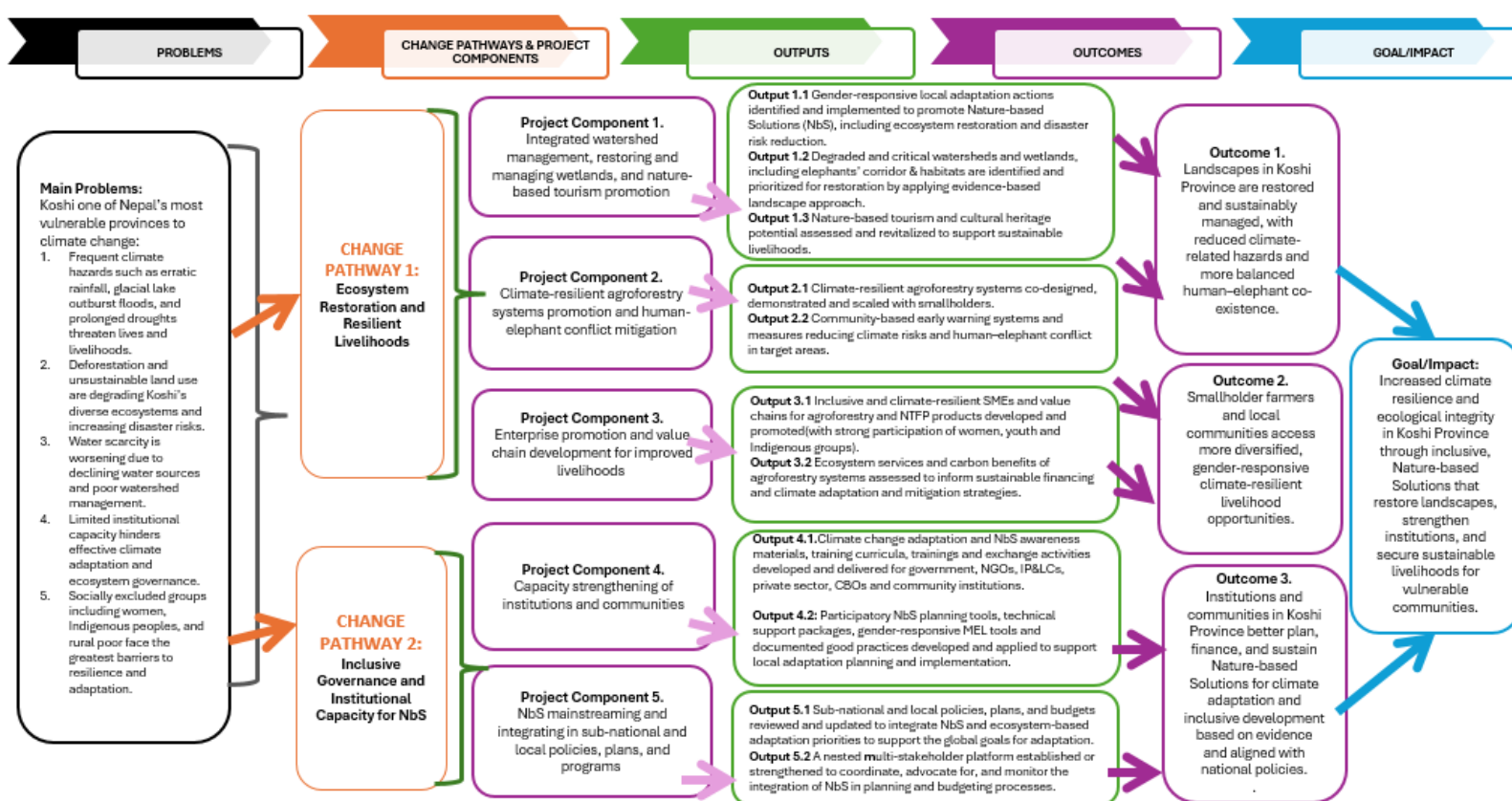


Figure 3. Theory of Change Diagram

Annex E. Project impact, outcomes, outputs and activities

Overall impact: Increased climate resilience and ecological integrity in Koshi Province through inclusive NbS that restore landscapes, strengthen institutions and secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities~~Enhanced resilience of communities, ecosystems and local economies in Koshi Province to current and future climate variability and change.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activity 1.1.3: Implement watershed restoration measures with community participation.

