Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environment Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes

Chapter – 1

Project Operations Manual

Prepared by

NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (NPMU)

Green Agriculture Project,

New Delhi

Objective and Structure of the Manual

The objective of this Project Operations Manual (POM) is to provide operational guidance to the project personnel at National Project Management Unit (NPMU), State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and Green Landscape Implementation Unit (GLIU). The Project Operations Manual has been divided into seven chapters and addresses the processes of Project implementation and operational arrangements.

The following are the various chapters in the manual:

Chapter 1: Background

Chapter 2: Institutional Arrangements

Chapter 3: Project Implementation Arrangements

Chapter 4: Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Chapter 5: Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy

Chapter 6: Procurement

List of documents referred

The following documents were consulted in the preparation of this Project Operations Manual:

- 1. Project Document
- 2. Operational Partner Agreement
- 3. FAO Operational Partners Implementation Modality Manual
- 4. FAO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

This chapter provides an overview of the project rationale, the project objectives, the project result framework, brief descriptions of the project landscapes and the policy alignment at the state level.

1.1. Project Context and Rationale

- 1. Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy and a primary source of livelihood for people, with more than half of India's 1.3 billion population is engaged in agriculture. The proportion of small and marginal farmers with less than one hectare of farmland constitutes to more than 80% of the the population engaged in this sector. Considered to be a dominant land use category in the country, it accounts for 46% of the total land use and contributes to 15.5% of the nation's GDP.
- 2. The sector has made immense progress in contributing to the country's food security. India is one of the largest exporters of agricultural produce. However, sector's contribution to the GDP of the India's economy has diminished considerably. The sector encounters a complex and often contradictory dynamics as evident in increasing agricultural production and a persistent agrarian distress in different parts of the country.
- 3. The Government of India (GoI) invests significantly to boost agricultural production by promoting modern intensive agricultural practices, which has facilitated the country to make great strides in production and productivity, thus emerging as a net exporter of food grains. However, the current farming practices are proving to be increasingly unsustainable due to resource intensive practices and dependence on external inputs. Consequently, there is a growing pressure on the ecology, especially, critical habitats and protected areas of high biodiversity importance along with pronounced negative impacts on natural resources like land, soil, and water, particularly groundwater aquifers and deleterious impact on environment with growing contribution to Green House Gases (GHGs). On the other hand, the GoI and other partners invest significantly in protected area management to support and conserve a host of globally significant species. Thus, these different streams of Government's investments are often misaligned and incompatible with each other leading to agricultural and environmental activities acting at cross-purposes, resulting in net economic loss to the country and wasted financing.
- 4. The agriculture sector in the country is critically poised to address issues of its long-term sustainability. This requires the sector to fully integrate environmental concerns in its policies, plans and programmes, so as to ensure that the sector's negative environmental impacts are mitigated and positive contributions are enhanced. Therefore, environmental mainstreaming is of key importance, especially in the context of the changing climate.
- 5. Against this backdrop, the Green-Ag Project aims to catalyze the sustainable transformation of India's agriculture, without compromising the country's food security and farmers' income. The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity conservation, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture to enhance multiple global environment benefits. The project will use agriculture as a primary entry

point to promote a multi-sectoral approach to ensure harmony between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities and investments so that the achievement of National and Global Environmental Benefits can be fully realized without compromising India's ability to strengthen rural livelihoods and meet its food and nutrition security requirements. The project also supports greater coherence between the Government's policies, investments and institutions concerned with conservation and agricultural production at landscape level, so that they are mutually compatible.

- 6. The Green-Ag Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through its sixth funding cycle. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is the National Executing Agency and FAO is the designated GEF Implementing Agency. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the GEF Operational Focal Point and coordinates all GEF Projects in the country.
- 7. The Project adopts a landscape approach by incorporating participatory governance and community based natural resource management at grassroots levels, for sustainable management of natural resources, land-use systems, and improved livelihood options. More specifically, it is being implemented in five high-conservation-value landscapes, wherein each landscape includes a mix of conservation and production areas. The project states include Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand

1.2. Project Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs

- 8. The overall objective of the project is to "catalyse transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support the achievement of national and global environmental benefits, and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes".
- 9. The project will deliver four outcomes under two project components. A total of 17 outputs will contribute to the achievement of the outcomes, which inturn will contribute to project's overall objective.

