

# Simplified Approval Process Concept Note

Project/Programme Title: Upscaling Sustainable Forest Management Project

Country(ies): Pakistan

National Designated  
Authority(ies) (NDA): Ministry of Climate Change

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): International Union for Conservation of Nature

Date of first submission: 08.10.2021 V.1

Date of current submission: 08.10.2021 V.1

Version: 1



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

A. Project / Programme Summary (max. 1 page)					
<b>A.1. Project or programme</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<b>A.2. Public or private sector</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public sector <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector	<b>A.3 RFP</b>	Not applicable
<b>A.4. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme</b>	<p>Check the applicable <a href="#">GCF result area(s)</a> that the proposed project/programme targets. Indicate for each checked result area(s) the estimated percentage of GCF budget devoted to it. The summed up percentage should be equal to 100%.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> 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: 57.12 %				
	<p><b>Adaptation:</b> Increased resilience of:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Most vulnerable people and communities: 23.19 % <input type="checkbox"/> Health and well-being, and food and water security: 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure and built environment: 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem and ecosystem services: 19.69 %				
<b>A.5. Impact potential</b>	A.5.1. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO <sub>2</sub> eq over project lifespan)		3,452,600 tCO <sub>2</sub> eq		
	A.5.2. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries)		375,400 direct beneficiaries		
	A.5.3. Estimated adaptation impact (number of indirect beneficiaries)		3,891,300 indirect beneficiaries		
	A.5.4. Estimated adaptation impact (% of total population)		2.05 % of the country's total population		
<b>A.6. Financing information</b>					
A. 6.1. Indicative GCF funding requested (max 10M)	Amount: 9,999,085 Currency: usd Financial Instrument: Grants (If other financial instrument is opted, please specify: _ ) * Please expand the information if needed.				
A.6.2. Indicative co-financing	Amount: 6,545,698 Currency: usd Financial Instrument: Other (If other financial instrument is opted, please specify: in-kind, Grants) * Please expand the information if needed.				
A.6.3. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: 16,544,783 Currency: usd				
<b>A.7. Implementation period:</b>	a) disbursement period: 48 b) repayment period, if applicable:	<b>A.7.2. Total project/ programme lifespan</b>	60		
<b>A.8. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility needed?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>A.9. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<b>A.10. Provide rationale for the ESS categorization (max 100 words)</b>	<p>The project is designed for a paradigm shift to climate-resilient sustainable management of the target designated forests in Pakistan. It entails improving capacities for forest protection also including prevention and early detection of forest fires, and improving forest carbon stocks and sequestration through aided natural regeneration, enrichment planting, or reforestation of degraded forest lands. Alongside, a set of adaptation measures are envisaged, primarily aimed at increasing the communities' access to alternate sources of cleaner energy and thus reducing their reliance on forest for fuel. These activities would also increase opportunities for the</p>				

	<p>communities' gainful employment and improved income by harnessing the ecosystem services potential of the forests in preference to the cutting of forests for fuel and timber. Complementary to these are efforts to enhance their access to drinking water and reduce their exposure to damages from floods - the two major climate related risks faced by the target communities. Therefore, this project is all for the benefit of people and environment. Its negative impacts are unlikely or would be minimal if at all.</p>		
<p><b>A.11. Has the CN been shared with the NDA?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>A.12. Confidentiality<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Confidential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not confidential</p>
<p><b>A.13. Executing Entity information</b></p>	<p>Ministry of Climate Change through relevant Provincial Forest Departments</p>		
<p><b>A.14. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 200 words)</b></p>	<p>Pakistan has been facing the dilemma of a steady deforestation of its few but incredibly valuable natural forests paralleled by tree planting and afforestation drives seeking to restore greenery to its landscape. The country's forest cover was 4,981,118 hectares making 5.67% of its land mass in 2004. In 2012, it shrunk to 4,786,346 hectares (5.44%) with mean annual deforestation of 12,000 hectares projected to increase at about the same rate<sup>[i]</sup>. On the other hand, the successful implementation of its Billion Tree Tsunami in the country's northwest followed by the launch of Ten Billion Tree countrywide program are feathers in its cap like no others.</p> <p>The underlying causes of continuing acute forest-deficit are many but principally, the lack of access to energy is accentuating the pressure on natural forests for fuelwood, inadequate rural employment is incentivizing cutting natural forest, often illegally, to augment the families' subsistence incomes, and the sheer lack of awareness is impeding the understanding of links between forest resilience, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Suffering colossal damages from repeated extreme climate events, both polity and public have begun to make the link between forest and society's greater wellbeing, but it is a long way before it triggers the much needed paradigm shift.</p> <p>Many past forestry projects, including the SFM project and others before it, have been seeking to promote and support sustainable forest management in Pakistan. The SFM Project in particular, for the first time, also included a component on forest carbon stock and sequestration assessment that the proposed Upscaling Project shall carry and scale up further.</p> <p>Consequently, the Upscaling SFM Project seeks to address the two paradigm shift objectives of: (a) Shift to low-emission sustainable development pathways; and, (b) Increased climate-resilient sustainable development. To this end, the project will respectively seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Increase removal of the CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by reducing deforestation and increasing carbon sequestration potential of the target forests. This will mainly result</li> </ul>		

<sup>1</sup> Concept notes (or sections of) not marked as confidential may be published in accordance with the Information Disclosure Policy ([Decision B.12/35](#)) and the Review of the Initial Proposal Approval Process ([Decision B.17/18](#)).

from improvements in sustainable forest management, restoration of degraded forest lands, and promotion of agroforestry on the surrounding farmlands;

- Contain the excessive, often illegal, drawdown on the forests for fuelwood as a high carbon-footprint source of energy; and
- Help the communities to adapt to the seasonal variations in the pattern and intensity of rainfall and related floods and drought accentuated by climate change.

Inherent here is the opportunity and need for a paradigm shift to climate-resilient development featuring, for example, access to alternate sources of cleaner energy, forest-based enterprises, nature-based tourism, rain water storage, conservation and regulation of rain and flood water, and ground water recharge. The project will seek to address these needs and opportunities by extending help in sustaining life and livelihoods in the face of climate change while also contributing to the shift to low-emission pathways in the project area(s).