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

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

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

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

Activity 1.2.3: Implement priority wetland restoration measures.

Activity 1.2.4: Strengthen community wetland management committees and rules.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annex F. Overview of costed project activities

Activity	Budget (USD)	Rationale (Normative Basis)
Component 1		
1.1.1: Conduct participatory micro-watershed and climate-risk assessments to prioritise community's vulnerability and NbS sites	155,487	Field surveys, technical facilitation, local consultations
1.1.2: Design integrated ecosystem restoration and disaster risk reduction as part of managing critical watersheds	207,317	Technical studies, engineering/ecological design
1.1.3: Implement watershed restoration measures with community participation	1,554,879	Bioengineering, plantations, check dams, labour/material-intensive works
1.1.4: Train communities to operate, maintain and monitor watershed NbS	207,317	Training events, materials, local capacity building
Output 1.1. Total	2,125,000	
1.2.1: Map and assess degraded, climate-vulnerable wetlands.	142,772	Wetland inventory, GIS, ecological assessments
1.2.2: Co-design wetland restoration and protection plans with stakeholders.	95,181	Stakeholder workshops, technical facilitation
1.2.3: Implement priority wetland restoration measures.	475,903	Habitat rehabilitation, vegetation, small civil works
1.2.4: Strengthen community wetland management committees and rules.	76,144	Institutional strengthening, local governance support
Output 1.2. Total	790,000	
1.3.1: Assess nature-based and cultural tourism potential around restored sites.	28,334	Rapid market/tourism assessments
1.3.2: Develop small-scale, climate-sensitive tourism business models and products with communities.	42,500	Business model design, product development
1.3.3: Set up equitable tourism benefit-sharing for ecosystems and communities.	14,166	Community agreements, facilitation
Output 1.3. Total	85,000	
Total Budget Component 1	3,000,000	
Component 2		
2.1.1: Co-design climate-resilient agroforestry models with farmers and CFUGs.	121,650	Technical design, farmer consultations, model development
2.1.2: Establish nurseries and supply climate-resilient planting material.	790,725	Nursery infrastructure, seedlings, tools, labour
2.1.3: Provide on-farm extension on climate-smart and sustainable practices.	628,525	Extension staff, field visits, advisory services
2.1.4: Set up agroforestry demo plots and farmer-to-farmer learning.	283,850	Demonstration sites, training events, materials
Output 2.1. Total	1,824,750	
2.2.1: Map human–elephant conflict hotspots and risk zones.	75,555	Risk mapping, GIS, consultations
2.2.2: Design and install community-based early warning systems.	198,334	Sensors, sirens, communication equipment
2.2.3: Run drills and awareness sessions on EWS and safe behaviour.	70,833	Community training, simulation exercises
2.2.4: Implement non-lethal human–elephant conflict mitigation measures.	61,389	Fencing, deterrent tools, local materials
2.2.5: Integrate conflict and climate-risk measures into local DRR and land-use plans.	18,889	Planning workshops, technical facilitation
Output 2.2. Total	425,000	
Total Budget Component 2	2,249,750	

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

Activity	Budget (USD)	Rationale (Normative Basis)
exchange and community learning.		
Output 5.2. Total	515,500	
Total Budget Component 5	1,031,000	
Total Project Activity Budget	8,280,750	

GREEN-Koshi

Initial Gender Assessment Report

Concept note stage | Nepal

Purpose of this report. This report restructures the preliminary gender analysis in Annex B of the GREEN-Koshi concept note into an Initial Gender Assessment for the Adaptation Fund portal. It identifies key roles, barriers and differentiated climate impacts and sets out initial gender-responsive measures, indicators and next steps.