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling framework and institutional structures to mainstream BD, SLM, CCM and SFM policies, priorities and practices into India's agricultural sector

Two outcomes are planned under this Component. The first Outcome will strengthen national and state level policy, institutional and programme frameworks, and the second Outcome will focus on cross-sectoral knowledge management and decision-making systems at the national and state levels.

Outcome 1.1. National and state-level institutional, policy and programme frameworks strengthened to integrate environmental priorities into the agriculture sector to enhance the delivery of global environmental benefits (GEB) and resilience across landscapes of highest conservation concern.

• **Output 1.1.1**. National and state-level inter-sectoral (agricultural and allied sectors, forestry and natural resources management, and economic development) coordinating

committees established and institutionalized to facilitate cross-sectoral support to mainstream environmental priorities in the agriculture sector (target: 1 national, 5 state-level)

- **Output 1.1.2.** 'Policy Dialogues' established to inform and facilitate discussion of priority issues related to agriculture, environment including climate change and development, including gender issues, at national and state levels, including options to shift current investments in agricultural development to support more environmentally sustainable practices (target: 1 national, 5 state dialogues)
- **Output 1.1.3.** Policy briefs, advocacy and awareness-raising materials developed to inform discussions and decision making on priority issues related to agriculture, environment and development (target: 10 national policy briefs, 15 state briefs)
- **Output 1.1.4.** "Green Landscape" mainstreaming strategies developed to promote environmental protection as part of broader sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, including strategic re-direction and prioritization of agricultural initiatives and investments to encourage agricultural practices that deliver GEBs at the landscapes of highest ecological value (**target: 1 national and 5 state-level**)

Outcome 1.2. Cross-sectoral knowledge management and decision-making systems at national and state levels to support development and implementation of agro-ecological approaches at landscape levels that deliver global environmental benefits as well as socio-economic benefits enhanced

- **Output 1.2.1.** Spatial decision support system and tools, and compilation of existing land use information from international, national and state level sources (satellite imageries and other existing GIS databases), developed and institutionalized, and users trained in their use (**target: 1 national level system**)
- **Output 1.2.2.** Green Landscape monitoring programme (monitoring system and protocols) to assess the health/status of the target Green Landscapes and evaluate progress towards delivery of GEBs and social and economic impacts (e.g. farmer income, food security) established and implemented, with relevant individuals equipped and trained in its use (target: 1 national and 5 state programmes)
- Output 1.2.3. Communication strategy and plan designed and implemented (including the development of an information management platform) to facilitate knowledge sharing, mainstreaming and replication of lessons learned and 'best practices' for Green Landscapes (target: 1 national and 5 state platforms and communication strategies/plans)

Component 2: Empowering and incentivizing households and communities to adopt agro-ecological practices across landscapes

Under this Component, two Outcomes are planned, with a total of ten Outputs (five outputs per Outcome). The Component will focus on activities on the ground at each of the five Green Landscapes. It is to be noted here that a major chunk of the project's budget accounting for 70% approximately, is allotted for field implementation at the landscape level.

Outcome 2.1. Institutional frameworks, mechanisms and capacities at District and Village levels to support decision-making and stakeholder participation in Green Landscape planning and management strengthened, with Green Landscape Management Plans developed and under implementation for target landscapes

- **Output 2.1.1.** Inter-sectoral institutional framework and mechanisms at district, interdistrict and sub-district (District and Gram Panchayat/ Village Council) levels established (**target: 8 mechanisms**)
- **Output 2.1.2.** Key local decision-makers from each target Gram Panchayat/Village Council trained in Green Landscape governance through Field schools to enable members to make collective, evidence-based and empowered decisions in Green Landscape governance for areas within their responsibility (**To be decided based on the number of villages and GPs in the landscape**)
- **Output 2.1.3.** District level technical and extension staff from different government sectors trained in Green Landscape approaches and issues to enable them to support local communities and farmers to implement agro-ecological practices (**target: at least 80 individuals**)
- **Output 2.1.4**. Green Landscape Assessments undertaken, with social (including gender), economic (including valuation of key ecosystem services), institutional, biophysical aspects of target areas identified, priority locations and actions agreed, and sequence of activities programmed (**target: 5 assessment reports**)
- **Output 2.1.5.** District level 'convergence plans' that align government programmes and investments with Green Landscape management objectives and which incentivize agroecological approaches at landscape levels produced (**target: 8 convergence plans**)

Outcome 2.2. Households and communities able and incentivized to engage in agroecological practices that deliver meaningful GEBs at the landscape level in target high conservation priority landscapes.