Alongside the material support in various areas of the project work, the project will also invest a major effort in (i) capacity building of both the communities and related institutions in the public and private sector, and (ii) sustained campaign of awareness and advocacy that will be absolutely vital if the paradigm shift to climate-resilient sustainable development has to eventually transcend the boundaries of the select project sites to a country wide result.

The project's implementation arrangements have been adequately summarized in Section A-13 (Executing Entity Information) before and are better not repeated. Here, it suffices to add that no significant environmental and social risks are likely from this project as to warrant major dedicated capacities for their monitoring. However, all activities will be planned, designed and implemented with an effort to enhance their contributions to the social and environmental wellbeing of the people and their host environments. It will be the responsibility of the Head(s) Technical assistance Teams in the provinces to lead and oversee these efforts in close coordination with the monitoring officer at the central Project Management Unit.

[i] [https://redd.unfccc.int/files/frel\\_pakistan\\_nro\\_06january\\_finalsubmitted.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/frel_pakistan_nro_06january_finalsubmitted.pdf)

## B. Project / Programme information

### B.1. Context and Baseline (700 words)

Pakistan's 796,096 KM<sup>2</sup> land is home to 207.774 million people, many of them living along its 996 km coastline exposed to any rises in sea level. The country features more than a dozen of ecoregions defined by vast variations in temperature (-50 to 53.7 °C), rainfall (50 -1600 mm) and elevation above mean sea level (0 to 8,600 meters). Pakistan's Forest cover was 4,981,118 hectares making 5.67% of its land mass in 2004. In 2012, it shrunk to 4,786,346 hectares (5.44%) with mean annual deforestation of 12,000 hectares projected to increase at about the same rate<sup>[i]</sup>.

Compared to the world average of 4.555, in 2016, Pakistan per capita emissions were 0.988 metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. The country's emission profile is further dwarfed if compared to countries like Australia, Saudi Arabia and China with per capita emissions exceeding 15 metric tons<sup>[ii]</sup>.

While a low GHG emitter, the country remains among the top 6-10 countries most vulnerable to climate change. Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is many folds but floods, drought, glacier melt and recession, glacial lakes outbursts, landslides, snow avalanches, ground water depletion, and scarcity of irrigation water are of paramount concerns for both the people and the economy. In the past two decades, Pakistan experienced more than 150 climate related extreme events, resulting in heavy death tolls. The loss to the economy was in excess of \$3.5 billion washing off more than half a percent of the GDP<sup>[iii]</sup>.

Consequently, Pakistan has undertaken a number of initiatives and projects to both fulfil its international obligations and secure its own people and their economic wellbeing so exposed to the vagaries of nature. These include the development of relevant policies, laws and plans that are implemented through various projects exemplified by (a) Establishment of the Global Change Impact Studies Centre, and related Act 2013; (b) Creation of the Glacier Monitoring Research Centre (GMRC); (c) Ecosystems Restoration Initiative (ESSRI); (d) Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) Risk Reduction in Pakistan; (e) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Project; (f) Clean Green Pakistan; Billion Tree Tsunami Project - Recently completed; 10 Billion Trees Tsunami Program (Started 2018) and many others. The 10 Billion Trees Tsunami Program, in particular, is envisaged to be a major partner in that, under this, the respective provincial governments would be providing much of the co-financing for the Upscaling SFM project.

Most significant is the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Project that has been successfully implemented with GEF-UNDP support over the past 5 years and is nearing completion. This project sought to assessed and secure 6,376 million tons of carbon stocks on about 86,837ha of designated forestlands, supported forest restoration on more than 13,000 hectares of the degraded forestlands, surveyed and demarcated about 159,000 hectares of the forests for protection against land grabs, and helped retrieve 4,497 hectares of previously encroached forest lands. The project has also successfully tested enhancing communities' access to alternate sources of cleaner energy (biogas plants, energy efficient wood stoves, micro hydro-power plants, solar power) and livelihoods (nature-based tourism) in preference to cutting forests for fuelwood. This has been accompanied by several capacity building interventions (knowledge creation, skills development, and policy and legal reforms) in support of sustainable and climate-friendly forest management. In the process, the project has created a vast network of organizations and people as potential resources for the future. And it has teams and institutional infrastructure in place that will save significantly on time and funds in initial mobilization that any project requires. Therefore the project is not just ripe for taking to the next level of scaling up but failing to do so would be amiss opportunity for the people and environment of Pakistan.

However, forestry being a long term enterprise, some project interventions remain work-in-progress warranting undisrupted continuation and consolidation over the next few years. Many of these such as planning and capacity building for sustainable management, forest restoration and communities' access to alternate sources of cleaner energy and livelihoods are ripe for scaling up. The proposed GCF support will not only ensure the much needed continuity but also enable the deepening and scaling up of the SFM project successes, as the country's first and

unparalleled effort in forest carbon stock assessment, removal of atmospheric carbon through forest carbon sequestration, and adaptation to climate change.

The proposed **Upscaling SFM** Project sits neatly with the priorities. In particular, the Pakistan INDC (2016) envisages the country's emissions to reach 1,603 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2030 and commits to reducing it 20% if resources for the purpose would be available. It also lists integrated watershed management and water conservation including harvesting of rain and floodwater as priorities for climate change adaptation. Capacity building for climate change management features prominently in the INDC.<sup>[iv]</sup>

However, there are a number of barriers to achieving sustainable development. Some of them such as growing population pressure, poverty and lack of knowledge and awareness are general. Others are more situation-specific. Following are some of such specific barriers facing the proposed Upscaling Project that would warrant consideration in designing the project strategy and interventions.

(a) Pakistan is a **forest-deficit country** with its few forest resources facing ever increasing demands for fuelwood, timber, other forest products and now a multitude of ecosystem services

(b) The fact that ever more people live on the same piece of land entails **management trade-offs**. While the people living in the mountains desperately need wood for energy to survive freezing winters, people living downstream and the nation generally need the forest standing to protect watersheds for energy and foods security. Both the recognition and capacities for managing the trade-offs are lacking.

