

Concept Note

Strengthening Pakistan's Capacities for DemoNstrating REDD+ Systems and Accessing Result-based Payments

Pakistan | NRSP

6 September 2019



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Simplified Approval Process Concept Note

Project/Programme title:	Strengthening Pakistan's Capacities for DemoNstrating REDD+ Systems and Accessing Result-based Payments
Country(ies):	Pakistan
National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA):	Ministry of Climate Change
Executing Entities:	REDD+ OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN COLLABORATION WITH PROVINCIAL FORESTRY DEPARTMENTS
Accredited Entity(ies) (AE):	National Rural Support Programme
Date of first submission/ version number:	9/6/2019 1 V.1
Date of current submission/ version number	1/6/2020 7 V.3



Eligibility for SAP is determined by the review of the concept note and the ESS screening.

A. Project / Programme Information (max. 1 page)

A.1. Project or programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Programme	A.2. Public or private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector	A.3 RFP	Not applicable
A.4. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme	<p><u>Mitigation:</u> Reduced emissions from:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Energy access and power generation: 0% <input type="checkbox"/> Low emission transport: 0% <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings, cities and industries and appliances: 0% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and land use: 100%				
A.5. Impact potential		A.5.1. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO ₂ eq over project lifespan)	459,520 tCO ₂ eq		
		A.5.2. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries)	direct beneficiaries		
		A.5.3. Estimated adaptation impact (number of indirect beneficiaries)	indirect beneficiaries		
		A.5.4. Estimated adaptation impact (% of total population)	% of the country's total population		
A.6. Financing information					
A.6.1. Indicative GCF funding requested (max 10M)	Amount: 10,000,000 Currency: USD Financial Instrument: Grants				
A.6.2. Indicative co-financing	Amount: 7,787,000 Currency: USD Financial Instrument: Other (Instrument Description: Public Sector Funding from Government of Pakistan) Institution: GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN				
A.6.3. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: 17,787,000 Currency: USD				
A.6. Estimated duration of project/ programme:	disbursement period: 48 repayment period, if applicable:	A.7.2. Estimated project/ Programme lifespan	48		
A.8. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	A.9. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
A.10. Provide rationale for the ESS categorization (100 words)	The project qualifies under category 'C', as the project interventions do not entail any social, environmental, economic or cultural risks. The project interventions under demonstration component mainly focus on enhancing mitigation, and non-carbon and biodiversity benefits at local level without any adverse direct or indirect social and environmental health risks. The				

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

	<p>project interventions will be localized in nature and will involve participatory and community based implementation of environmentally and socially acceptable interventions aimed at reducing pressures on forestry resources at the demonstration sites with potential to upscale and replicate at the adjacent landscapes based on lessons learnt from implementation.</p>		
<p>A.11. Has the CN been shared with the NDA?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>A.12. Confidentiality</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Confidential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not confidential</p>
<p>A.13. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 100 words)</p>	<p>Pakistan has made good progress towards complying with UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ implementation with expected submission of national FREL and NFMS by January 2020. Pakistan intends to further strengthen the developed REDD+ systems through validation and demonstration of mitigation activities at selected sites of ongoing Ten Billion Tree Tusunami Project (TBTP) to strengthen REDD+ implementation in country and prepare RBP proposal for GCF, and based on lesson learnt further upscale the pilot interventions within adjacent landscapes.</p> <p>Objective: Strengthening of REDD+ implementation in Pakistan for Result-based Payments through piloting of developed REDD+ systems and strategy options for reducing emissions from forestry sector in Pakistan.</p>		
<p>B. Project / Programme details</p>			
<p>B.1. Context and Baseline (500 words)</p>			
<p>Pakistan is mainly a dry land country, with 80% of its land in arid and semi-arid areas. Pakistan is a low forest country with approximately 5% of its geographical area under forests and planted trees. The deforestation and forest degradation is expected to accelerate due to increasing wood demand exerted by rising population, tenural issue, encroachments and adverse impacts of climate change. The estimated timber consumption in 2002-03 was 12.238 million m³ of which state forests contributed 0.409 million m³, 0.639 million m³ was imported and the remaining is supplied by farmlands (Maanics Int. 2004). According to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), emissions from forestry sector were 10.39 MT CO₂ in 2015 (2.5% of total emissions). These are projected to reach 29 MT CO₂ by 2030.</p> <p>In Pakistan, the REDD+ process was initiated through constitution of a National REDD+ Steering Committee in 2010, chaired by Federal Secretary of Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) to facilitate national and provincial coordination.</p> <p>Pakistan joined UN REDD in 2011. In 2013, REDD+ Project, Preparedness Phase kicked off with financial support of USD \$200,000 under One UN Joint Programme on Environment. Implemented by ICIMOD and WWF Pakistan, it focused on REDD+ awareness and consultations on REDD+ Road map finalization.</p> <p>Under UN-REDD Programme, Pakistan received Targeted Support of USD \$135,000 from FAO totaling in 2014. With this support, a study was conducted to develop National Forest Monitoring System. The Target Support Funding in 2016 supported in a study on legal preparedness for REDD+, which is now being used as a baseline for various studies.</p> <p>Pakistan secured readiness grant of USD \$3.8 million in 2013 from FCPF-World Bank, increased to</p>			