• **Output 2.2.1**. Farmers trained through FFS on sustainable agriculture, with modules adapted to the specific needs of farmers near PAs and other high ecological value areas, including on management of livestock

Targets: FFS on sustainable agriculture – **68,352 households** (Project target will remain the same. Landscape level targets in each landscape to be determined after baseline);

FFS on management of livestock – **46,500 households** (Project target will remain the same. Landscape level targets in each landscape to be determined after baseline)

- **Output 2.2.2.** Local stakeholders trained on accessing available incentives to adopt sustainable practices and livelihood options, including Green Value Chain development to promote market linkages for income generation (**Target to be determined**)
- **Output 2.2.3**. Wider community level awareness-raising campaigns to ensure wider stakeholder support for Green Landscape management and other land users and to ensure inter-community learning (**Target to be determined after baseline**)

- **Output 2.2.4**. Community based natural resources management plans designed and under implementation in target Green Landscapes, including community grassland/ ravines/forests/watershed management (**Target to be determined**)
- Output 2.2.5. On-farm agro-ecological management measures, including livestock management, to improve productivity and profits while reducing threats to GEBs identified, designed and promoted (Targets various but to be determined after baseline)

1.3. Project Landscapes

- 10. **Definition of a Landscape:** India's National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031) defines a landscape as 'a large tract of land constituted by a mosaic of interacting land uses with people and the impacts of their activities as the cornerstone of its management'. For this project, "Green Landscapes" encompass areas of high ecological sensitivity or biodiversity richness and adjoining areas wherein land is used for productive purposes agriculture, livestock, fisheries, etc.
- 11. Chambal Landscape in Madhya Pradesh: The project landscape in Madhya Pradesh spans across the Sheopur and Morena districts. The project's associated protected area is the National Chambal Sanctuary that includes an important part of the Chambal river. It covers 97,982 ha and is characterized by deeply eroded gullies (ravines) that have developed in the alluvium-derived soils through centuries of severe land degradation caused by indiscriminate land-use practices (quarrying and illegal sand-mining) and surface run-off mismanagement. Additional details are summarized in Table 1. The project aligns with State policies and priorities, particularly the 'Madhya Pradesh's Vision 2018 Document (2013-2018)' and 'Tristate management plan for the National Chambal Sanctuary', as shown in Table 2. The details of the project components, outcomes, outputs, and illustrative activities are proposed in the Madhya Pradesh State Summary document.

Figure 1: Chambal Landscape



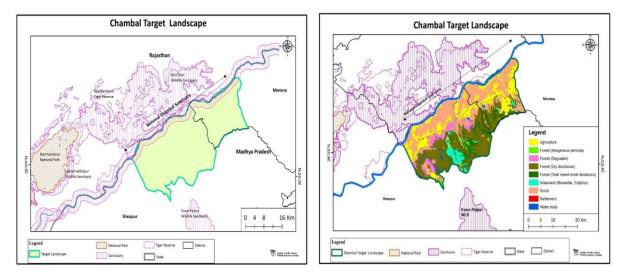


Table 1: Summary of Chambal landscape in Madhya Pradesh

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Project Landscape	Chambal Landscape
2	Protected Areas/ Biosphere reserves within the project	National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary
	landscape	

3	Global environmental values	 Unique combination of riverine and ravine ecosystems Largest gharial population in the world High density of river dolphin, crocodile, seven species of freshwater turtles and otter Important nesting ground for Indian skimmer, small Indian pratincole, etc. Staging ground for migratory waterfowl
		Significant vulture population in Sheopur district
4	Socioeconomic Information	
i.	Districts included in the landscape	Sheopur, and Morena
ii.	Number of Villages in target	116
	landscape	
iii.	Population in target landscape	102,141
iv.	Key ethnic groups	Indigenous group Sahariya - a primitive indigenous tribe besides Meos and Bhils and other social groups like Yadav, Bairagi the Dalits
v.	Dominate Agricultural Produce	Rice, Wheat, Legumes
vi.	Livelihoods	Agriculture and livestock management are the mainstay for local livelihoods. Communities also fish in river. Medicinal and wild plants are important contributors to the economy and well-being of farm households. Many people are involved in small businesses and also work as labourers. Poultry framing is also a source of livelihoods for many families in the landscape.