(c) The **lack of capacities** include, among others: relatively fewer people facing growing conservation challenges; inadequate knowledge and skills, and deteriorating forest infrastructure and support facilities

(d) Moreover, the skills-set and resources of the available workforce also remain inadequate. Nowhere is the need for capacity building more imminent than in the realms of long-term forest management planning and applied research. Also, local communities, lacking information and skills, are simply not able to adapt to climate change, often helplessly enduring the fallouts of ever increasing and intense natural disasters.

(e) .The fact that **forest policies and laws** are outdated and inadequate is a common knowledge. While attempts have been made to create more enabling institutional environment, a lot remains to be done.

(f) **Lacking Awareness** about climate-resilient sustainable development and the related role and importance of forests is pervasive. Media has picked up on the climate imperative and is creating awareness but the country has a long way to go. Most people continue to see forests as a source of timber and firewood; the notions of climate resilient forestry is alien across all segments of the society.

(g) There is also the issue of **gender gap**: The lack of policy is less of an issue here. A *'focus on pro-poor gender-sensitive adaptation while promoting mitigation to the extent possible in a cost-effective manner'* is a stated objective of the Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy 2012<sup>[v]</sup>. The policy also lists a number of implementation measures. It is the implementation itself that remains a challenge.

(h) The **public finances** are severely constrained plagued by mounting debt and current account deficit. The GDP growth has remained modest averaging only 2%<sup>[vi]</sup> - less than half of the average for South Asia. Unaided, it would be difficult for Pakistan to find more fiscal space for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Ironically, never before there has been so much interest and support for environment from the country's political leadership as is today.

Therefore, support from GCF could not come at a better time. Latent here is the big opportunity not just for forest carbon sequestration and adaptation, but for the paradigm shift that the GCF espouses.

[i] [https://redd.unfccc.int/files/frel\\_pakistan\\_nro\\_06january\\_finalsubmitted.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/frel_pakistan_nro_06january_finalsubmitted.pdf)

[ii] <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC?end=2016&start=1960&view=map&year=2016>

[iii] [https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/20-2-01e%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202020\\_14.pdf](https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/20-2-01e%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202020_14.pdf)

[iv] <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Pakistan%20First/Pak-INDC.pdf>

[v] [http://www.mocc.gov.pk/SiteImage/Policy/National%20Climate%20Change%20Policy%20of%20Pakistan%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.mocc.gov.pk/SiteImage/Policy/National%20Climate%20Change%20Policy%20of%20Pakistan%20(2).pdf)

[vi] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pakistan/overview>

## **B.2. Project / Programme description (1500 words)**

### **A. Preamble**

The rationale, need and opportunity for scaling up the work of the predecessor SFM Project have already been adequately summarized in section A.11 and B.1 before as have been the strength and suitability of IUCN as the proposed AE for this project in Section A11. Therefore, the effort here focusses on the other aspects of the information required in this section.

### **B. The Foundation for Scaling Up**

The predecessor SFM Project, ending on 31 December 2021 had three main components or Outcomes: (a) Embedded sustainable forest management into landscape spatial planning; (b) Biodiversity conservation strengthened in and around High Value Conservation Forests; and (c) Enhanced carbon sequestration in and around HC VF in target forested landscapes. The project targeted 7 forest landscapes: 3 in the Punjab, and 2 each in the provinces of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan. The scaling up under this new project will manifest itself in three distinct ways: (a) Interventions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation on exiting landscapes will be deepened, consolidated and expanded; and (b) the successful interventions will be replicated on three other forest landscapes to be added anew; and (3) doors will be opened up to engage all the remaining provinces and federating units in awareness raising, advocacy and broader climate-capacity building efforts for further scaling up and paradigm shift across the country.

The SFM Project Mid Term Review (MTR) had highlighted the need for greater clarity of the project's results framework. It also identified several other aspects for course correction to enhance the impact, efficacy and long-term sustainability of the investments. The SFM Project management sought to internalize the MTR advice but the development of this project concept note has also benefited from the MTR insights in charting the future course.

This has been done in three ways. (a) The work of the predecessor SFM project is repackaged and re-profiled bringing climate change mitigation and adaptation to the fore. Sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation will remain integral to the project but now pursued in support of the dominant objectives of paradigm shift to low- emission and climate-resilient sustainable development; (b) instead of cramping everything under 2-3 outcomes (components), the project work is organized under an expanded list of outcomes for greater clarity about what is intended to be achieved through various outputs and activities; and (c) Certain new outputs and activities are added plugging the gaps in interventions to optimally realize the projects' potential and impact.

### **C. The Conceptual Framework**

Overall, and fundamental to this concept note and eventual full project proposal, the idea is to harness and aid the momentum created by the massive tree planting and forest restoration effort of the Government of Pakistan, building in particular on the work of the outgoing SFM Project, for lending to the effort a greater purpose and structure by linking forest conservation, restoration and sustainable management to climate-resilience and provision of forest ecosystem services. The underlying premise is that climate-friendly forestry at a large-enough scale will not only contribute to mitigating the society's climate footprint but will also stimulate the public interest and support for the paradigm shift to forests yielding multiple ecosystem benefits (carbon sinks, watersheds protection, biodiversity conservation, ground water recharge, flood control and mitigation, livelihoods, public amenity and many others) in preference to serving as a source of wood, fiber and fuel alone.

All the targeted forest landscapes have one or more designated forestlands. Many of these are owned and managed by the state. Some are community forestlands managed or supported by the government. The designated forests within the target landscapes will be demarcated (if not already done) and managed primarily as carbon-sinks and pools of biodiversity. Any commercial timber harvesting will be avoided or kept subservient to the overriding imperative forest carbon sequestration. Removals of trees or other forest products for any other reasons, such as for meeting any local community rights, will also be better regulated. Non-consumptive uses such as nature-based tourism will be allowed and encouraged as will be the sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products such as medicinal and aromatic plants and forest fruits and edibles. These forests are varyingly stocked, thus any significant gaps in canopy will be filled through enrichment planting, aided natural regeneration or complete reforestation of any excessively degraded parts.