Project	GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions
Geographic focus	Chure-Terai landscape of Koshi Province: Udayapur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa and Ilam
Implementing entity	National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal
Policy alignment	Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and Action Plan; Nepal National Gender Equality Policy 2021; Nepal's National Climate Change Policy 2019, Nepal's NDC 3.0, Nepal National Adaptation Plan 2021-2050

1. Background and purpose

Koshi Province faces intensifying floods, droughts, landslides, erosion, water stress, ecosystem degradation and livelihood disruption. These risks interact with high dependence on climate-sensitive agriculture, forests and natural resources. Women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, land-poor households and other marginalised groups may face greater exposure and lower adaptive capacity because access to land, finance, information, technology, markets and decision-making is unequal.

GREEN-Koshi will combine watershed and wetland restoration, climate-resilient agroforestry, early warning and human-elephant conflict mitigation, nature-based enterprises, institutional capacity strengthening and policy mainstreaming. This assessment establishes the concept-stage basis for integrating gender equality and social inclusion across these components.

2. Scope, methodology and limitations

The assessment draws on policy and literature review, available sex-disaggregated information, and gender-related findings and commitments in the concept note and preliminary consultations. It remains preliminary: site-level baselines and the distinct priorities of Indigenous women, Dalit women, women-headed and landless households, persons with disabilities, youth and other vulnerable groups require targeted primary research during full proposal preparation.

3. Preliminary gender context and division of roles

Sector / issue	Preliminary findings
Agriculture	Women provide an estimated 60-70% of agricultural labour, including subsistence production, seed selection, planting, crop care, post-harvest work and livestock care. Men more often control land, cash-crop decisions, markets and mechanised operations. Male and youth out-migration is increasing women's farm-management responsibilities without equivalent gains in ownership, finance or technology.
Forestry	Women undertake routine forest-resource collection, nursery work and household use of fuelwood, fodder and non-timber forest products. Men continue to dominate many formal CFUG decisions. The policy requirement for 50% female committee participation does not automatically ensure effective voice or leadership.
Markets and institutions	Women have weaker access to extension, credit, productive assets, business networks and market information. Services often target the male household head, even where women perform most day-to-day production work.

4. Key gender gaps and implications for adaptation

Dimension	Key gap or issue	Implication for adaptation
Resources	Lower ownership or control of land; weaker access to credit, training, extension, technologies and inputs.	Limits investment in climate-resilient agriculture, agroforestry and enterprises.
Decision-making	Women and marginalised groups may be present but underrepresented in influential roles and benefit-sharing decisions.	Priorities may not reflect their risks, knowledge, labour or livelihood needs.
Labour and time	Women combine farm, forest, care and household work; migration can increase these responsibilities.	Reduces access to training and leadership and may increase unpaid labour.
Information and technology	Climate information, early warning and extension may reach male household heads more readily.	Women may receive warnings late or have less capacity to adopt technologies.
Income and markets	Weaker control over income, mobility, business networks, markets and formal finance.	Restricts livelihood diversification and the sustainability of adaptation investments.
Intersectional exclusion	Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, landless and women-headed households, persons with disabilities and remote groups face overlapping barriers.	Uniform approaches can reinforce existing inequalities and elite capture.

5. Gender-differentiated climate risks and adaptive capacity

Women's dependence on land, forests, water and household food systems increases exposure to drought, flood, landslide and ecosystem degradation. Climate shocks can lengthen the time required to secure water, fuel and food; increase care and recovery work; reduce subsistence production; and intensify mobility and safety constraints. Women may rely more on informal support because they have less direct access to finance, formal employment, productive assets and climate information.

Men also face losses through cash-crop disruption, reduced wage work and unstable migration income, but generally have stronger access to finance, markets, mobility, information and alternative employment. Project design should therefore assess who controls resources, performs additional labour, receives warnings and decides how benefits are used.