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

USD \$7.8 million in 2018 to fulfill compliance requirements under Warsaw Framework. The status is as following:

1. Draft Development of National REDD+ Strategy - prepared
2. Forest Reference Emission Levels focusing on deforestation - prepared
3. National Forest Monitoring System - protocols developed
4. Feedback Grievance Redressal Mechanism and Safeguards Information System - finalized
5. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes for two ecosystems (mangroves and temperate forests) - designed

Under additional grant, sub-national level forest MRV systems, REDD+ Action and Management Plans and Gender Action Plans are under preparation.

Due to data limitations, using Tier-2 approach, FREL focuses only on **deforestation**, based on assessment of above ground and below ground CO₂ pools, in line with the national forest definition notified in 2017. However, other pools of gases need to be studied: soil carbon and enhance scope of REDD+ activities such as, emissions from forest degradation and plus activities: conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks, and sustainable forest management. Also, there is need to develop REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism and establish national carbon registry, demonstrate and pilot test and further refine SIS and strengthen assessment of carbon stocks using Tier-3 emission approach.

The draft National REDD+ Strategy has identified key drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Deeply rooted in livelihood dependencies, lack of alternates, lack of benefit sharing mechanisms, tenural issues and weak institutional capacities, both are expected to accelerate due to increasing wood demand exerted by rising population, tenural issue, encroachments and adverse impacts of climate change.

In recent years, mega forestry restoration initiatives have been taken at sub-national level such as Billion Tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) implemented during 2015-2018 by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province and large scale mangrove restoration in Sindh province which have potentially contributed to enhancement of carbon stocks within natural forests. The long term sustainability of the planted trees is being ensured through engagement of local communities as 'watch guards', creating livelihood opportunities for them from forest protection. An up-scaled version of BTAP has been initiated by federal government to pursue target of planting 10 billion plants under phased approach with initial phase targeting planting of 3.29 billion plants over the next four years.

The BTTP project will provide platform to pilot test REDD+ mechanisms developed through FCPF grant and undertake complimentary activities with GCF support to demonstrate measures for enhanced carbon mitigation and livelihood development. In addition, the developed MRV standards and forest monitoring standards will be applied to monitor carbon benefits of TBTT for preparation of RBP proposal. Piloting will provide useful lessons for updating of developed mechanisms and further replication and up-scaling of demonstrated carbon mitigation activities in adjacent landscapes under future projects with donor, public or private funding.

B.2. Project / Programme description (1000 words)

Pakistan has made good progress under readiness support by FCPF for compliance of

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

UNFCCC/Warsaw Framework. The achievements made so far and further steps to be taken are illustrated in Annex 2. In order to take the current initiatives forward, GCF support will be required to support implementation of following indicative activities under component 1 and 2 which will be finalized at the proposal development stage:

Component 1 will build on existing REDD+ readiness actions to fill the gaps for ensuring compliance of Warsaw Framework, as follows:

Technical support for addressing comments of UNFCCC experts for further improvement of national FREL by assessing additional carbon activities and carbon pools (degradation, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks) and carbon pools of selected natural forest types of Pakistan (e.g. temperate, sub-tropical scrub, riverine forests and mangroves).