Degraded or barren private and community wildlands lands with forestry potential, and occurring in the vicinity of the target designated forests, will be targeted for community-based forest restoration. The community will be encouraged to lead the effort with the project providing necessary material and technical support. Further afield, on farmlands, agroforestry practices will be promoted and supported. The purpose is three-fold: (a) increase the off-forests supply of fuelwood to lift the pressure from designated forests managed for carbon sequestration, (b) further augment carbon sequestration at community level, (c) and improve livelihoods through agroforestry products. In particular, agroforestry will help secure farmlands against erosion and improve farm productivity and income.

The agroforestry interventions will essentially be a part of the broader adaptation measures that will additionally include soil and water conservation, flood protection, rainforest collection, groundwater recharge, improving the forest communities' access to alternate sources of cleaner and renewable energy, strengthening livelihoods through non-consumptive uses of the of the forests (provision of ecosystem services) as compatible with the prevailing

laws, and promotion of climate resilient forest-based enterprises: nature based tourism, wood craft, honey production and others.

Considering the proposed project will work with many different landscapes and sub-cultures, while some activities such as forest conservation and restoration may be common to all landscapes, not all the project intervention will be carried out on all landscapes. Instead, interventions for each landscape will be tailor-made in view of its own context, needs and possibilities. For example, while watershed protection and micro-hydropower would be more relevant in the northern mountainous landscapes, protection against floods and groundwater recharge would be more needed and effective in the riparian areas further down.

To ensure the project investments are visibly impactful, the project will follow an integrated approach. This would also mean that, instead of thinly spreading its efforts through *ad hoc* interventions in a wider area, the different project interventions will be tightly focused on the targeted forest landscapes, in a synergic and mutually supportive manner. In this spirit, all the adaptation measures will also be carried out within, and in the vicinity of, the designated forests managed for carbon sinks and sequestration. The diagram showing the concept is attached in annexure section.

The project is innovative in that it introduces the notion of extended forest carbon sinks, somewhat akin to the concept of biological corridor. Where two or more targeted forest landscapes occur in reasonable proximity, these will be grouped and networked together in extended forest carbon pools, linked through adaptation corridors. The diagram showing the concept is attached in annexure section.

The idea would be to benefit from the economies of scale and to brand carbon sinks and sequestration as measures of wider public interest, increasing their visibility and evoking peoples' support in the quest to make carbon-resilient forestry as a national campaign.

Integral to the project conceptual framework would be the so called '*software*' that would be essential to achieve the project near-term physical targets as well as the long term impact and sustainability. This includes, among others, monitoring of the project targets, tracking project benefits and impacts; watching and communicating climate risks through a risk warning system premised on effective coordination between respective local, provincial and national institutions; and general awareness raising among the local communities, relevant government organizations, polity and public at large.

Capacity building is of essence in a context where knowledge, skills, expertise and experiences in climate resilient forestry are scant. Thus, the capacity building effort of the outgoing SFM Project will be consolidated and furthered.

Likewise, gender will be given particular attention as is merited in a society that is sensitive to gender issues and views them differently in comparison to other world cultures and societies. The emphasis will be on ensuring that women are not disadvantaged by the project interventions, that the project benefits reach them, and that they have an effective voice in project related decisions affecting them. The quality of life for the women will be improved reducing the disproportionate burden they often carry in terms of collecting firewood, fetching water, and sourcing fodder for livestock as well as improving their health through improvements in the health of the ecosystems.

#### **D. The Project Area**

The project's scope extends to three of the six provinces or federating units of Pakistan: Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This is to ensure impact and benefit from the economies of scale with an eye on further expansion and scaling up across the entire country in future.

Consequently, the project will target 10 forest landscapes including seven existing and three newly added landscapes. The map showing areas/sites of the project is attached in annexure section.

Together, the project's field interventions would span 456,621 ha of forest landscapes including 174,531 ha of designated forests. Table showing areas of all project sites is attached in the annexure section.

However, the broader capacity building, awareness raising and risk warning system will have a nation-wide reach and coverage as would be necessary or useful for the climate-friendly forestry and sustainable development at the landscape and community level.

#### **E. Carbon stock and Sequestration**

The carbon stocks of the existing designated forests of 86,837ha, over the 7 existing forest landscapes in the SFM Project portfolio are assessed to be 6.3376 million tons, currently sequestering about 545,110 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent annually. The three newly added forests would be assessed for their carbon stock and sequestration in the upscaling project but, based on data available for comparable forests, the designated forests spanning 43,346 ha would have a carbon stock of 2,259,685 of CO<sub>2</sub> and an annual sequestration of 228,730 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. The total annual current CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration of the existing and newly added designated forests would be:  $545,110 + 228,730 = 773,840$  tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

The potential to enhance forest carbon sequestration varies across the forests but, together the 130,183 hectares of the designated forests in all the 10 (7 existing plus 3 new) landscapes would have the potential to additionally

sequester 789,440 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent annually. Adding to this the potential CO<sub>2</sub> benefits of the adaptation activities estimated at 80,662 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, the gross additional potential would be 870,102 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Besides securing the existing forest carbon stocks and sustaining their current forest carbon sequestration, the Scaling Up project is designed to also capture this additional potential as much as would be possible during the 45-year project period. These assessments have been made following IPCC Guidelines (2006)

## **F. Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activities**

The project is envisaged to have 5 distinct outcomes:

1. Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions (M9.0)
2. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development (A5.0)
3. Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making (A6.0)
4. Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (A7.0)
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservation and flood control

These outcomes and corresponding outputs and activities have been designed to address the key barriers specific to the project interventions and to contribute to removing other obstacles that, at a broader level, impede the creation of an enabling environment. The different outcomes and outputs are interlinked as one would expect in an integrated and coherent approach. Consequently, while each outcomes has its own set of outputs and activities, some of these will also contribute to other outcomes and objectives. Some of the key sets of outputs and activities are listed below:

