Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 20-Nov-2018 | Report No: PIDISDSA24526
### BASIC INFORMATION

#### A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>P163271</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh: Forests for Prosperity Project</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<th>Estimated Board Date</th>
<th>Practice Area (Lead)</th>
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<td>SOUTH ASIA</td>
<td>12-Nov-2018</td>
<td>15-Feb-2019</td>
<td>Environment &amp; Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<th>Financing Instrument</th>
<th>Borrower(s)</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Project Financing</td>
<td>Republic of India</td>
<td>State of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department</td>
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**Proposed Development Objective(s)**

To improve forest management and communities’ access to markets in selected watersheds in Himachal Pradesh.

**Components**

- Institutional Reform and Capacity Building for Integrated Watershed Management and Improved Forest Management
- Improved Investments in Participatory and Sustainable Land and Water Management
- Strengthened and Inclusive Value Chains for NTFPs and Other Commodities
- Institutional Coordination and Project Management

### PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

#### SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount (US$, Millions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>62.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Financing</td>
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<td>of which IBRD/IDA</td>
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<td>Financing Gap</td>
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#### DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing
Country Context

1. **India continues to be the world’s fastest growing major economy.** Since the 2000s, India has made remarkable progress in reducing absolute poverty. Between FY2011/12 and 2015, poverty declined from 21.6% to an estimated 13.4% at the international poverty line (2011 PPP US$ 1.90 per person per day) where more than 90 million people escaped extreme poverty and improved their living standards. Despite this success, poverty remains widespread in India. In 2015, with the latest estimates, 176 million Indians were living in extreme poverty while 659 million, or half the population, were below the higher poverty line commonly used for lower middle-income countries (2011 PPP US$ 3.20 per person per day).

2. **As the world’s fastest growing economy and one of the most vulnerable to climate change, India plays a crucial role in contributing to global climate change commitments by moving towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient growth path.** India’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), includes the creation of a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. The country is among one of the world’s most forested nations with 80.2 million Ha of forest and tree cover.¹ Through the National Forest Policy, the government has prioritized forest sector development with a long-term goal of bringing 33% its geographical area under forest/tree cover; currently, this stands at 24.39%.

3. **The above described context signals the importance of promoting green and inclusive growth policies and reforms.** While Himachal Pradesh’s (HP) economy has grown on average by 7.5% annually from 2012-16, significantly above the all-India average (6.3%), there is a need to boost shared prosperity, especially in rural areas and for scheduled castes and tribes. At 8%, HP’s poverty rate is among the lowest in the country, but poverty rates are higher for scheduled castes (16%) and scheduled

¹ India’s State of Forest Report 2017
tribes (9%), with slower poverty reduction rates. HP’s rural population is dependent on forest ecosystem services for their livelihoods in the agriculture, horticulture, and livestock sectors, suggesting that augmenting forests and forest products could boost shared prosperity, especially for the rural poor.

4. Investments in HP’s forests can boost shared prosperity and enhance the provision of key ecosystem services that support economies and livelihoods in HP and downstream states. HP’s forests and watersheds provide critical carbon sequestration and water regulation services for HP and India’s grain belt, so improved management can boost economic growth. Further, HP’s forests can contribute more to India’s greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation goals, reduce local vulnerability to climate impacts, and earn additional state revenue: according to the 14th Finance Commission, 7.5% of central fiscal transfers are based on state forest cover quality. Part of the state is also a global biodiversity hotspot.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

4. The World Bank is re-engaging in India’s forest sector after almost a decade, using lessons from previous engagements to support improvements in the capacity and institutional structure of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department (HPFD). Between 1990 and 2002, India implemented seven projects in support of joint and participatory forest management (JFM/ PF M). However, their designs and implementation were found to perpetuate a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach, with little community involvement in JFM meetings, lack of community awareness of JFM guidelines, and a low likelihood of long-term sustainability. By contrast, the Andhra Pradesh Community Forestry Management Project (2002–10) strengthened forest user groups’ control over forest products, which led to increased incomes for beneficiaries and an increase in tree cover. This project shows that to ensure long-term sustainable outcomes in the forestry sector, a further devolution of rights and responsibilities to communities is key.

5. The HPFD is mandated to jointly manage forests and watersheds with communities to regulate water flow and reduce erosion and benefit the agriculture, hydropower, water supply, and other sectors in HP and downstream states. Despite considerable investments to date in catchment treatment and afforestation, forest quality (measured as canopy density) remains poor in HP. The gross area of forests is increasing due to better law enforcement, afforestation to offset forests cleared for development, and the partial lifting of the felling ban in 2018, which allowed for selective felling of older trees and subsequent regeneration. However, the quality of forests has not improved over the past six decades due to several factors, including poor quality plants and planting techniques, lack of maintenance, incorrect site/plant selection, and uncontrolled grazing and fires. Moreover, the implementation of Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans is not systematically monitored, and a large proportion of their investments remains to be completed. Low forest quality contributes to erratic water flows (floods and droughts), a reduction in the number and productivity of the freshwater springs that support agriculture and urban water supplies, reduced climate resilience and below-potential carbon sequestration. Increased sedimentation from denuded hillsides is also reducing hydropower efficiency, even as the gap between fodder demand and supply is widening due to the spread of invasive and unpalatable plant species.

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6. Low stakeholder engagement and limited incentives for the participation of communities, especially women, in sustainable land and water management leads to poor sector performance.\textsuperscript{3,4} While national policies, namely the National Forest Policy, 1988, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, recognize community’s rights and their key role in conserving forest resources, forest management continues to be a largely top-down process. The HPFD has traditionally managed forests for timber and fuelwood and taken few measures to augment the supply of fodder, grasses, medicinal plants, and other NTFPs valued by local communities. As a result, there is insufficient incentive for communities to keep livestock out of young plantations and assist with remote forest fire management, two of the primary drivers of past afforestation failures. Community institutions, like Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), have a limited participation in forest, land and water management planning and decision making. Women’s participation in decision-making processes leads to more equitable resource rules that address women’s and men’s needs.\textsuperscript{5} Women participation in JFM executive committees is less, even though the local forest conditions have been seen to be better.