6. Initial gender-responsive design commitments

- Use transparent, equity-focused beneficiary selection based on climate vulnerability and barriers faced by women and marginalised groups.
- Ensure at least 40% women's participation in training and community processes. Treat the concept-stage 20% minimum for women in livelihood, employment and enterprise opportunities as a floor, not a ceiling, and refine it through the full assessment.
- Use targeted outreach, accessible information, local languages, flexible scheduling and separate or facilitated discussions where needed to support meaningful participation and leadership.
- Integrate women into the co-design, establishment and monitoring of agroforestry demonstrations, watershed and wetland restoration, early-warning systems, tourism and nature-based enterprises.
- Improve women's access to technical skills, productive assets, finance, business support, markets and leadership opportunities; apply FPIC-aligned engagement where Indigenous Peoples and affected local communities may be affected.
- Establish accessible, confidential and gender-responsive grievance channels and monitor whether project activities increase unpaid care or community-management burdens.

7. Initial gender action and monitoring framework

Action area	Initial measure	Indicative result / indicator
Participation and leadership	Set representation targets and support women and marginalised groups to influence planning, governance, site selection and benefit-sharing.	% participating by sex/social group; % women in leadership; evidence that inputs influence decisions.
Skills and NbS adoption	Provide targeted climate-resilient agroforestry, restoration, early-warning and enterprise training, demonstrations and peer learning.	At least 40% women in training/community processes; completion and adoption rates disaggregated by sex/social group.
Assets, finance and enterprise	Facilitate equitable access to planting material, tools, credit or grants, business services, markets, tourism and NTFP opportunities.	% women accessing assets/finance; women-led or women-participating enterprises; income changes by sex.
Workload, safety and access	Assess time use and care responsibilities; schedule activities appropriately; reduce mobility, information and safety barriers.	Participation and retention; feedback on workload/access; corrective actions documented.
Safeguards and grievances	Apply fair labour, non-discrimination and harassment-prevention measures and confidential grievance channels.	Awareness, grievances and resolution time; safeguard incidents and responses.
Gender-responsive MEL	Collect sex- and socially disaggregated baseline and results data on participation, benefits, assets, leadership, income and adaptive capacity.	All relevant indicators disaggregated; periodic gender reviews and management responses.

8. Key risks and mitigation measures

Principal risks include tokenistic participation, elite capture, unequal benefit access, male control over project-supported assets or income, increased unpaid labour, exclusion from early-warning information and inaccessible grievance mechanisms. Mitigation will include targeted outreach, transparent selection, participation and leadership targets, flexible delivery, gender-responsive budgeting and monitoring, fair labour standards, confidential grievance channels and periodic review of benefit distribution.

9. Next steps for full proposal preparation

- Complete an intersectional gender and social baseline across all five target districts using sex-, age-, disability-, ethnicity/caste-, livelihood- and location-disaggregated data.
- Conduct targeted consultations with women's groups, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, landless and women-headed households, persons with disabilities, youth, CFUGs, farmers, entrepreneurs and local institutions.
- Prepare a costed Gender Action Plan with responsibilities, timelines, targets, budget lines, grievance arrangements and component-level monitoring indicators.
- Validate and, where feasible, raise participation thresholds and establish targets for leadership, control of assets, income and equitable benefit-sharing.
- Integrate findings into the ESMF, site screening, beneficiary selection, procurement, partnerships, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Conclusion. Women are central to agriculture, forestry and household resilience in Koshi Province but face structural barriers to resources, finance, information, markets and formal decision-making. GREEN-Koshi can strengthen climate resilience and gender equality by addressing these barriers explicitly, monitoring who participates and benefits, and completing a detailed Gender Assessment and costed Gender Action Plan before implementation.

GREEN-Koshi

Initial Stakeholder Consultation Report

Concept note stage | Nepal

Purpose of this report. This concise report summarises preliminary stakeholder consultations already documented in the GREEN-Koshi concept note and Annex C. It is intended to meet the Adaptation Fund portal requirement for an Initial Consultation Report and does not replace the expanded consultations required during full proposal preparation.