Engage Technical support to prepare methodology for nested/ jurisdictional REDD+

Develop and test model benefit sharing mechanism using stakeholder consultation

Engage technical experts to support in preparation of BUR and SIS Summary of Information

Engage technical support in designing of national carbon registry for transparent carbon data management,

Capacity building in implementation of sub-national and national NFMS and MRV systems, gender mainstreaming and SIS implementation.

Study carbon and non carbon-benefits of BTAP and develop case study as a tool for policy advocacy and potential carbon trading. BTAP is considered as one of the successful initiative for demonstrating forest protection and reforestation through engagement of local communities in KP province. This initiative has been now up-scaled nationally as TBTT project.

Prepare funding RBP proposal based on carbon assessment for the period from 2013-18 during which mega forestry initiatives have been implemented such as, BTAP and mangrove restoration.

Component 2 will target the following demonstration activities:

Support implementation of complimentary actions to address drivers of deforestation and degradation at the selected sub-national TBTT sites to address the identified drivers of deforestation and degradation and livelihood needs of forest dependent communities. The actions will include complimentary activities such as, promotion of alternate/efficient energy options (solar, biogas, agroforestry, micro-hydel) to reduce pressure on natural forests while the planting activities will be undertaken through TBTT project.

Identify and undertake value chain improvement of selected potential NTFPs (fruit, nuts, medicinal plants) and improved market access to address livelihood needs of forest dependent beneficiaries by building on available experiences from other projects such as, Sustainable Forest Management (UNDP-GEF), Mountains and Market Project (UNDP-GEF) and Project on Reversing Deforestation in Chilgoza Pine Forests by Assisting the Local Community (FAO-GEF).

Undertake validation of developed NFMS/MRV systems, SIS and gender sensitive approaches developed under the FCPF readiness support, at selected sub-national project sites for further refinement/updating.

Test carbon assessment methodologies and forest monitoring standards to monitor carbon benefits of TBTT.

Document and disseminate good practice guidelines based on site specific lessons learnt during demonstration for up-scaling within the neighboring landscapes under future projects with donor or

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

local funding (i.e, second phase of TBTTT, private sector).

Consult and develop enabling private sector engagement strategy to promote investment in carbon mitigation actions under voluntary carbon mitigation/offsetting and/or trading through creation of enabling policies and institutional frameworks ensuring compliance with ESS safeguards, gender mainstreaming and capacity building.

FCPF grant does not allow piloting and demonstration. Therefore, GCF support is required for pilot testing of developed systems and demonstrate mitigation activities at TBTT sites. While the TBTTT mainly focus on reforestation of degraded forests, the carbon benefit potential of TBTTT will further be enhanced and sustained through complimentary activities proposed under Component 2, to address drivers of deforestation and degradation, and livelihood needs of forest dependent communities.

The draft National REDD+ Strategy prepared under FCPF support has identified key drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation which are deeply rooted in livelihood dependencies, lack of alternates, lack of benefit sharing, tenural issues and weak institutional capacities, increasing wood demand exerted by rising population, encroachments and adverse impacts of climate change. Therefore, the indicative project activities will include focus on community based interventions targeting promotion of alternate and efficient energy options for forest dependent communities and addressing livelihood issues through value chain improvement of selected NTFPs by adopting gender sensitive and inclusive approaches to ensure participation of women and disadvantaged groups. The demonstration activities will provide useful learning opportunities for up-scaling/replication and for future REDD+ implementation to achieve long-term strategic objectives of mitigation of emission from forestry sector in the country.

The project location map and brief description of indicative forest sites are enclosed as per Annex 4 and Annex 5. The project sites and interventions will be further be refined and finalized during proposal development stage.