7. The management of and value derived from NTFPs are below their potential. While HP is endowed with more than 100 species of medicinal and aromatic plants, in addition to valuable fodder and wild fruit trees, forests are not managed to the extent to maximize the sustainability and economic value of NTFPs. Under the Indian Forest Act, rights to collect NTFPs from forest lands are vested in local communities, who can only legally sell NTFPs to outside traders and processors if they have first obtained a transit permit from the HPFD. While this system aims to help manage and monitor collection of NTFPs by tracking the quantity harvested from different areas, getting these permits is more difficult. Long and difficult procedures, a lack of community awareness on scientific and sustainable harvesting practices, and the absence of tracking systems have led to a not very efficient trade and practice that has made several valuable NTFP species become rare, threatened, and endangered, leading to a decrease of sustainable management and generation of local income. Even though local communities have formal rights to harvest NTFPs, large traders and processing companies capture most of the value from HP’s medicinal plants, which are in high demand by the ayurvedic, pharmaceutical, and wellness industries. Moreover, female NTFP collectors have limited information about NTFP markets are mainly involved in the collection of low-value NTFPs that they sell individually to local traders, while men collect high-value NTFPs and make sales decisions directly as members of NTFP auction committees.

8. Finally, the HPFD has multiple and potentially conflicting roles and is constrained by limited technical capacity and facilities. The HPFD is responsible for managing the state’s forest assets while also setting policy objectives and supervising, controlling, and monitoring the sector. As sector needs have evolved, the HPFD has added new capacities, such as in information technology (IT) and training, without specifically considering the overall institutional structure and functions. Staff are rotated across functions in the HPFD, which, on the one hand, allows staff to develop well-rounded experience, while, on the other, limits opportunities to develop deep technical skills. The HPFD also is low on up-to-date technology, for example for nursery management and IT-based monitoring, as well as basic equipment and facilities to effectively respond to forest fires.\textsuperscript{6} As a result, forest management is not very strong internationally public

\textsuperscript{3} Gender Inclusive Forest Management in Himachal Pradesh, 2018, World Bank, 2018.
\textsuperscript{4} Stakeholder Engagement in Himachal Pradesh Forests for Prosperity Project, World Bank, 2018.
monitoring of sector performance remains limited. In 2018, the Supreme Court of India partially lifted the felling ban it had imposed on HP, highlighting a need for better forest management to fulfill local timber demand while regenerating forests. It also implied a need to reassess the roles of HPFD and its subordinate institutions, including the state-owned timber company.

9. Recognizing the need to help progress the performance of HP’s forests and watersheds and to increase community engagement in the sector, the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) has committed to inclusive and participatory institutional reform and capacity building through this project. The GoHP aims to improve the HPFD’s ability to deliver its core functions (maintenance and improvement of forest quality and watershed management) and to introduce a fundamental reform in the way that HPFD engages with communities and the private sector on forest management and forest value chains. With support from this project, the GoHP also aims to identify and generate consensus on long-term reforms, such as separating the policy and regulatory functions to reduce conflicts of interest and rightsizing HPFD’s role in activities that can be managed by communities and/or the private sector. Because of its key role in watersheds, the HPFD will convene a process to involve state departments and stakeholders to identify the best state-level institutional arrangement for integrated watershed management (IWM).

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve forest management and communities’ access to markets in selected watersheds in Himachal Pradesh.

Key Results

- PDO indicator #1: Selected forest land managed in accordance with site-specific management plans (ha)
- PDO indicator #2: Productive alliances operational according to a business plan (number); target of 50 percent with women-only groups
- PDO indicator #3: Share of target beneficiaries with rating ‘Satisfied’ or above on process and impact of project interventions (percentage, disaggregated by gender)

D. Project Description

9. The project includes state-level activities, especially in Component 1. The target areas for Components 2 and 3 will be implemented following the nested HPFD institutional arrangement that includes 7 districts: Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Una, and Bilaspur; 5 forest circles: Rampur, Mandi, Shimla, Bilaspur, and Hamirpur; 10 forest divisions: Kinnaur, Rampur, Ani, Karsog, Kotgarh, Shimla, Shimla Urban, Kunihar, Una, and Bilaspur; and 21 forest ranges: Kalpa, Moorang, Kilba, Rampur, Nankhari,
Bahali, Kumarsain, Kotgarh, Bhajji, Dhami, Pangana, Seri, Magru, Karsog, Chowai, Shimla Urban, Darla, Ramgarh, Bangana, Shri Naina Devi, and Kalol.

Component 1. Institutional Reform and Capacity Building for Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) and Improved Forest Management (Total US$8.66 million, Bank US$6.93 million, GoHP US$1.73 million)

10. The objective of this component is to facilitate a better alignment of institutional mandates for IWM and strengthen the HPFD’s institutional structure and capacity for improved forest service delivery. It will be implemented through a combination of technical assistance (TA) and public investments.

Subcomponent 1A: Building consensus for integrated watershed management

11. Through the convening power of the HPFD and its role in managing watersheds, this subcomponent will provide TA to support the state in improving the integrated management of its water resources through awareness raising, capacity building, and analytical and knowledge-sharing activities. The subcomponent will support an IWM institutional assessment to (a) identify the institutions that affect water supply, quality, use, and management and their roles, responsibilities, and mandates; (b) conduct a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis of the current institutional framework and highlight any overlaps and/or gaps that undermine IWM; (c) identify opportunities for institutional coordination and synergy; and (d) build consensus on the need for reform and develop the goals and vision for institutional collaboration, a time-bound action plan, and an implementation road map. The results of this assessment are expected to inform the GoHP on the necessary longer-term reforms to the relevant state institutions that will result in effective interagency cooperation and, ultimately, IWM.