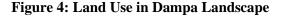
Table 2: Project alignment with Madhya Pradesh state policy and priorities

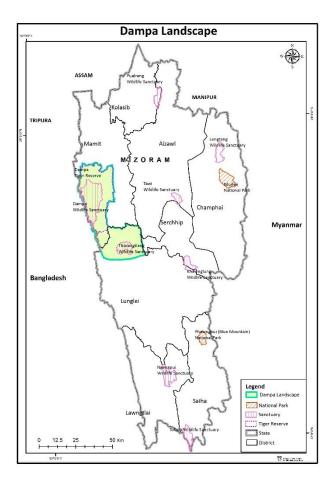
S.	State Policy and	Project alignment
No.	Priority	
1	Madhya Pradesh's Vision 2018 Document ¹ (2013- 2018)	 Mission 1- Expand the outreach of agriculture technology and irrigation to the remotest farms and consolidate the gains in the sector by promoting farm-level diversification and value addition. Mission 5 – Empower women to become an equal partner in the socio-economic development of the state. Mission 17 – Strive for a balance between developmental priorities and sustainable use of natural resources.
2	Tri-state management plan for the National Chambal Sanctuary	Aligned to the key objectives of the plan in terms of issues related to the conservation of gharials in the National Chambal Sanctuary, devise an institutional framework covering the actions at the Centre-State level to ensure proper coordination among all stakeholders in implementing the conservation programmes and actions for gharials to achieve better coordination between the three states (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan) and the centre for more concerted conservation initiatives.

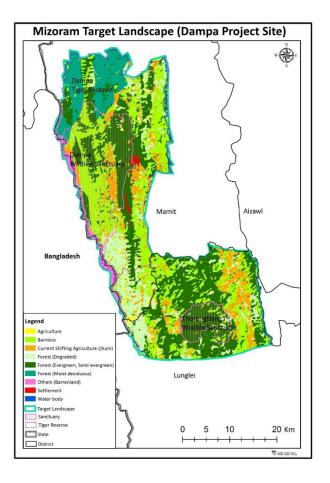
¹ http://mpplanningcommission.gov.in/Vision2018English.pdf

12. **Dampa Landscape in Mizoram:** The project landscape in Mizoram spans across the Lunglei and Mamit districts including the Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary. It covers 145,670 ha and falls within the intersection of the eastern Himalayan and Indo-Burma Biodiversity hotspot regions. Additional details are summarized in **Table 3.** The project aligns with State policies and priorities, particularly the 'New Economic Development Policy', as shown in **Table 4**. The details of the project components, outcomes, outputs and illustrative activities are proposed in the Mizoram State Summary document.

Figure 3: Dampa Landscape







a		
S.	Particulars	Details
No.		
1	Project Landscape	Dampa Landscape
2	Protected Areas/	Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary
	Biosphere reserves within	
	the project landscape	
3	Global environmental	Significant biodiversity of global importance
	values	• Potential to develop into a larger landscape if connectivity and
		corridors are ensured
4	Socioeconomic Information	
i.	Districts included in the	Lunglei and Mamit
	landscape	
ii.	Number of Villages in	36
	target landscape	
iii.	Population in target	44,274 persons
	landscape	
iv.	Key ethnic groups	Mizo, Hmar, Paihte, Pawi/lai, Mara and other tribes such as Bru (Tuikuk)
		and Chakma
v.	Dominate Agricultural	Rice, maize, ginger, mustard and potatoes
	Produce	
vi.	Livelihoods	Agriculture is the mainstay of the people, and the economy is agrarian. Rice,
v1.	Livennoous	
		maize, ginger, mustard and potatoes are the chief crops. Traditional <i>jhum</i> ,
		or shifting cultivation continues to be practiced in the landscape as well.