NRSP-National Rural Support Programme (which is to play the role of accredited entity in this project) is one of the two national accredited agencies in Pakistan. NRSP has presence in 73 Districts in all the four Provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir through Regional Offices and Field Offices. NRSP is currently working with more than 3.5 million poor households organized into a network of 226,330 Community Organizations.

The project will be executed by MoCC which is responsible for national environmental policy making and coordination among the federating units. MoCC is the focal agency for UNFCCC. The National REDD+ Office established within MoCC will act as National Project Support Unit for project monitoring and reporting. The field implementation of the project interventions will be undertaken with support of sub-national forestry departments. The National REDD+ Steering Committee will provide strategic and policy support and oversight.

The proposed project does not entail any financial and operational risks as such. The public funding for implementation of TBTTT has already been approved by the federal and provincial governments. The National REDD+ Office in the Ministry of Climate Change is supporting implementation of on-going FCPF readiness grant and will continue to provide operational support for project coordination and monitoring at federal level. The provincial forestry departments are permanent government

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

institutions with required human resource and logistic capacities to provide institutional and operational support for project implementation at sub-national levels.

B.3. Expected project results aligned with the GCF investment criteria (500 words)

1. Impact Potential: The project is intended to generate climate change mitigation benefits through sequestration of 459,520 tones of CO₂ equivalent, besides generating social benefits through complimentary activities focusing on efficient energy options to address dependencies of local communities on natural forests and creation of financial incentives from forest conservation for the forest dependent communities. The project is intended to provide mitigation and adaptation support to approximately 2.55 million direct and indirect beneficiaries residing at the project demonstration sites. Pakistan NDC envisage reduction of carbon emissions from forestry sector by 20% by 2030. The project will contribute to reduction of approximately 4.4% of the total current emissions from forestry sector with potential to further enhance the mitigation benefits through future up-scaling and replication within the neighboring natural forest landscapes. The project design framework detailing goal, objective, outcome, outputs and activities are enclosed as Annex-3.

2. Paradigm Shift Potential: The project will demonstrate activities that will create long-term opportunities of reducing emissions through RBPs and investing into actions that incentivize local communities for forest conservation. This will have transformational potential to bring paradigm shift in existing forestry management regimes at the institutional and community levels to promote incentive based mechanisms for conservation and sustainable management of forestry resources for climate, biodiversity, and social benefits. Pakistan has successful experience of introducing incentive based mechanism for conservation of declining population of wildlife species, particularly *Markhor*, *Ibex* and *Urial* through incentivizing wildlife conservation and sharing of conservation benefit with custodian communities. This has been successful in reversal and recovery of population of these species in many government and community managed protected areas.

Pakistan is progressing towards fulfilling Warsaw Framework requirements for REDD+ implementation with FPCF readiness support, besides implementing measures for controlling deforestation and promoting community engagement for restoration of natural forests through mega forestry initiatives. The demonstration and testing of developed readiness systems under the SAP full proposal will lead to preparation of future RBPs, besides generating lessons for long-term mitigation of emission from forestry sector through full scale REDD+ implementation in the country.

The lessons learnt from piloting of mitigation actions will be potentially up-scaled within neighboring landscapes through future projects such as, under the second phase of TBTT beyond 2023 as well as donor funding. In this regard, role of private sector (such as, national and multinational companies) to invest into forestry sector under voluntary carbon mitigation/offsetting and/or trading will be explored through enabling policies and institutional frameworks.

3. Sustainable development potential: The project is aligned to national development priorities and policies pertaining to forestry and climate change such as, Clean and Green initiative launched by federal government. Forests provide various ecosystem services and livelihood benefit for forest dependent communities. Conservation of forests in watersheds is essential for ground recharge and sustainable supplies of water resources for sustainability of agricultural economy of Pakistan, controlling land degradation as well as for sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent communities,

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

especially of women, whose livelihoods are intricately connected to collection and marketing of NTFPs. In particular, in hilly areas dependencies on forest resources for domestic and livelihood needs is greater than other areas where more alternates are available.