Subcomponent 1B: Institutional reform and strengthening of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department

12. This subcomponent will support the preparation process for long-term institutional reforms and will implement an initial set of reforms. It will provide TA and investments to (a) conduct a comprehensive functional review of forest institutions (FRFI) that will produce a vision, goal, and time-bound action plan for change; (b) implement an initial set of prioritized HPFD institutional reforms; and (c) strengthen the HPFD’s capacity to deliver its core mandates. This subcomponent will be implemented in parallel to, but will also be informed by, the longer-term reform process to catalyze IWM under Subcomponent 1A.

13. The FRFI will analyze the key challenges and constraints that limit the sector’s performance, identify and develop ownership for the vision and goals of the reform process, and—in collaboration with key stakeholders—develop a time-bound road map for implementation. The review will include an analysis and benchmarking of national and state legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks to identify limitations, including the effective and accountable participation of the private sector and communities, and will clarify and address any overlapping or inconsistent institutional responsibilities.

14. This subcomponent will also support the HPFD in developing/expanding and implementing an initial set of prioritized institutional governance reforms through TA and investments, including the purchase of the required equipment. These reforms include the (a) development and implementation of a comprehensive HPFD IT and knowledge strategy that integrates all relevant applications on a common
geospatial platform based on open source technology and allows for watershed-level planning;\(^7\) (b) development and implementation of a comprehensive HPFD monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to support forest management; (c) establishment of a centralized staff performance monitoring system for the HPFD linked to the IT platform; and (d) development of regulatory and management standards for pastures.

15. Finally, this subcomponent will finance training and capacity-building activities for the HPFD based on a comprehensive training plan, including the development and delivery of trainings by internal and external providers using virtual technologies and international exposure. The subcomponent will also finance minor infrastructure improvements at the State Forest Training Institute at Chail.\(^8\) These trainings will build HPFD’s capacity to inform community members, including women, about their forest-related rights, duties, entitlements, and obligations, as well as the roles of communities and the HPFD in the preparation and implementation of participatory, inclusive, and responsive forest management plans.

**Component 2. Improved Investments in Participatory and Sustainable Land and Water Management (Total US$41.02 million, Bank US$32.82 million, GoHP US$8.20 million)**

16. This component aims to promote participatory and sustainable land and water management through financing the planning and implementation of investments in selected catchments based on the Sutlej Basin Comprehensive CAT (CCAT) plan and range-level site-specific management plans (SSMP) to be developed under this component.\(^9\) This component will also include investments in the Shimla catchment to enhance the availability and sustainability of water sources for water supply in the city of Shimla.\(^10\) The main implementers and beneficiaries of this component will be HPFD staff and community organizations, particularly JFMCs, located within the selected catchments. The component will be implemented through a combination of TA, public investments, and partnerships with other public agencies and will lead to improved forest cover (and hence carbon capture), increased water and sediment regulation, reduced erosion, and improved community participation in forest management.

**Subcomponent 2A: Improved planning for participatory and sustainable land and water management**

17. Subcomponent 2A will (a) review implementation progress and revise the existing Sutlej Basin CCAT plan; (b) support additional diagnostic studies, designs, and assessments to inform the land and water management investments; and (c) develop SSMPs based on the CCAT plan through a participatory process led jointly by the relevant JFMCs. The CCAT plan review will first assess the implementation of all activities identified in the original CCAT plan and identify the most cost-effective interventions implemented to date. The review will also propose revisions to the CCAT plan investments and their

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\(^7\) The preparation of the IT strategy will include the analysis of the most appropriate disruptive technologies.

\(^8\) The trainings will cover diverse subjects that will be designed with a climate change lens, including on management of seed stands, nursery management, range management, forest protection, community mobilization, and institutional development.

\(^9\) The CAT plan outlines the types of sustainable land and water management investments, including soil and water conservation measures, like check dams, plantations, landslide protection, and pasture management, and their general location based on best practices and available watershed modeling. The detailed technical specifications (e.g., species and specific sites) will be developed by the forest range officer together with the JFMC, including women members, through the SSMP.

\(^10\) This project will support the rejuvenation of springs based on a proposal prepared in coordination with the Council for Science Technology and Environment to protect water sources critical for the city of Shimla in 24 key locations. The Bank is supporting the preparation of the First Programmatic Water Supply and Sewerage Service Delivery Reform Development Policy Loan for Shimla-Himachal Pradesh (P167246) for improved and financially-sustainable water supply and sewerage services.
location based on new hydrological and sediment load modeling and will incorporate the districts of Bilaspur and Una (not covered by the current plan). The CCAT plan review will include the design and implementation of a comprehensive M&E system for CCAT plan investments across the entire Sutlej Basin, including installation of instruments to measure water flows and sediment loads to refine the existing hydrological models and ensure that the CCAT plan investments maximize silt retention and surface water absorption given likely climate change impacts. The CCAT plan review and M&E system will be linked to and informed by Subcomponent 1A and the geospatial database developed under Subcomponent 1B.