1. Project background

Project	GREEN-Koshi: Grounding Resilience and Ecosystem Enhancement through Nature-based Solutions
Geographic focus	Chure-Terai landscape of Koshi Province: Udayapur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa and Ilam
Implementing entity	National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal
Financing requested	US\$9,927,750

Koshi Province is experiencing intensifying climate risks, including erratic rainfall, floods, drought, erosion, water stress, ecosystem degradation and human-elephant conflict. These risks interact with high dependence on climate-sensitive agriculture and natural resources, and disproportionately affect women, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, land-poor farmers and other marginalised groups.

GREEN-Koshi proposes an integrated Nature-based Solutions (NbS) approach combining watershed and wetland restoration, climate-resilient agroforestry, community-based early warning and conflict mitigation, NbS enterprises and value chains, institutional capacity strengthening, and policy mainstreaming.

2. Purpose and scope of preliminary consultations

- Validate priority climate, ecosystem and livelihood risks in the proposed landscape.
- Identify locally relevant adaptation measures and practical implementation roles.
- Build early ownership among government agencies, municipalities and community forest user groups (CFUGs).
- Integrate gender equality, social inclusion, safeguards and community participation into project design.

3. Consultation approach and stakeholder coverage

The concept note records consultations in March 2025 in Jhapa and July 2025 in Kathmandu. The process included meetings with government officials, discussions with local government representatives and CFUG members, field-level dialogue on proposed intervention areas, and review of institutional coordination and policy alignment. Supporting evidence includes signed consultation minutes, photographs and letters of consent/coordination.

Stakeholder group	Representatives / institutions	Date and location	Gender consideration
Federal government	Ministry of Forests and Environment undersecretaries	July 2025, Kathmandu	Women and men represented
Provincial and district agencies	Koshi Forest Directorate, Division Forest Office Jhapa, Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project	March 2025, Jhapa	Male-only meeting recorded
Local government	Deputy Mayor, Arjundhara Municipality; Administrative Officer, Bhadrapur Municipality	March 2025, Jhapa	Women and men represented
Community institutions	Seven named CFUG representatives	March 2025, Jhapa	Three women among named participants

4. Key issues raised and agreements reached

Theme	Consultation messages	Agreed direction
Climate and ecosystem risk	Increasing floods, erosion, water stress, declining forest productivity, wetland degradation and climate pressure on agriculture and vulnerable households.	Prioritise integrated watershed, wetland and landscape restoration, linked to disaster-risk reduction and ecosystem resilience.
Nature-based Solutions and livelihoods	Limited livelihood diversification and local capacity to finance restoration; need for practical, community-led adaptation.	Use NbS as the core approach, combining agroforestry, ecosystem restoration, nature-based tourism and inclusive enterprises/value chains.
Government coordination and finance	Insufficient municipal and provincial resources, fragmented mandates and weak integration of NbS into plans and budgets.	Embed activities in municipal and provincial plans; clarify coordination roles; establish a multi-stakeholder platform and strengthen policy/budget integration.
Community ownership	CFUGs requested external technical support while confirming willingness to participate in restoration, monitoring and maintenance.	Use participatory site selection and community-led implementation, with local institutions involved throughout the adaptation cycle.
Gender equality and social inclusion	Women face unequal access to extension, finance and leadership, as well as disproportionate unpaid work associated with water and household resilience.	Apply gender-responsive planning, targeted enterprise and capacity support, inclusive scheduling, disaggregated monitoring and safeguards for marginalised groups.