4. Needs of the beneficiaries: The project is intended to build on past experiences of mega forestry initiatives and REDD+ financing to further validate the national standards developed under FCPF readiness support and support implementation of demonstration activities. The project will further support filling remaining gaps in implementation of REDD+ as indicated under project description above. At the same time, forests fulfill livelihood needs of rural communities in the form of wood and NTFPs. The project will promote measures for forest conservation through provision of efficient and clean alternate energy options and improve value chain of select NTFP to create positive incentives for forest conservation for climate mitigation and sustaining ecosystem services for economic and societal benefits.

5. Country ownership: The project is aligned to national forest and climate change policies and national initiatives such as, Clean and Green Pakistan initiative. Pakistan is among the five most vulnerable countries to impacts of climate change. The climate models have predicted vulnerability of Pakistan's agriculture based economy to climate related variations in temperature and scarcity of water resources in medium and long-term scenarios. Galciers and watersheds are important for sustainable supply of water resources and sustaining agro-based economy of the country. Therefore, need for conservation of forestry resources has gained significant attention during the recent years. The sub-national and national governments have undertaken investments in mega forestry initiatives to enhance tree cover. However, being a developing country the socioeconomic issues largely dominate national financial resource allocations; therefore, forestry sector has traditionally relied more on donor funding to address the forest conservation and management issues.

6. Efficiency and effectiveness: Pakistan provides a great scope for low cost and effective forest restoration and climate change mitigation. The per plant cost under BTAP implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan was equal to USD 0.01 per plant. The expected mitigation cost of the SAP project is estimated to be USD 0.26 per ton of carbon. According to initial estimates, BTAP has contributed to sequestering and enhancing carbon benefits equivalent to 0.4 million giga tons through forest restoration and new plantations over 0.35 million hectares.

C. Indicative financing / Cost information (max. 2 pages)

C.1. Financing by components

Please provide an estimate of the total cost per component and disaggregate by source of financing.

Component	Output	Indicative cost (USD)	GCF financing		Co-financing			
			Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Type	Amount (USD)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1: REDD+ Readiness Preparation for compliance to UNFCCC requirements for REDD+	1) Technical support for finalization of national FREL; 2) Preparation of RBP & BUR; 3)	2.5	2	Grant	Public	0.5	Other	Government of Pakistan

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

RBP	Developing Methodology of nested REDD+ and National REDD+ Registry 4) Developing Model Benefit Sharing Mechanisms; and; 5) Carbon Stock Assessment of BTAP							
Component 2: Innovative Pilot Demonstration	1) Pilot Testing of SIS and National REDD+ methodologies and systems; 2) Complimentary activities at BTTP site focusing on Enhancement of carbon and non-carbon benefits of TBTT National Action Plan for private sector engagement in forestry with at least one model of private sector participation	12.787	7	Grant	Public	5.787	Other	Government of Pakistan
PMC (5%)		2	0.5	Grant	Public	1.5	Other	Government of Pakistan
AE Fee (5%)		0.5	0.5	Grant		0	Other	
Indicative total cost (USD)		2	9			0		

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

For private sector proposal, provide an overview (diagram) of the proposed financing structure.

C.2. Justification of GCF Funding Request (300 words)

Listed as one of the five most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, Pakistan also faces several socio-economic issues and weak institutional capacities. With more focus on economic development, environment has remained a low priority in terms of financial resources allocation. Private sector funding is generally limited to CSR activities, largely focused on addressing socio-economic issues.

Despite economic challenges, the current government has included climate change as one of the key priorities of its development agenda. The project will be co-financed from the approved financial allocation of USD 784.4 million for national initiative of TBTT by the federal and provincial governments on 50% cost sharing basis over the period of 4 years. Of this, the proportionate cost of forestation activities to be co-funded by TBTT at the SAP demonstration sites is estimated to be approximately USD 7.787 million over the project period.

It may be added that the co-funding from TBTT will mainly focus on enhancing tree cover/reforestation within the selected demonstration natural forest sites, the additional funding from GCF will be required to support complimentary activities to address issues of deforestation and degradation at the select demonstration sites for long-term conservation of natural forests by complementing the existing channeling of public funds. The GCF funding will be required to pilot REDD+ demonstration activities as indicated under component 1 and 2 and will include implementation of complementary activities to enhance carbon and non-carbon benefits of TBTT at the selected demonstration sites to generate useful lessons for future up-scaling and replication of the successful experiences within the neighboring landscapes.