18. This subcomponent will also support other assessments to inform priority investments, including (a) an assessment of grassland damage caused by invasive species and the design of scientific control interventions; (b) an assessment of historical fire lines and development of new fire lines given future climate and land use patterns; (c) an assessment of the existing pasture management and livestock management practices and design of improved practices; and (d) the design and implementation of a remote sensing-based forest fire danger rating and early warning system to be implemented by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

19. Finally, because the CCAT plan identifies investments over a large geographic scale (division level), this subcomponent will support the development of more detailed SSMPs to operationalize the CCAT plan at the forest range level, which will be developed through a participatory process led by the forest range officer together with the relevant JFMCs and other line departments. All JFMC members will be trained on the SSMP process, basic forest management and group administration, and the CCAT plan to facilitate their informed participation in the SSMP development process. Separate trainings and community consultations with women and men will also be held to (a) enhance their awareness about women’s and men’s forest-related entitlements and obligations and (b) develop clarity on the rules for women and men to engage in forest-related decision-making and access and benefit from forest resources. Where JFMCs have yet not been formed, are not fully functioning, or are not fully inclusive of all community members, especially women and scheduled castes/tribes, training and community consultation support involving female facilitators will be provided to (re)establish community groups, build cohesion, ensure that women occupy leadership roles in the JFMC executive committees, and provide leadership training to women.

Subcomponent 2B: Implementation of participatory and sustainable land and water management investments

20. This subcomponent will finance the implementation of new and previously unimplemented investments specified in the CCAT Plan and SSMPs. These investments will be based on the improved planning supported by Subcomponents 1A and 2A. The investments will be implemented by the HPFD and the JFMCs according to the SSMP, and all goods, works, and services associated with CCAT plan/SSMP implementation in the selected catchments will be financed by the project. Because women prefer wage labor to NTFPs as a source of cash income but are underrepresented in forestry operations, female facilitators will work with forest officers to ensure female laborers are hired for these investments.

21. Activities supported by this subcomponent include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

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11 The SSMP will include detailed technical specifications (for example, species, sites, treatments, and so on) and budgets for each investment and will identify the entity responsible for implementation, for example, the forest range officer or the JFM C.

12 Catchments selected for inclusion in this project were deliberately chosen to avoid geographic overlap with other projects.
(i) **Soil and water conservation measures.** Vegetative measures, such as grass seeding, grass turfs, brushwood, check dams, live hedge, and spurs, as well as mechanical measures, such as drop structures, crate wire spur structures, and drainage line treatments, like gully plugging.

(ii) **Development of high-quality seed stands.** Establishment of a geo-referenced seed production system (linked to the Forest Management Information System [FMIS]); construction of a centralized seed center to process, treat, store, and test the seed in controlled conditions; design and implementation of a seed certification and distribution system; and construction of a climate-controlled seed bank.

(iii) **Nursery development.** Provision of machinery and equipment and the production of approximately 200,000 additional seedlings in each of 19 nurseries (one per range) for subsequent planting in forest plantations. Nursery and species selection will incorporate JFMC inputs.

(iv) **Plantation management.** Planting and management of trees in open and medium density forests and slopes vulnerable to soil erosion and protection of plantations. The locations and species will be selected based on JFMC inputs and ecological conditions.

(v) **Pasture management.** Introduction of rotational grazing, delineation of forest areas for the supply of fodder, and the introduction of voluntary systems to prevent livestock from grazing in nurseries and young forest plantations and avoid the loss of seedlings.

(vi) **Forest fire prevention and suppression.** Organization of community fire protection groups; provision of locally appropriate firefighting equipment, including small vehicles, to the HPFD offices and participating communities; and training of communities on controlled burning, developing van-sarovars (small ponds) to douse fires, and the collection and use of pine needles.

Component 3. Strengthened and Inclusive Value Chains for NTFPs and Other Commodities (Total US$7.57 million, Bank US$6.06 million, GoHP US$1.51 million)

This component aims to incentivize community participation in sustainable land and water management by removing barriers to private investment in NTFP value chains and increasing local incomes from sustainable production and increased value addition. It will support value chains for NTFPs and other high-value commodities (agriculture, horticulture or animal husbandry) given the relatively small contribution of NTFPs to local livelihoods at present. This component will target NTFP collectors, who are often women, and the producers interested to cultivate NTFPs (medicinal, aromatic plants) and other high-value commodities identified for value chain development. This component will support the development of a Value Chain Development Cell (VCDC) within the SPMU that will (i) coordinate and monitor the overall implementation of this component and (ii) manage consultant contracts between the SPMU and qualified support entities, such as NGOs, consulting firms, and research institutes that will implement many of the component activities. Alignment with the relevant line departments (e.g., agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry) will be ensured through the project State Level Steering Committee (SLSC). In addition to improving local livelihoods, the proposed activities will reduce pressure on forests and contribute to increased carbon sequestration and reduced erosion. Component 3 through, strengthened NTFP value chains and institutional strengthening with a focus on women, will enhance livelihood diversification and improve communities’ resilience to climate change.

*Subcomponent 3.A: Creating enhanced market opportunities for NTFPs and other commodities*

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13 The project will pilot innovative methods using simple treatment replication trials and scale up successful methods.
23. Building on the maximizing finance for development approach, this subcomponent will support (a) a value chain and marketing analysis;\(^{14}\) (b) the HPFD to reform its approach to managing NTFP value chains; (c) the development of a model for the sustainable harvesting of selected NTFPs; (d) the development of geographic indications and certification systems/standards; and (e) limited operating costs (e.g. meetings, trainings, tools) to promote viable business partnerships between private sector value chain actors and groups of NTPF collectors/commodity producers (community user group [CUG]), such as marketing platforms, Private-Public Dialogues, knowledge events, business promotion events, and/or trainings (e.g., on certification systems) for private companies. In targeted project areas, taking into consideration the altitude and climate zone, a detailed study and mapping of NTFPs will be undertaken to identify ‘priority NTFPs’ that may be propagated in the wild to increase supply and in cases of rare species, enhance their chances of survival.