- Enhanced Forest Protection
- Forest Restoration in designated forests.
- Extended carbon sinks established across wider landscapes
- Enhanced Biodiversity
- Improved Sustainable Forest Management Planning System incorporating, inter alia, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation
- Climate friendly forest policies
- Strengthened capacity of provincial forest and wildlife departments and forestry training schools and
- Enhanced capacity in climate responsive infrastructure development planning
- Improved knowledge, tools, skills and systems for climate resilient sustainable forest management, notably, (a) carbon stock and sequestration assessment, (b) biodiversity integration, and (c) managing forests for ecosystem services than wood alone.
- Local Climate Monitoring and Information Centres (LCMIC) established, as demonstration projects, and operating effectively

- Forecast and warning system around exceptional events induced or accentuated by climate change
- Local inhabitants in target landscapes have knowledge and access to information for informed climate-related decision making at both the household and community level.
- Relevant authorities and polity at the district, provincial and national level have access to essential climate knowledge and information to lead and support the paradigm shift towards climate resilient sustainable development.
- Reformed planning and operations for forest nurseries and tree planting
- Enhanced access to alternative sources of climate-friendly, renewable energy
- Increased agroforestry practices in floodplains and riparian areas in the vicinity of the forests
- Communities have the essential skills for employing the available climate information in their adaptation endeavours.
- Increased employment and income from sustainable or non-consumptive uses of the forests
- Improvement in forest structure and composition for better soil protection
- Plantations on private or community-owned degraded lands that have forestry potential but are not designated forestlands as such.
- Improved watershed management infrastructure (safe drainage of mountain roads, check dams, retention dams, diversion channels and others)
- Flood protection infrastructure - riparian forestry, protection walls, and others)
- Rain water harvested at household level
- Rainwater harvesting at the community level
- Flood water spreading and retention structures and processes

## **G. Key Financial and Operational Risks**

There are no obvious financial risks in the project that the funding for the project is essentially coming from GCP and respective provincial governments in Pakistan, and both of these sources are reasonably secure and reliable. The provincial governments have already undertaken in writing that their part of the cash and in-kind co-financing. No significant third party or private sector investment that could introduce a financial risk element is required or anticipated as such.

However, there are a few operational risks that the project will both need to be prepared to manage:

(1) While there is a strong and serious commitment and interest from the leadership at the senior levels, some snags along the way down are not unexpected. Some folks may not fully understand the conditions of the grant leading, at times, to its under-utilization or attempts to divert the project funds to other activities that, even though important or useful, could go beyond the scope of the project. The project's institutional infrastructure of national and provincial steering committees have been conceived, in part, to mitigate such risks. In addition, the capacities

and resources of the PMU and Technical assistance and Support Teams in the field will be used to secure conformity with the approved annual work plans and their effective delivery.

(2) For centuries, forests in Pakistan have been managed primarily for timber and fuelwood. The notion of forest management for broader ecosystem services may not be completely alien but doesn't yet have the currency it needs. Changing the peoples' expectations and management environment and ethos of the forestry department would be a challenge that might impede the progress towards climate-resilient sustainable forest management. This project has been developed in close consultation with the respective forestry departments. It also provides for investment in specific activities and outputs to enhance awareness and support for the purposes. Together, these efforts would help in moving forward with the agenda of change.

(3) Related is the issue of political buy in and commitment. Pakistan's signing of the UNFCCC and the Paris Climate Agreement signify its political commitment to address the imperative of climate change. However, there is no denying the fact that opinions, commitments and actions of polity are shaped by the demands and expectations of their constituencies. Will the polity be able to push forward the paradigm shift fast enough would be a valid question. Addressing this question will require, alongside engaging communities, a sustained effort to deepen the understanding of the imperative of paradigm shift both in the diction makers at the senior levels of bureaucracy and polity. The project very much contemplates to do so.

(4) Limited time of the project could potentially be constraining, especially as to overarching goal of paradigm shift to climate-resilient sustainable forest management. Stating the obvious, forestry is a long term enterprise. There are hardly any examples of short-term projects producing long term results. All past successful forestry project in Pakistan ran their course for a decade or more to produce tangible results. Fortuitously, this project builds on the work and momentum of the 5-year outgoing SFM Project giving it the rare advantage of a few years. Yet, the notion of paradigm shift to climate-resilient sustainable development would be newly introduced in the Upscaling project. While there is every reason for optimism and hope, expectations are better realistic. The project may well have made significant and credible progress towards the paradigm shift, but the shift may not necessarily be completed before the project's end. This would warrant some level of continuity of the paradigm shift efforts after the current project period. The Government of Pakistan is aware of this and contemplates a continuation with or without further support from GCF and (or) other donors.

(5) Not a major risk but sometime the delay of donor funds could delay and impede the progress implementation in the field, especially when the an intermediary agency like AE is involved and when the funds need to move through multiple levels of governance from the federal government to provinces to project sites. However, this risk is easily mitigated by adequate and clear provisions in the collaboration agreements between respective entities such as AE and EA with the Steering Committee overseeing the agreements' faithful implementation.

(6) Pakistan experienced general deterioration of respect for law in the past. Forest Law enforcement equally suffered. The government is embarked on an agenda of reforms in governance that is already helping. However, law enforcement and respect at the project sites will need to be kept under watch and possibly supported such as with surveillance and communication technology employed alongside and in support of the communities partnering in forest conservation.

## **H. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the project. At the outset, a thorough scoping exercise will be carried out by the project team lead by the PMU including a review of the approved project document to understand and establish the monitoring and evaluation requirements and by extension the type of data required, the periodicity and means of data collection, the instruments needed for the purpose, and the responsibility for the

collection, analysis and reporting of various sets of data. It will also need to be clarified how the monitoring and evaluation results might be communicated and how will the responsibility for it assigned.

A clear distinction will be made in data required for monitoring the project implementation and for tracking the project impacts overtime particularly keeping in view the needs and expectations of the GCF. Impact monitoring will additionally call for establishing adequate and credible baseline of the select indicators to track and report impact of the project.