Table 3: Summary of Dampa Landscape, Mizoram

Table 4: Project alignment with Mizoram state policy and priorities

S. No.	State Policy and Priority	Project alignment
1	New Economic Development Policy ²	The policy has identified the need to promote sustainable agriculture practices such as organic farming – and has proposed implementing Organic and Traceable certification system in the State to give the State a market advantage. ³ It also proposes promotion of integrated farming systems that can enhance agriculture productivity and land use efficiency. The Policy also highlights the State's flagship programme of New Land Use Policy (NLUP) that aims to change current methods of unsustainable cultivation practices to new approaches to lead to economic development of the people, and to ameliorating the problem of environmental threats. The policy has also noted the need to promote sustainable resources management.

² https://planning.mizoram.gov.in/uploads/attachments/288b1038294e96de117e720b57ebc742/new-economic-development-² https://planning.mizoram.gov.in/uploads/attachments/288b1038294e96de117e720b57ebc742/new-economic-development-

policy-nedp-.pdf

13. Similipal landscape in Odisha: The project landscape in Odisha is contiguous with the UNESCO recognized Simlipal Biosphere Reserve, in the Mayurbhanj district. It covers 556,900 ha and comprises of the Similipal Tiger Reserve, the Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Nato and Satkoshia Reserve Forests. Additional details are summarized in Table 5. The project aligns with State policies and priorities, particularly the 'Odisha's 12th Plan Approach paper', the gender and social inclusion priorities identified in the 12th Plan of Odisha, 'The Vision Document-2036' and the management plan for the Similipal Tiger Reserve from 2013-14 to 2022-23, as summarized in Table 6. The details of the project components, outcomes, outputs and illustrative activities are proposed in the Odisha State Summary document.

Figure 5: Similipal Landscape



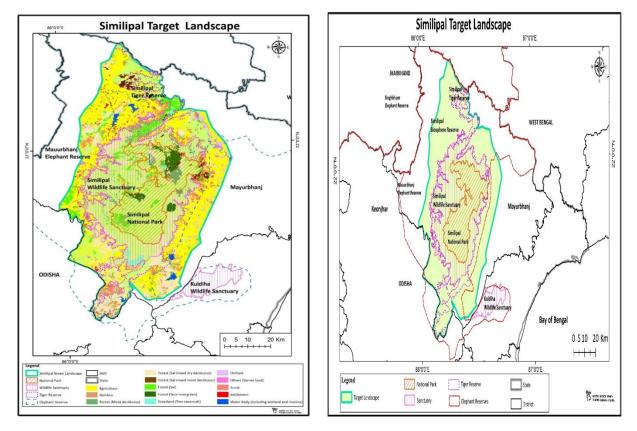


Table 5: Summary of Similipal landscape in Odisha

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Project Landscape	Similipal Landscape
2	Protected Areas/ Biosphere reserves	Similipal Biosphere Reserve

	within the project landscape		
3	Global environmental values	 94 species of orchids; two endemic to Similipal; 1,286 species of flowering plants 21 species of amphibians; 62 species of reptiles; 362 species of birds; 55 species of mammals Robust habitat for the Asian elephant ,the Royal Bengal tiger and Black Tiger Significant agrobiodiversity and cultural diversity 	
4	Socioeconomic Inform	ation	
i.	Districts included in the landscape	Mayurbhanj	
ii.	Number of Villages in target landscape	1,218	
iii.	Population in target landscape	795,804 persons	
iv.	Key ethnic groups	Birhors, Hill Khadias and Lodhas as primitive tribes amongst the indigenous people are present in this landscape. Other indigenous ethnic groups such as Santhal, Kolha, Bhomji, Bhuiyan, Bathudi, Kharia, Gond etc. are also presen	
v.	Dominate Agricultural Produce	Spiked Millet, Great Millet, Maize and Rice	
vi.	Livelihoods	The main sources of livelihoods in the landscape are agriculture, fisheries, mineral resources, small scale business, and manual labour. Most of the families here are smallholder farmers who practice crop farming, livestock raising and agroforestry. Collection and sale of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) is also important for local communities. Rearing of tussar silkworms is an important source of income for many tribal and other disadvantaged communities here.	