Subcomponent 3.B: Increasing sustainable collection/production and linking producers to markets

24. This subcomponent aims to (i) mobilize the NTFP collectors and producers of other potential commodities into CUGs; (ii) build their capacity for sustainable collection, production, and business development through trainings and technology demonstrations; (iii) support the establishment of “productive alliances” between CUGs and private sector value chain actors to increase private investment in sustainable value chains and the value forest fringe communities capture from these value chains; and (iv) support high-performing, growth-oriented federations of eligible CUGs to develop into ‘sustainable enterprises’ by financing secondary/tertiary processing, larger-scale storage, and marketing activities. The subcomponent will provide initial seed grant funding\(^{15}\) and TA to finance CUG establishment, including the development of by-laws and the opening of a group bank account, and to establish partnerships with private sector value chain actors, for example through buyer fairs and study tours. This subcomponent will also finance two sequential rounds of competitive matching grants\(^{16}\) to finance (1) eligible sustainable and climate-smart production\(^{17}\) and primary processing and storage investments identified in the business plans and (2) eligible secondary/tertiary processing activities.\(^{18}\) The second (sequential) round of competitive matching grants will be offered to transform eligible federations of groups supported under the first round into sustainable enterprises by co-financing secondary/tertiary value addition equipment and facilities with federations that have proven to be high performing and growth-oriented according to performance criteria developed by the VCDC. The eligibility criteria and terms for all three grant rounds will be identified in the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and in the Operational Manual, with special emphasis on extending support to women-only groups to help them productively participate in the supported value chains. Female facilitators will also be hired and trained to provide additional training.

\(^{14}\) The analysis will include a detailed review of the policy, regulatory, and operational frameworks for managing NTFP value chains, as well as policy advice to support the HPFD in reforming these frameworks to remove barriers to private investment in NTFPs, including by women. This study will include a detailed analysis of existing high-value NTFP value chains; identification of any other potentially high-value NTFP value chains that could be sustainably developed with the project’s support to benefit both women and men; and prioritization of additional economically feasible agriculture value chain development opportunities.

\(^{15}\) The seed grant funding will be a one-off grant-in-aid to finance group establishment and the development of skills and expertise for business development, product innovation, packaging, etc. The scheme will be implemented at the DFO level.

\(^{16}\) For the matching grants, beneficiaries will contribute with a part, and the project will match. The VCDC will organize a screening committee that includes private sector representation to review business plans and associated financing requests. Procurement of the business plan investments approved by the screening committee will be implemented at the DFO level.

\(^{17}\) E.g., inputs, such as seeds and saplings; small tools/infrastructure, including poly houses/shade net houses; ICT systems.

\(^{18}\) E.g., small tools/infrastructure; postharvest management technologies for collecting, grading, processing, packing, and storing; collection centers, transportation, and logistics; information and communication technologies [ICTs]; and certification.
and support to women-only groups to help them identify partners and ensure they benefit from the matching grants schemes.

25. Qualified support agencies (e.g., NGO, consulting firm, or research institute) will implement the mobilization, organization and capacity building of the CUGs and federations with field assistance from facilitators at the range level. These agencies will prepare training locally-appropriate materials, develop manuals and other operational guidelines, and provide Training of Trainers to the facilitators, who will implement the field-level trainings for the CUGs and related technology demonstrations.

Component 4. Institutional Coordination and Project Management (Total US$5.25 million, Bank US$4.20 million, GoHP US$1.05 million)

26. The project will be implemented through the HPFD and will be coordinated with other line departments through a project SLSC, as described in the following two subcomponents.

Subcomponent 4A: Institutional coordination

27. This subcomponent will finance the creation and maintenance of the project SLSC and its recurrent expenditures to ensure multisectoral coordination and participation across the HPFD and other relevant line departments and institutions involved in the project and/or that have the institutional mandate to advise or implement activities related to watershed management and NTFPs/agribusiness. The project will finance (a) SLSC technical meetings; (b) quarterly district meetings for convergence with other developmental schemes/programs of the Government; (c) exposure visits to project activity sites for information sharing and learning from project implementation; and (d) international exposure visits.

Subcomponent 4B: Project management

28. This subcomponent will finance project management activities (mainly through operational costs) undertaken by a State Project Management Unit (SPMU) in the HPFD, including (a) budgeting; (b) preparing annual work plans; (c) contract management; (d) financial management (FM); (e) procurement; (f) environmental and social risks management; (g) communications; and (h) M&E.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

29. The project will be implemented by the HPFD through an State Level Project management Unit (SPMU) headed by a chief project director (CPD). A State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) will provide overall supervision and meet on a six-monthly basis to approve and review the work plans and budget. It will assess the physical and financial progress of the project, provide corrective measures, and review and recommend measures to ensure project sustainability and coordination with the a JICA forestry project.

30. The SPMU will be responsible for managing the technical aspects, fund flow mechanisms, procurement, reporting, and monitoring as defined by the project’s Operational Manual. It will also
provide infrastructure and institutional support to circle, division, and range levels to ensure project implementation. Administrative control of all forest divisions will rest with the respective circle offices headed by the conservator of forests (CF). At the division level, Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) will plan and supervise project operations. The range will be the basic unit of planning and implementation, and all Component 2 activities will be planned through an SSMP. Each beat will have a female community facilitator hired from the local community to mobilize communities for project activities, with special emphasis on building the social capital to support female community members to participate in project activities, including the preparation and implementation of SSMPs. Project implementation will involve the JFMCs and CUGs through grant schemes, as well as related line departments through the SLSC.