Therefore, the funding proposal will be used as a link to prepare future RBP and document lesson learnt for further replication and up-scaling under the second phase of TBTT to ensure future sustainability of pilot interventions. The proposed GCF funding is coherent with readiness support from FCPF and will build on its outcomes to fulfill the gaps in Warsaw framework requirements for full scale REDD+ implementation in the country. One of the targeted outputs under the project is to develop enabling private sector engagement strategy that will also help in exploring avenues of financing by private sector for carbon mitigation actions.

C.3. Exit Strategy and Sustainability (300 words)

Pakistan has made good progress towards complying with UNFCCC requirements and intends to submit FREL and NFMS by January 2020. The current SAP project will essentially provide much needed support to address the gaps in road map for RBPs as indicated in section B.2 in detail by building on outcomes of FCPF readiness support and their testing through demonstration activities.

The financial sustainability of the SAP interventions will be guided by lessons learnt from demonstration activities which will up-scaled and replicated within the adjacent landscapes through the second phase of TBTT initiative embarked upon by the federal government. Enhancing national forest cover is one of the priority areas of the government which provides good scope for sustainability of the interventions beyond the project life through public funding as well as harnessing support from private sector and by accessing RBPs from GCF targeting the period from 2013 to 2018. The strengthened national capacities in implementation of REDD+ will sustain the on-going national efforts for

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

sustainable management of forestry resources for social, economic and climate mitigation objectives.

C.4 Stakeholders engagement in the project or programme (300 words)

The Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) will be the executing agency of the project and will execute the project in collaboration with provincial forestry departments. MoCC is NDA for GCF and GEF. MoCC is also focal point for multilateral international environmental conventions and agreements including UNFCCC. MoCC maintains a regular liaison with federating units in matters related to policy and planning pertaining to forestry and environment sectors. MoCC is currently executing TBTT project with support from the sub-national forestry departments. NRSP has agreed to act as national accredited agency to support for the implementation of this project.

The national coordination mechanisms such as, highest level National Climate Change Council created under Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017, chaired by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Federal Forestry Board chaired by Minister of Climate Change and National REDD+ Steering Committee chaired by MoCC are multi-stakeholder forums, will continue to be the forums for stakeholder engagement and collaborative decisions making and going forward.

This concept note has been conceptualized, and developed together with MoCC and the National REDD+ Office in Pakistan and in consultation with the provincial stakeholders. Further consultation and engagement of relevant stakeholders will be carried out at the proposal development stage.

With the experience of running on-going REDD+ interventions with various donors in Pakistan over the years, the National REDD+ Office has capacity to execute the project in collaboration with provincial forestry departments.

D. Annexes

- ESS screening check list (Annex 1)
- Map indicating the location of the project/programme (as applicable)
- Evaluation Report of previous project (as applicable)

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

Annex 1: Environmental and Social Screening Checklist

Part A: Risk Factors

Please indicate your answers to the questions below and provide an explanation on the response selected. In cases when the TBD response has been selected please explain briefly why you are not able to determine now and when in the project cycle the question will be addressed.

If the criteria is not applicable to the project you may write N/A in the justification box.

Exclusion criteria	YES	NO
Will the activities involve associated facilities and require further due diligence of such associated facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The activities will use existing sub-national forestry department set ups at each of the six pilot sites and would not require further due diligence.		
Will the activities involve trans-boundary impacts including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The sites as well as the activities for demonstration are localized, improving the livelihood of communities dependent on forestry, and in no way, have the potential to have any adverse impacts, trans boundary social or environmental.		
Will the activities adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers including women and children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The activities will not have any adverse health or safety issue. Some interventions such as the fuel efficient stoves will involve engagement with women. These are used for fuel efficient cooking at household level and are made from mud and other locally available materials. Biogas will also be for cooking purpose. The intervention is intended to generate positive social impacts by reducing burden on women who are mainly involved in fuel wood collection. Livelihood development and value chain improvement would generate additional income opportunities for dependent communities, especially women who are involved in collection of NTFPs.		
Will the activities potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants including pesticides and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No risk of generating hazardous waste and pollutants from demonstration activities are involved, as no manufacturing of any technologies or products is involved. The interventions such as solar and microhydel will involve off-the-shelf technologies available in market to reduce burden on wood use for cooking and heating purposes. The microhydels will involve very basic installation on Run of the River to generate power for local household/community use based on feasibility assessment and do not involve any fossil fuel burning.		
Will the activities involve the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and river bank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NA		
Will the activities potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