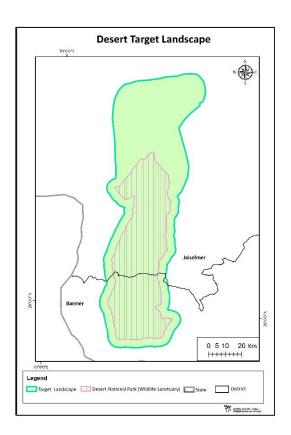
Table 6: Project alignment with Odisha state policy and priorities

S. No.	State Policy and Priority	Project alignment
1	Odisha's 12th Plan Approach paper ⁴ (that aims at broad-based and inclusive overall growth above 9% and above 4% growth in the agriculture sector)	Focuses on raising farm productivity; augmenting irrigation through check dams, deep borewells, mega lift projects and revival of traditional water bodies; remunerative prices to farmers through appropriate market interventions; promoting facilities for better storage and post-harvest etc.
2	Gender and social inclusion priorities identified in the Odisha State's 12th Plan	The project incorporates perspectives of gender and social inclusion in its design by identifying existing gender roles and social barriers and designing strategies/activities to ensure gender equality and socially inclusive outcomes. Greater focus will be on repressed tribal dominated districts.
3	The Vision Document-2036	Focus on poverty eradication, infrastructure boost, gender equality and social inclusion, etc.
4	A management plan for the Similipal Tiger Reserve from 2013- 14 to 2022-23	Addresses issues relating to protection of tiger reserves; delineation of dispersal pathways and corridors; ensures

⁴ <u>http://planningcommission.gov.in/plans/planrel/12appdrft/appraoch_12plan.pdf</u>

agricultural livelihood development including gender equality
and social inclusion, and other interests of the people living in the
buffer areas adjoining tiger reserves etc.

14. Desert Landscape in Rajasthan: The project landscape in Rajasthan spans across the Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and includes the Desert National Park. It covers 674,082 ha. The landscape is particularly important for its biodiversity and has one of the richest plant diversities among the deserts of the world. Additional details are summarized in Table 7. The project aligns with State policies and priorities, particularly the 'Rajasthan Vision 2020' and the Desert National Park management plan, as shown in Table 8. The details of the project components, outcomes, outputs and illustrative activities are proposed in the Rajasthan State Summary document.



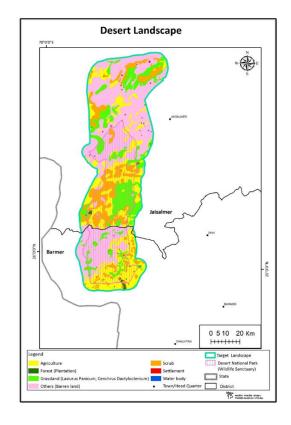


Figure 7: Desert Landscape in Rajasthan

Figure 8: Land Use in Desert Landscape

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Project Landscape	Desert Landscape
2	Protected Areas/ Biosphere reserves within the project landscape	Desert National Park
3	Global environmental values	 Last ecological refuge for the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Largest population of spiny tailed lizard Richest plant diversity among the deserts of the world Sewan grass, one of the finest fodder grasses in the country
4	Socioeconomic Information	D n
i.	Districts included in the landscape	Barmer and Jaisalmer
ii.	Number of Villages in target landscape	94
iii.	Population in target landscape	68,734
iv.	Key ethnic groups	Minas, the Mevs, the Banjaras, and the Bhils (one of the oldest tribes in India). Others include the Gadia Lohars, the Kalbelias, and the Garasias
v.	Dominate Agricultural Produce	Pearl Millet, Cluster Bean (Guar), and Cumin Mustard etc.
vi.	Livelihoods	The primary occupation of the villagers in the landscape is animal husbandry followed by agriculture, which is predominantly rainfed. This region has a high number of small ruminants in livestock. Most of the pastoralists are nomadic in nature. With respect to agriculture, there is no certainity of rains. As a result, kharif crop is primarily cultivated.