Results Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

31. The SPMU will be responsible for coordinating all M&E activities and ensuring that data and information from all field offices are produced and collected on time and are of sufficient quality. A web-based project management and monitoring platform to integrate the information coming from different sources and levels will be created under Subcomponent 1B and will include a section with public access. Subcomponent 2A will include third-party monitoring through remote sensing and field verification. Community scorecards will be implemented to strengthen citizen engagement. The Results Framework includes gender indicators and applicable corporate results indicators (CRIs). Please note that, as detailed in the Bank Guidance on Corporate Results Indicators, CRIs related to “agriculture” and “agricultural” outcomes encompass activities related to non-timber forest products.

Sustainability

32. The project’s focus on institutional reforms, capacity building, and maximizing finance for development are expected to facilitate the long-term sustainability of project interventions. In housing the project within the HPFD, rather than in a semi-independent Society, and assigning 116 HPFD staff positions, the GoHP has signaled its commitment to build the capacity of the HPFD to scale up more effective forest sector service delivery well beyond the life of the project. Project investments in capacity building and stakeholder engagement, in particular to demonstrate a more effective model for community and private sector engagement in forest management and value chains, are further expected to create a sense of ownership and the human capital necessary to continue the institutional reforms, more efficient forest and watershed management, and sustainable value chain investments long after project closure. The project will also generate significant economic returns that are expected to further build community-led demand for more substantial longer-term reforms based on global experience. Finally, by supporting improved forest quality, the project can increase financial flows to HP, creating a virtuous circle of more effective and efficient allocation of public forest management resources in future.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project is located in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Activities under the project will be implemented in the districts falling under the Sutlej river’s catchment area. The seven districts of Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Una, Bilaspur will be covered. The administrative unit for work under the project are forest ranges and 21 ranges have been selected. The elevation of the selected areas in the catchment varies widely from about 500 m to 6,000 m. Vegetation of the area mainly comprises of sub-
tropical, temperate, sub-alpine and alpine types. The exact sites for implementation are not yet known and will be selected based on the Sutlej Basin CCAT plan and more detailed range management plans (RMP) to be developed. The plan will outline the types of forest management investments (e.g., seed stands, nurseries, plantations, pasture management, fire suppression, soil and water conservation measures like check dams) and their general location based on best practice and available watershed modeling, while the detailed technical specifications (e.g., species, specific sites) will be developed by the forest range officer (FRO) with JFMC input. The state is home to nearly 1.7 million people belonging to vulnerable communities that constitute nearly 28 percent of its total population (24.7 percent SC and 5 percent ST). A significant proportion of the tribal population are dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. The Trans-human population are highly dependent on the pasture land.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Mridula Singh, Social Specialist
Sharlene Jehanbux Chichgar, Environmental Specialist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safeguard Policies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>The potential adverse impacts/risks of project financed activities which would be managed through the provisions in the EMF include (i) pest and disease control strategies in forest nurseries (ii) management of wastes from nursery operations (iii) tree survival rates (iv) siltation of check dams could lead to localized drainage problems and/or habitat disturbance (v) with project investment in value chain infrastructure and enterprise support to NTFPs, there could be unsustainable expansion/intensification of NTFP harvesting, and demand for feeder roads and (vi) ensure that all</td>
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structures, storage facilities created under the project are maintained appropriately.

An Environmental Management Framework (EMF) has been prepared to provide the basic criteria and procedures for screening all interventions, all risks/impacts have been identified as part of the safeguards preparation process, and mitigation plans/actions have been formulated. The EMF has also identified measures for the strengthening of institutional capacity and capacity building such that the safeguards due diligence process can be implemented.

The social impacts of the project are expected to be positive. Communities are likely to have increased access to productive forest, NTFP, and pasture resources and to new economic opportunities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests OP/BP 4.36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pest Management OP 4.09</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

OP 4.04 is triggered as project area includes areas of rich biodiversity. Project financed activities to be supported in the selected ranges will be consistent with the approved CCAT plan activities and will lead to habitat improvement, and adoption of improved management practices by the department and at the community level, and not lead to any adverse impacts on natural habitats. The EMF has been prepared and ensures that no proposed activities under the project would have any adverse impact on natural habitats.

OP 4.36 is triggered as the project will have positive impact on forest cover and quality, improved management capacity and systems within the forest department, better fire management systems, and control of exotic weed infestation, increase native species populations will bring an overall improvement in quality and productivity of forests. Potential impacts such as propagation of exotic/non-native species will be avoided as plantation activities would be aligned with forest working plans and do not impact forest quality.

OP 4.09 is triggered to avoid usage of restricted pesticides in nurseries, recommend use of bio-
### Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11

| Yes |

The state has many important pilgrimage centers with prominent Hindu temples and Buddhist monasteries. OP 4.11 is triggered as a preventative measure in case any archeological or other culturally resource items are found or exist near a selected site during project implementation. Chance finds at work sites are a likely impact that would have to be managed.

The EMF contains chance-find procedures detailing the plan of action in the event any article is discovered. The project areas are also rich in natural and cultural heritage, communities would recognize, sacred forest areas, water sources, individual sacred trees and bushes of local importance.

### Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10

| Yes |

The Indigenous Peoples’ policy is triggered. Most of the Schedule Tribe are Kinnaurars, Lahuale, Gaddis and the Gujjars and are highly dependent on the natural resources for sustenance.

The total Schedule Tribe population is approximately 5% of the total population of Himachal Pradesh. The tribals constitute more than 50% of the population of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts, Pangi and Bharmour in Chamba district and is governed by the provisions of Schedule V of the Indian Constitution.

In addition, the nomadic transhumance move along designated routes from Shivalik range (foothills of Himalayas) to the upper reaches in summers and to the foothills in the winters, for centuries along established routes for pasture.