5. How consultation inputs were incorporated into the concept note

Consultation influence	Design response in GREEN-Koshi
Participatory and gender-responsive local adaptation	Output 1.1 and Activity 1.1.1 incorporate participatory climate-risk and micro-watershed assessment, with gender-responsive local adaptation actions and municipal input to site selection.
Landscape restoration and community management	Output 1.2 and Activities 1.1.3-1.1.4 reflect community-led watershed/wetland restoration, monitoring and maintenance, including attention to elephant habitats and corridors.
Risk reduction and human-elephant coexistence	Output 2.2 integrates community-based early warning, non-lethal mitigation and alignment with local disaster-risk-reduction and land-use plans.
Livelihood diversification and inclusive enterprise	Output 3.1 responds to livelihood concerns through agroforestry, non-timber forest products, tourism and NbS-based enterprises, with targeted participation of women, youth and Indigenous groups.
Capacity and participatory planning	Outputs 4.1-4.2 provide training, planning tools, technical support and gender-responsive monitoring for governments, communities and local institutions.
Policy integration and coordination	Outputs 5.1-5.2 integrate NbS into plans and budgets and establish/strengthen a nested multi-stakeholder coordination platform.

Institutional support. The supporting correspondence from the Ministry of Tourism, Forests and Environment of Koshi Province and the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve records their readiness to support coordination, facilitation, proposal development and subsequent implementation.

6. Safeguards, inclusion and next steps

The consultations completed to date provide an initial basis for project design but are not yet sufficient for final site-level decisions. During full proposal preparation, NTNC and partners will expand the process across all five target districts and document how feedback is addressed.

Expand stakeholder mapping Include affected municipalities, CFUGs, wetland users, farmers, women's groups, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, youth, landless households, private sector actors and relevant civil-society organisations.	Strengthen gender and social inclusion Use separate or targeted discussions where needed; schedule meetings to reduce time and mobility barriers; track participation and benefits using sex- and socially disaggregated indicators.
Apply FPIC-aligned engagement Provide accessible information in appropriate languages and obtain free, prior and informed consent where Indigenous Peoples and affected local communities may experience land, resource-use or livelihood impacts.	Establish feedback and grievance channels Document issues, responses and unresolved concerns; provide accessible, confidential and gender-responsive grievance mechanisms at community and municipal levels.
Validate sites and risks Confirm climate vulnerability, land tenure, resource rights, ecological suitability, benefit-sharing arrangements and environmental/social risks before site selection.	Maintain an audit trail Verify participant records, dates and locations; retain attendance sheets, minutes, consent documentation and photographs, and prepare a consultation-response matrix for the full proposal.

7. Selected visual documentation



Discussion with community forest users



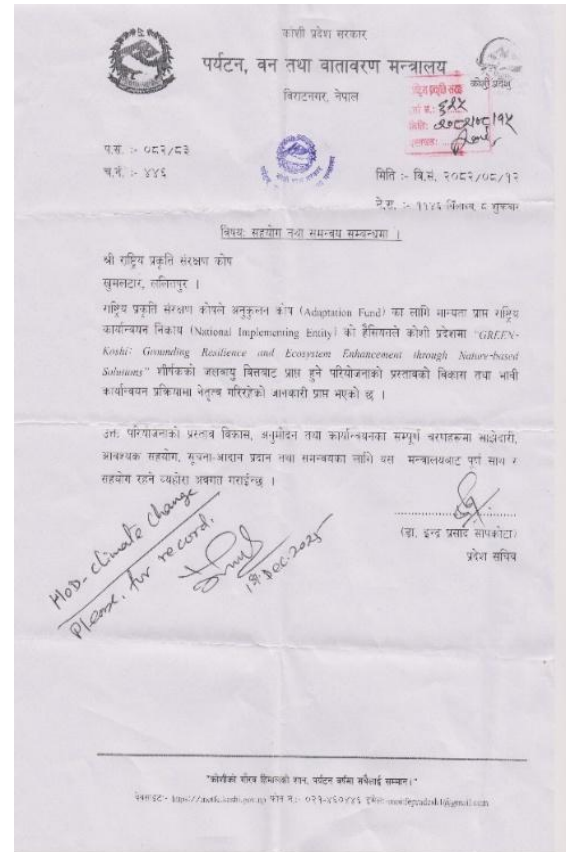
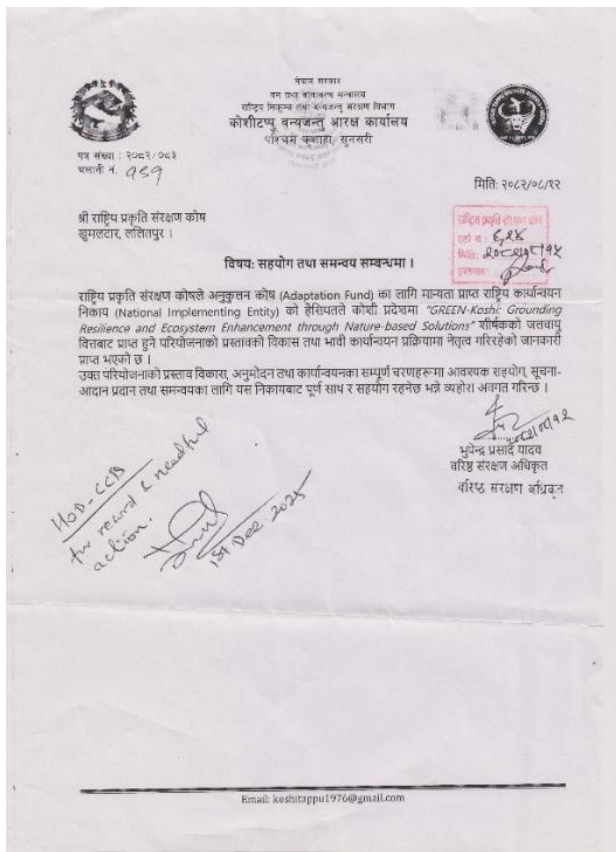
Community-level discussion on risks and priorities