Without out prejudice to the outcome of the scoping exercise mentioned above, with support from the respective Technical Assistance and Support teams, the provinces provide the PMU quarterly progress monitoring reports to be mainly used for any course correction by the project management. Every second quarterly report from the provinces will be half yearly report capturing the cumulative progress for the preceding half year. The PMU will analyse and synthesize these reports into half-yearly reports to be submitted both to the AE (and through the AE to GCF) and the Project steering Committee for their review and consideration.

The provincial report for the last quarter of a year will be annual report, caring the cumulative progress for the preceding year and a prognosis for the year ahead. Like the six monthly reports, the PMU will review and synthesize these provincial reports into the project's annual report and submit it for the consideration of Project Steering Committee, AE and GCF (through AE) accordingly.

Given the short project period of 4-years, the cost of any major midterm evaluation would outweigh its potential benefits. Therefore no mid-term evaluation is contemplated. Instead, the project's second annual report shall be used for an extensive review in a workshop with the project Steering Committee, AE, GCF, Provincial Project partners, beneficiaries' representatives, and other stakeholders including senior political and bureaucratic leadership, as would be reasonably possible. If necessary, the workshop may be externally assisted by an independent facilitator. The aim would be to take decisions on any course correction for the remaining project period, and on equally important exit strategy or follow up and sustainability in the post project period.

There will be one terminal evaluation organized in the last quarter of the last year of the project.

### **B.3.Expected performance against the GCF investment criteria (1000 words)<sup>2</sup>**

#### **Impact potential**

The project almost equally addresses the mitigation and adaptation priorities of the GCF with 57% of the GCF grant going to mitigation and the remaining 48% going to adaptation.

#### **Paradigm shift potential**

The project itself is about scaling up of what was initiated under an outgoing GEF-UNDP supported Sustainable Forest Management Project. Its scaling up potential is profound and imminent. If successfully implemented, the

<sup>2</sup> For more information please refer to Annex XIV of document [GCF/B.07/11](#)

scalability of the approach would transcend not only the provincial boundaries in Pakistan but also the national boundaries to other countries of the region.

The project will certainly move Pakistan forward on the low emission pathway both by preventing the release of forest carbon into the atmosphere and sequestering additional atmospheric carbon, and by reducing the carbon footprint of the energy use in the target population.

The proposed project seeks to generate climate related information and knowledge and capacity as some of its key outputs aimed at enabling the communities and the government to make informed climate-related decisions. This would be a part of creating an enabling environment amplified by additional project work in planning and legal reforms, advocacy and capacity building.

These efforts are inspired by not only Pakistan's commitment to be responsible member of the global community but also much by its own quest to address the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation facing the country like no other. This quest is reflected in Pakistan's parliament formal endorsing the Paris climate agreement.

### **Sustainable development potential**

Environmentally, the project work will lead to the improvement in ecosystems' health and wellbeing, enhancing in particular the forests' watershed protection function in the country's upper reaches and securing the riverine forest ecosystems and the people around them in the lower Indus basin.

In the process, the project will also generate numerous social co-benefits but most worthy of mention are improvement in the health and living conditions of children and women by reducing the households' reliance on the use of firewood and collection of opens source surface water. The project's intervention of enhancing access to alternate sources of energy and rainwater collection will make material difference to the quality of life of the respective people.

Along the way, the project will generate a lot of economic co-benefits, mainly through increased and better paid employment coming from the project's support to agroforestry and small scale industries based on non-consumptive or sustainable use of the forests.

### **Needs of the recipient**

Pakistan has increased its allocation for environmental causes and projects in recent years yet, in absolute terms, these resources are far fewer compared to the environmental needs and challenges the country faces. Unaided, despite its best effort and commitment, the country is unlikely to expedite its journey on the low emission pathways, and it will be a missed opportunity for Pakistan, GCF and the wider global leadership in that, never before, there has been such a high level of political commitment and resource allocation for the cause of environment in Pakistan. Pakistan is constantly ranked among the top6-10 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. If climate vulnerability is a criteria, as it is, few other countries would merit more support than Pakistan. Alongside acute shortages of finances, lack of institutional and technical capacities is also a major constraint on the much needed paradigm shift to climate-resilient sustainable development in Pakistan. The project will no doubt make a visibly meaningful contribution to making a difference in forestry and other rural development sectors in the respective landscapes and provinces with its potential influence also reaching across the country.

### **Country ownership**

Pakistan has a dedicated full time Ministry of Climate Change at the national level. It has a robust Climate Change law and policy in place complemented by numerous other policies in the respective economic sectors. This proposal is in full accord with the respective policies including the country's NDC.

Moreover, the provincial governments have their own policies and initiatives furthering the green actions and credentials of the country. Their line departments such as those responsible for forest and wildlife are tasked with implementing respective sustainable development projects. Yes, these departments need and would welcome support to augment their capacities but, at an essential level, they have the basic capacities that can be mobilized for the projects implementation as was done under the SFM and as is contemplated under the proposed Upscaling Project. The viability of these capacities at a basic level is adequately evidenced by the many past projects successfully implemented by these entities with local or donor funds.

Civil society organization make a part of the development institutional architecture of the country. They play a variety of roles ranging from advocacy to being development partners with the government(s). The outgoing SFM project worked closely with several NGOs and so will the successor Scaling Up project. The mention of IUCN, the proposed AE for the project merits a particular mention here in that, alongside the Government of Pakistan, it brings dozens of other civil society organizations and together in the country creating a unique space and opportunity to mutually consult and collaborate. The project will harness this potential. The other reasons that makes IUCN a credible AE part for this project have been mentioned before and are skipped here in the interest of brevity.

Already this concept paper has significantly benefited from consultation with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Climate change, Provincial Forests and Wildlife Departments, and a cross section of NGOs in the country.

### **Efficiency and effectiveness**

More than 60% of the requested GCF grant of about USD 10 million has already been leveraged from the respective provincial governments without any help from elsewhere. . This leverage is likely to further increase depending on how much the AE would be able to contribute itself or mobilize from other sources. The proposed project would be financially viable in that the budgeting for the project inputs and outputs would be informed by the actual experiences of the outgoing SFM project that has been able to successfully implement similar activities, If anything, those experiences should help achieve even more and better results with the available resources.