Table 7: Summary of Desert Landscape in Rajasthan

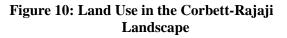
Table 8 Project alignment with Rajasthan state policy and priorities

S. No.	State Policy and Priority	Project alignment
1	Rajasthan Vision 2020- the way forward	This project is well aligned with several priorities identified in the current State Plan including conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and handicrafts; promotion of tourism; expansion of people's capabilities, and enable them to access opportunities; and enhance farm productivity and income through crop- livestock integrated production system. The project is also aligned with several "thrust areas" identified in the Plan, particularly, developing indigenous safeguards in agriculture for fluctuating rainfall affecting agriculture; encouragement to animal husbandry; improving quality of land and water; value addition to agriculture; enhancing participatory planning by empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc.
2	Desert National Park management plan	The project is well aligned with all the key objectives of the management plans, which includes the maintenance and improvement of fragile and unique desert

	ecosystem in its natural form; protection of rare, threatened and endangered
	elements of flora and fauna of the desert; increase in the population of Great
	Indian Bustard by securing the breeding areas and enriching its habitat; and
	promotion of eco-development and ecotourism to achieve the overall
	development of the villages.

15. Corbett-Rajaji Landscape in Uttarakhand: The project landscape in Uttarakhand spans across six districts of Uttarakhand — Nainital, Pauri, Almora, Dehradun and Haridwar, including parts of Corbett and the Rajaji Tiger Reserves. It covers 324,696 ha and is a major corridor for wildlife, particularly, the endangered Asiatic Elephant (Elephas maximus) and the Royal Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris tigris). Additional details are summarized in Table 9. The project aligns with State policies and priorities, particularly the 'Uttarakhand Vision 2022', as shown in Table 10. The details of the project components, outcomes, outputs and illustrative activities are proposed in the Uttarakhand State Summary document.

Figure 9: Corbett-Rajaji Landscape



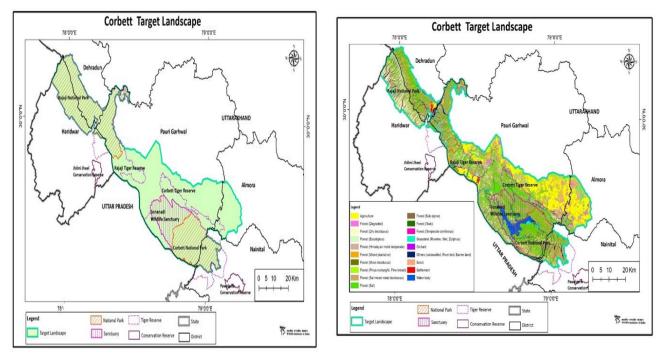


Table 9: Summary of Corbett-Rajaji Landscape in Uttarakhand

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Project Landscape	Corbett- Rajaji Landscape

2	Protected Areas/ Biosphere reserves within the project landscape	Corbett Tiger Reserve and Rajaji Tiger Reserve.
3	Global environmental values	 Corbett Tiger Reserve: one of best preserved parks—164 tigers and over 600 elephants Highest density of tiger population in the country at 20/100 sq.kms Corbett and Rajaji National Parks together hold India's northwestern-most population of tigers and the world's most significant populations of Asian Elephant Over 550 recorded species of birds High agrobiodiversity
4	Socioeconomic Information	
i.	Districts included in the landscape	Almora and Pauri Garhwal
ii.	Number of Villages in target landscape	1146
iii.	Population in target landscape	235,528
iv.	Key ethnic groups	Hindu castes like Brahmins, Kshatriya/Rajputs and Tribal groups like Jaunsaris, Jadhs, Marchas of Chamoli and Van Gujars
v.	Dominate Agricultural Produce	Wheat, mustard, barley, paddy, maize, Mandua (finger millet), Jhangora (coarse millets), pepper, ginger, turmeric and sugar cane
vi.	Livelihoods	In the upper Ramganga watershed, the main local occupation is terrace farming and cattle rearing. Agriculture is mainly dominated by female members of the families, as there is high male migration in search for better incomes to big cities across the country. There is significant tourism around Protected Areas – especially around Corbett National Park. Many people are employed in the tourism industry

Table 10: Project alignment with Uttarakhand state policy and priorities

S. No.	State Policy and Priority	Project alignment
1	Uttarakhand Vision 2022 - Towards Robust Growth & Inclusive Development ⁵	Focus on promoting a green economy by focusing on sectors where the state has a competitive advantage – namely agriculture and tourism. The Vision has also emphasised the need to promote mixed forestry in the State and for the State to position itself as a national leader in organic farming. The Vision also notes the need to foster agriculture research suited to local conditions and to upscale watershed development programme in the State.

 $^{5\} http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/Final_Uttarakhand_Vision_Document.pdf$