Discussion with Deputy Mayor and local team



Discussion with Forest Director, Koshi Province



Letter of consent and unofficial translation:

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

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

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

उपस्थिति

१. श्री बुद्धि सागर पौडेल, महानिर्देशक, राष्ट्रिय निकुन्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभाग, काठमाडौं
२. श्री डा. इन्द्र प्रसाद सापकोटा, सचिव, पर्यटन वन तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय कोशी प्रदेश विराटनगर
३. श्री डा. नरेश सुवेदी, सदस्य सचिव, राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष
४. श्री भूपेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव, वरिष्ठ संरक्षण अधिकृत, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष कार्यालय
५. श्री मेजर रमेश गुरुङ, गुल्मपति, भिमकाली गुल्म, कुसाहा ब्यारेक सुनसरी
६. श्री जंग बहादुर खड्का, अध्यक्ष मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र व्यवस्थापन समिति कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष
७. श्री नन्दीलाल चौधरी, अध्यक्ष तपेश्वरी मध्यवर्ती सामुदायिक होमस्टे
८. श्री वीरेन्द्र गौतम, कार्यालय प्रमुख, राष्ट्रिय प्रकृति संरक्षण कोष, कोशी संरक्षण केन्द्र
९. श्री अंकित पौडेल, रेन्जर , ~~अधिकृत~~, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष
१०. श्री केदार प्र. दास, रेन्जर , ~~अधिकृत~~, कोशीटप्पु वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष
११. श्री पुरुषोत्तम मुडवरी, व.भेटेरीनरी प्राविधिक, कोशी संरक्षण केन्द्र
१२. श्री जयकान्त चौधरी अध्यक्ष ~~खुम्बु चिरा धाप्ला घोघस्ता हकिरी~~
१३. श्री विवेक आलेकारी लेखा महाशक्त कोशी संरक्षण केन्द्र
१४. श्री लोक बहादुर लामे भगा पश्चिम कुसाहा सुनसरी

छलफलका विषय तथा निर्णय

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

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

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

Minutes from Focal Group Discussion and unofficial translation:

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

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

Conclusion. The preliminary consultations confirm broad support for an integrated, locally led and inclusive NbS programme. They also establish clear expectations for community participation, government coordination, gender-responsive delivery and continued consultation during full proposal preparation and implementation.