The program supports pasture development, increase of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), that will have a positive impact on the Scheduled Tribe and trans-human nomads. However, interventions related to pasture development improvement, may restrict temporary grazing rights, thus leading to limited adverse impact on forest dependent communities. Social Assessment in consultation with the trans-nomads and Scheduled Tribe was undertaken to ensure compliance with Free Prior
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Informed Consultation (FPIC) to prepare the Social Management Framework and Indigenous People Development Framework. Moreover, to ensure compliance with Pancahayati Raj (Extension to Scheduled Areas), Act, specific consultations were held in Scheduled V areas. The TDF and SMF includes measures to address the minimal impact that will be offset with the provision of alternate sites.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tr>
<td>The project will not support civil works and will not entail land acquisition or land donation. An assessment was carried out to identify on impact on people that may arise due to restriction (if any) forest land for conservation and treatment. The project will not acquire land or displace any community or individual. Forest land free from encumbrance, will be used for nurseries, development of plantations, expansion of forest training institute, installation of silt monitoring equipment, storage centers for NTFP and establishment of enterprise facilitation centers. Moreover, there will be no restrictions on the area that is legally recognized and settled in favour of the communities. Standalone Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan has been prepared for continuous engagement with the community and action to address gender gaps. The project will generate employment for local people and will not lead to adverse impact related to labour influx.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The policy on the Safety of Dams is not triggered as the project will not involve the construction of water retention structures that are likely to pose potential hazards to human or animal health and safety. The project will not fund any dams as defined in OP 4.37 that would trigger the requirements of the policy.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tr>
<td>The project will not involve disputed areas.</td>
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KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

There are no major significant and/or irreversible impacts expected as a result of the project. Even though the project would be implemented in environmentally sensitive areas (protected forests, wildlife sanctuaries, and eco-sensitive buffer zones) the overall impact of the project is expected to be positive. The interventions will lead to improving the quality and management of forests and pastures in the selected ranges of the Sutlej basin, reducing silt load, increasing carbon sequestration and providing stronger incentives and engagement for communities to manage threats faced by the forest areas.

The potential adverse impacts/risks of project financed activities have been identified as part of the safeguards assessment—these include (i) pest control in forest nurseries (ii) management of wastes, plastic root trainers and polybags through nursery operations (iii) integration of species selection, nursery planning with the planting site selection, to maintain good survival rates (iv) construction and repair of small erosion control structures (check dams) if not implemented appropriately could lead to localized drainage problems and/or habitat disturbance (v) health and safety risks for community workers in forest operations and (vi) with project investment in value chain infrastructure and enterprise support to NTFPs, there could be unsustainable expansion/intensification of NTFP harvesting, and demand for feeder roads. At the same time, activities supporting NTFP harvesting and marketing need to ensure that incentives provided to communities to manage forests are sustainable from an environmental and silviculture standpoints. (vi) Small scale civil works (NTFP post-harvest infrastructure, nursery upgradation, forest fire fighting infrastructure, and construction of staff quarters, storage areas) if not implemented appropriately could lead to adverse impacts on soil, drainage, noise and air quality that could impact sensitive and pristine habitats.

Since the precise details and exact locations of the site-specific investments within the targeted ranges will take place during project implementation, and are not yet known, an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of OP/BP 4.01 category B requirements. Plans for environmental screening and mitigation measures to deal with risks and impacts identified them have been developed.

The project completed a social assessment and gender and stakeholder assessment to identify and manage key social risks, impacts and benefits. The project will not have large scale adverse impact on communities. Nor will the investments lead to acquisition of land or displace any community or individual. Some interventions may restrict grazing rights temporarily through agreements with local communities, leading to limited adverse impact on forest-dependent communities. The interventions cover Kinnaur district, which has a predominantly Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. The grazing routes of several transhumant and pastoralists are along the Sutlej river. In other project districts, the ST population is dispersed. Some interventions may restrict temporary grazing rights, thus leading to limited adverse impact on forest dependent communities.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

The project as a whole deals with sustainable forest management practices, and specifically addresses measures (both infrastructure, and systems) to improve forest cover and quality in the targeted catchments, as well as improved
The World Bank
Himachal Pradesh: Forests for Prosperity Project (P163271)

water and sediment regulation and hence has a positive long term impact.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts. Project design has included mechanisms to minimize any adverse environmental impacts.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

OP 4.10 an 4.12: A Social Assessment was carried out to prepare the Social Management Framework (SMF) and Tribal Development Framework (TDF) has been prepared to comply with Operational Policies 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement and 4.10 on Indigenous People. The SMF and TDF includes action plans to strengthen bottom-up planning, implementation, and participatory monitoring supported by inclusive local community institutions and to address social exclusion risks, limit adverse impacts, and enhance benefits to improve social development outcomes, particularly for women, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, and other vulnerable forest-dependent groups. Specific consultation with the trans-nomads and Scheduled Tribe was carried out to ensure compliance with Free Prior Informed Consultation (FPIC). The SMF includes measures to address the minimal impact that will be offset with the provision of alternate sites. There will be no restrictions on the area that is legally recognized and settled in favour of the communities. A study on gender and forestry was undertaken to identify specific gaps, actions and monitoring indicators for results framework. The project establishes a system for Citizens Engagement plan to facilitate engagement with citizens, project beneficiaries and civil society. The formal mechanism to provide feedback using social audit tools will be implemented during planning and implementation. In addition, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be implemented for continuous consultation with relevant stakeholders. Establishment of Toll- Free help line service a departmental Grievance Redressal Mechanism - GRM will be set up to receive, track and resolve grievance within the stipulated timeline.