From another perspective, the GCF 10 million USD investment is expected to secure a carbon sequestration benefit of 3,827 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent over the project period of 4 years. At USD USD 4.73 [i] per ton as the growing price in the voluntary market, this would be worth USD 18.02 million. In this way, the GCF investment will have been more than paid off within the project period itself.

[i] <https://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/articles/press-release-voluntary-carbon-markets-rocket-in-2021-on-track-to-break-1b-for-first-time/>

### **B.4 Stakeholders consultation and engagement (300 words)**

This proposal has been developed in due consultation between the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan as the GCF NDA and the respective Provincial Forestry Departments that will be the principle entities executing the project on the ground. Initial consultations have also taken place with the IUCN as the proposed AE and they are in know of the concept and contours of the he proposal. A draft collaboration agreement between the

NDA and AE has been exchanged and further consultations will continue for eventually signing the agreement in anticipation of the full proposal. The contents of the Concept Note have also been informed by discussions that have occurred with other civil society organizations along the way

**C. Indicative financing 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
1. Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions (M9.0)	1.1. Enhanced Forest Protection	543,329	379,309	grant	public	164,020	in-kind	GoP
1. Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions (M9.0)	1.2. Forest Restoration in designated forests.	7,769,460	3,290,788	grant	public	4,478,672	grant	GoP
1. Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions (M9.0)	1.2. Forest Restoration in designated forests.	768,000	0	grant	public	768,000	in-kind	GoP



1. Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions (M9.0)	1.3. Extended carbon sinks established across wider landscapes	249,127	238,407	grant	public	10,720	in-kind	GoP
1. Improved management of land or forest areas contributing to emissions reductions (M9.0)	1.4. Enhanced Biodiversity	168,721	160,921	grant	public	7,800	in-kind	GoP
2. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development (A5.0)	2.1. Improved Sustainable Forest Management Planning System incorporating, inter alia, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation	239,478	204,078	grant	public	35,400	in-kind	GoP
2. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive	2.2. Climate friendly forest policies	234,583	223,423	grant	public	11,160	in-kind	GoP



planning and development (A5.0)								
2. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development (A5.0)	2.3. Strengthened capacity of provincial forest and wildlife departments and forestry training schools and colleges in climate resilient forestry	458,530	339,330	grant	public	119,200	in-kind	GoP
2. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development (A5.0)	2.4. Enhanced capacity in climate responsive infrastructure development planning	209,630	202,730	grant	public	6,900	in-kind	GoP
2. Strengthened institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development (A5.0)	2.5. Improved knowledge, tools, skills and systems for climate resilient sustainable forest management, notably, (a) carbon stock and sequestration assessment,	275,487	232,287	grant	public	43,200	in-kind	GoP



	(b) biodiversity integration, and (c) managing forests for ecosystem services than wood alone.							
3. Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making (A6.0)	3.1. Local Climate Monitoring and Information Centers (LCMIC) established, as demonstration projects, and operating effectively	197,726	190,826	grant	public	6,900	in-kind	GoP
3. Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making (A6.0)	3.2. Forecast and warning system around exceptional events induced or accentuated by climate change	16,153	15,253	grant	public	900	in-kind	GoP
3. Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making (A6.0)	3.3. Local inhabitants in target landscapes have knowledge and access to information for informed climate-related decision making at both the household and	217,118	198,078	grant	public	19,040	in-kind	GoP



	community level.							
3. Increased generation and use of climate information in decision-making (A6.0)	3.4. Relevant authorities and polity at the district, provincial and national level have access to essential climate knowledge and information to lead and support the paradigm shift towards climate resilient sustainable development.	372,166	360,926	grant	public	11,240	in-kind	GoP
4 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (A7.0)	4.1. Reformed planning and operations for forest nurseries and tree planting	204,832	190,672	grant	public	14,160	in-kind	GoP
4 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (A7.0)	4.2. Enhanced access to alternative sources of climate-friendly, renewable energy	800,358	780,358	grant	public	20,000	in-kind	GoP
4 Strengthen	4.3. Increased agroforestry	303,595	223,795	grant	public	79,800	in-kind	GoP



ed adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (A7.0)	practices in floodplains and riparian areas in the vicinity of the forests							
4 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (A7.0)	4.4. Communities have the essential skills for employing the available climate information in their adaptation endeavors.	309,089	291,289	grant	public	17,800	in-kind	GoP
4 Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks (A7.0)	4.5. Increased employment and income from sustainable or non-consumptive uses of the forests	320,321	306,921	grant	public	13,400	in-kind	GoP
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservation and flood control	5.1. Improvement in forest structure and composition for better soil protection (the budget of this output covered in output 2.2 and 3.4)	0	0	grant	public	0	grant	GoP
5. Enhanced watershed protection,	5.2. Plantations on private or community-	1,261,520	1,003,320	grant	public	258,200	grant	GoP



water conservati on and flood control	owned degraded lands that have forestry potential but are not designated forestlands as such.							
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservati on and flood control	5.3. Improved watershed management infrastructure (safe drainage of mountain roads, check dams, retention dams, diversion channels and others)	219,768	202,518	grant	public	17,250	grant	GoP
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservati on and flood control	5.4. Flood protection infrastructure - riparian forestry, protection walls, and others)	475,843	426,243	grant	public	49,600	grant	GoP
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservati on and flood control	5.5. Rain water harvested at household level	101,842	95,426	grant	public	6,416	grant	GoP
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservati	5.6. Rainwater harvesting at the community level	204,970	198,730	grant	public	6,240	grant	GoP

on and flood control								
5. Enhanced watershed protection, water conservation and flood control	5.7. Flood water spreading and retention structures and processes	153,223	128,743	grant	public	24,480	grant	GoP
6. Field Technical Assistance and Support	Field Technical Assistance (TA) and Support Teams	125,820	29,820	grant	public	96,000	grant	GoP
7. Project Management	Project Management Unit	344,096	84,896	grant	public	259,200	grant	GoP
<b>Indicative total cost (USD)</b>		16,544,785	9,999,087	6,545,698				

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

### **C.2. Justification of GCF Funding Request (500 words)**

The case for the GCF to fund the proposal has been touched in various parts of the concept before. To recap briefly, Pakistan is a signatory of the UNFCCC and the related Paris Agreement. It is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and thus not only eligible for GCF support but also worthy of it. More importantly, Pakistan has visibly demonstrated environmental leadership, not the least through its Billion and 10 Billion Trees Program that has few parallel in that developing world. The country needs to be encouraged and rewarded for the benefit of climate agenda within and beyond its borders.