NA		
Will the activities be located in or in the vicinity of protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The activities within the forest protected areas will focus on strengthening management of protected areas by addressing the existing pressures on ecological sensitive system through provision of efficient and alternate energy options for household use, and creating livelihood opportunities for the forest dependent communities.		
Will the activities affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The project demonstration sites include the areas of reserve and protective forests. The project interventions will involve participation of local communities to promote co-management of forestry resources.		
Will the activities be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NA		

Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts

Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	YES	NO	TBD
Has the E&S risk category of the project been provided in the concept note?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has the rationale for the categorization of the project been provided in the relevant sections of the concept note?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any additional environmental, health and safety requirements under the national laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and agreements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project interventions are in compliance with national and international regulations.			
Are the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project risks and impacts are based on recent information.			
Labour and Working Conditions	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially have impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project activities do not involve any direct or indirect discrimination against disadvantaged segments.			
Will the activities pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No occupational health and safety risks are envisaged under the project intervention.			

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The demonstration activities involve mitigation of GHG emissions in air, water or on soil. These are envisaged to enhance mitigation of GHG by reducing pressure on natural forests and involve demonstration of clean and efficient energy interventions.			
Will the activities utilize significant amount of natural resources including water and energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The interventions are aimed to reduce pressures on natural resources by promoting clean and efficient energy options. Microhydels will be installed on run of river and do not require water or fossil fuel use.			
Will there be a need to develop detailed measures to reduce pollution and promote sustainable use of resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No pollution related issues are envisaged in any of project interventions.			
Community Health, Safety, and Security	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially generate risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No community health and safety issues are envisaged in any of the project interventions.			
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No emergency and response plan is envisaged under the project interventions.			
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the project site to the workers and affected community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No security or conflict risks are associated with project interventions.			
Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project interventions do not involve land acquisition or any associated risks of economic displacement.			
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project interventions will target indigenous species. The project interventions do not involve risks of introduction of any invasive or alien species affecting the biodiversity.			
Will the activities have potential impacts on or be dependent on ecosystem services including production of living natural resources (eg. agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project activities will potentially contribute to enhancement of forest ecosystem services in the form of soil and water conservation, biodiversity protection and climate mitigation.			
Indigenous Peoples	YES	NO	TBD

Simplified Approval Process CONCEPT NOTE Template V.1.1

Will the activities potentially have any indirect impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No any direct or indirect impacts on any indigenous or marginalized group are envisaged under the project.			
Cultural Heritage	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities restrict access to the cultural heritage sites and properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project interventions do not involve any restrictions on cultural or heritage sites and properties. The project interventions will target the natural forest sites only.			
Will there be a need to prepare a chance-find procedure in case of the discovery of cultural heritage assets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No such requirement is envisaged under the project.			
Stakeholder engagement and grievance redress	Yes	NO	TBD
Will the activities include a continuing stakeholder engagement process and a grievance redress mechanism and integrated into the management/implementation plans?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project will adopt participatory approach involving the provincial forestry departments, local communities and civil society organizations. In fact, the SIS and grievance redressal system developed under REDD+ readiness support will be pilot tested at the demonstration sites to further refine these, based on lessons learnt during project implementation.			

Part C: Sign Off

Sign-off: *Specify the name and designation of the person responsible for the environmental and social screening and any other approvals as may be required in the accredited entity's own management system.*

Irteza Haider (Programme Manager)