In compliance with OP 4.01 (Environmental Assessment), the GoHP has prepared an Environmental Management Framework according to the requirements of a category B project. The main purpose of the EMF is to provide a transparent framework with clear accountability for managing environment impacts and risks associated with the project, outlining the criteria and procedures that the project should follow to help ensure compliance with the Bank’s safeguard policies. The EMF has been designed to integrate and mainstream environment management into the project financed activities from the planning stage, and would be linked to the various of stages implementation. It provides detailed guidance on the environmental screening and procedures for each type of activity, good practice guidelines, and mitigation plans to be followed for designing interventions, addressing any potential impacts, and ensuring their sustainability. To this effect GoHP formulated the above document, and it has been incorporated into the project implementation manual.

The Forest Department, GoHP has prior experience and expertise to implement World Bank funded operations. The proposed project will build upon this experience, as well as support the capacity building efforts of the PMU, nodal officers and relevant stakeholders that would be involved, to ensure successful implementation of the project and compliance with the Bank’s safeguards policies. The SPMU will monitor overall implementation of the EMF. At present, there is an Environmental Safeguards Specialist supporting project preparation in line with World Bank Safeguard Policy requirements. Safeguards training needs have been identified as part of the EMF at both State (SPMU) and the range level, to strengthen capacity of all participating nodal officers.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.
Community consultations was carried out as part of Social Assessment, gender and Forestry and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Each of the study identified different stakeholders and consultations focused on their respective areas of interest to design the interventions to ensure equity, inclusion and build partnership with the forest department. Community consultations with 254 participants (NTFP collectors, women, ST/SCs and landless) and 502 household surveys were conducted at 11 locations in 5 districts formed part of the social assessment. Discussions with forest / other line departments, civil society and community consultations showed a -1) decrease in community dependence on forests for fodder and timber, 2) low participation in and awareness about plantations and nursery operations, 3) lack of community engagement in planning for forest management, 4) demand for increased access to forests for harvesting grasses and NTFPs, and 5) need for better understanding their roles, rights and entitlements through campaigns, formal trainings for greater benefit-sharing. The SMF includes action plans to address the concerns identified by the community to enhance bottom up planning and ownership. It also includes a capacity building strategy to sensitize implementing agencies and strengthen communities and institutions.

Consultations for the gender assessment with forest department and survey and focus group discussions across 24 villages, representing different forest types and dependencies helped to understand forestry related gender barriers in the state. These include, low participation in community forestry institutions; limited awareness about forest related rights and obligations and limited economic opportunities and helped to prepare the gender action plan to address the gaps identified.

A study to prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan by assessing forest department’s role in promoting participation of different stakeholders informed the preparation of the plan. It held 10 consultations with distinct categories of stakeholders across 3 districts to identify gaps and recommend institutional mechanisms to enhance stakeholder engagement. Overall, the study highlighted that despite a favourable PFM policy and clear mandates for different institutions, rights of community stakeholder’s are restricted, benefit-sharing is low, transfer of control to community has not taken place and there is inconsistent transfer of funds to JFMCs.

In compliance with Bank’s Safeguard Policies, SMF and TDF has been prepared based on consultations with indigenous communities in 5 villages of Kinnaur district. The TDF spells out steps for a) screening indigenous communities and areas, b) using culturally appropriate IEC for awareness generation and inclusive planning of sub- projects, c) developing a socio-economic baseline of all tribal clusters to benchmark project impacts, d) holding separate consultation with tribal households during sub- project planning on principles of free prior informed consent- FPIC, and d) ensuring equitable representation in planning and decision-making bodies.

Consultations has been carried out with all relevant stakeholders those who have been identified through stakeholder analysis. The consultation process has been carried out at three levels (state, district, and village level). In preparation of the EMF, two district level consultations were held in Reckong Peo (District Kinnaur) and Rampur (District Shimla) with the representatives from HP forest department, associated line department officials, block officers, forest guards, elected members of village assembly, JFMCs, NTFP collectors and sellers, community members, NGOs, and technical/research groups. The objective of the consultation sessions was to improve the project’s interventions with regard to environmental management and to seek views from the stakeholders on the environmental issues and the ways these could be resolved. Village level consultation meetings were also held in 14 villages to create awareness and generate understanding about the project among stakeholders, and to collect their opinion, suggestions for planning and designing of the project. State level institutional consultations were undertaken with government officials in Forest Department, Wildlife Conservators, Department of Environment, Science and Technology, Agriculture Producer Marketing Board, Forest Development Corporation, Forest Training Institute, and Himalayan Forest Research Institute, and Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute.
The draft EMF has been disclosed in-country on Forest Department Website (http://hpforest.nic.in/pages/display/NHNkZmFjg3dkNGY2NQ==--himachal-pradesh-forests-for-prosperity-project) on 16 June, 2018, and subsequently on Bank InfoShop. The executive summary
of the document was translated in Hindi and disclosed at all appropriate levels, including the forest department website. Based on the disclosed draft of the document, GoHP undertook disclosure workshops at Reckong Peo, Kinnaur and Rampur Bushar, Shimla in September, 2018.

### B. Disclosure Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other</th>
<th>For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of receipt by the Bank</td>
<td>Date of submission for disclosure</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-Jun-2018</td>
<td>10-Aug-2018</td>
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"In country" Disclosure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process</th>
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<tr>
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"In country" Disclosure

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<tr>
<th>Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework</th>
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"In country" Disclosure

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<tr>
<th>Pest Management Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?</td>
<td>Date of receipt by the Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Date of submission for disclosure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-Jun-2018</td>
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</table>
"In country" Disclosure

If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?  
Yes
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?  
NA
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?  
Yes

OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?  
No
If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?  
NA

OP 4.09 - Pest Management

Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?  
Yes
Is a separate PMP required?  
Yes
If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?  
NA
OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources
Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?
Yes
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?
Yes

OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples
Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?
If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager?

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement
Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?
Yes
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?
Yes
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?
No

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?
All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?
Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?
Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?
Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?
Yes

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Agric. Economist

Pyush Dogra
Senior Environmental Specialist

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Tarun Kapoor