Even otherwise, the proposal is worthy of funding on its own merit. It scales up successfully tested interventions, it is promising further scalability, it brings innovation that could be of wider interest worldwide, and it has strong stakeholders' engagement and support. The proposed commitments of co-financing are already in place duly signed. Moreover, the proposal comes at an opportune time to introduce and pursue the idea of paradigm shift to climate-resilient sustainable development. Never before, the opportunity for change was so ripe in the country.

Finally, in purely climate and financial terms, on a conservative basis, the value of the carbon saving and sequestration benefits over the 4-year project period not only exceed the requested GCF grant of USD 10 million but the entire project investment of USD 16.545 including all the co-financing. The proposed investments are therefore well-worth making on all counts.

### **C.3. Exit Strategy and Sustainability (500 words)**

The notion of post project sustainability needs to be understood and implemented in its proper perspective. The idea of the paradigm shift that the project embraces is profound. If successful, it will change the shape of forestry in

Pakistan for the next century. Taking this to fruition may well go beyond the project period, therefore, one better talks about post-project continuity and sustainability than an exit as such that is often viewed as shutting the door behind.

With that in mind, the forest departments as the custodians of designated forests in the country will be easily be able to take over and continue with the forestry component to the extent of their care and management. The paradigm shift is a different question that will require additional measures (see later). Most of the adaptation activities and outcomes will be pursued with leadership from within the community members. Since these respond to the specific needs and opportunities identified in the communities, they shall be taking them over in self-interest. One question is how the various assets created during the project such as rainforest harvesting, solar power, micro-hydro-power and others will be serviced in the post project period. This is built into the project design in that such assets will be created with the participation of the private sector, including the service providers that will be additionally trained if so necessary. At the heart of this approach is consideration of post-project servicing of the facilities, sustainability and scaling up lead by the market forces and players.

Taking the paradigm shift to further fruition after the current project period, it would be very much in the interest of the Government of Pakistan and GCF to already think of a follow up collaboration project of another 5-6 years after this one. Should for an technical or practical reason this not be possible, it would be the privilege and interest of the Government of Pakistan to conceive, approve and resource requisite follow up project well before the end of the proposed GCF project in hand. The Government may finance such a follow up in collaboration with another donor or from its own resources. Critical to all of this is the process of the follow up project is put in motion soon after the commencement of the Scaling up Project if it is so approved. This must not wait until the terminal evaluation or even any mid-term review. Good project development takes time and resources that must be provided to it. In fact the development of such a proposal may well be financed under the proposed GCF-funded Upscaling Project and made an output of it under the projects' capacity building component.

#### **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)

**Annex 1: Environmental and Social Screening Checklist<sup>3</sup>**

**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.

Risk Factors	YES	NO
Will the activities involve associated facilities and require further due diligence of such associated facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
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"/>
N/A		
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"/>
N/A		
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"/>
N/A		
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"/>
No Major infrastructure is contemplated. Some small rainwater harvesting and flood protection measures at the community level are envisaged but their intent and purpose is to ameliorate than exacerbate the communities' exposure to climate related risks. These structures would be small and local in nature and shouldn't warrant any detailed technical assessment design except as is normally done by local engineers for such interventions. Nonetheless, the project will provide consulting resources for initial scoping and design of the interventions for proper siting, quality and long term sustainability.		
Will the proposed activities potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A		
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yes, some project interventions such as aiding natural regeneration and enrichment planting will happen in forests of biodiversity or protection value but these will be benign and in support of enhancing the biodiversity values of the forests. Also, some , small check dams and diversion channels, improvement in the drainage of forest rural (forest) roads, and erection of fire-watch		

<sup>3</sup> In answering this checklist, you may refer to Annex 1: Guidance on Part A ESS Screening of the ["Guidelines for the environmental and social screening of activities proposed under the SAP"](#)

towers is contemplated but, again, these activities are aimed at enhancing the capacity and infrastructure as is essential for the protection and climate-friendly sustainable management of the forests. The underlying consideration is to moderate the influence of torrential rains, to reduce runoff, conserve soil and water, and contain the loss of forests to forest fires. No other major infrastructure as such is contemplated as would compromise the biodiversity or climate values of the forests.		
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"/>
N/A		
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"/>
N/A		

**Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts**

<b>Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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"/>
Are the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Labour and Working Conditions</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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"/>
N/A			
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"/>
N/A			
<b>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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"/>
N/A			



Will the activities utilize significant amount of natural resources including water and energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
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"/>
N/A			
<b>Community Health, Safety, and Security</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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"/>
N/A			
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"/>
N/A			
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"/>
N/A			
<b>Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the activities likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
<b>Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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"/>
N/A			
Will the activities have potential impacts on or be dependent on ecosystem services including production of living natural resources (eg. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
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"/>
N/A			
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the activities restrict access to the cultural heritage sites and properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
<i>Will there be a need to prepare a chance-find procedure in case of the discovery of cultural heritage assets?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			

Stakeholder engagement and grievance	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>This is a scaling up project of what was a GEF supported Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Project. The local communities welcomed and supported the SFM project interventions. There were no significant events of disagreements or conflicts. However, the communities were periodically consulted as to the rationale, nature and benefits of the project interventions. This aspect of stakeholders' consultation will be continued and further enhanced under the Upscaling DFM Project to mobilize and sustain their support for the project's interventions and the paradigm shift to the climate-friendly sustainable development that it seeks.</p>			

**Part C: Sign Off**

**Sign-off:** N/A