

Executive Summary

Social Assessment

Himachal Pradesh Forest for Prosperity Project

Since forests produce a range of ecosystem services, they need to be managed for multiple benefits, not just for timber, but to maximize economic benefits for different stakeholders while managing these forests sustainably. In order to do this, Government of Himachal Pradesh is developing the **Himachal Pradesh Forests for Prosperity Project**, with Department of Forests as the main implementing agency. The Project seeks to improve forest management and communities' access to markets in selected watersheds in Himachal Pradesh. The project target areas includes 7 districts, 10 forest divisions and 21 forest ranges; though the component 1 will cover the entire state. The project components are 1) Institutional Reform and Capacity Building for Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) and Improved Forest Management comprising of a) Building consensus for integrated watershed management and b) Institutional reform and strengthening of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, 2) Improved Investments in Participatory and Sustainable Land and Water Management comprising of a) Improved planning for participatory and sustainable land and water management and b) Implementation of participatory and sustainable land and water management investments (Soil and water conservation measures, Development of high-quality seed stands, Nursery development, Plantation management, Pasture management and Forest fire prevention and suppression), 3) Strengthened and Inclusive Value Chains for NTFPs and Other Commodities consisting of a) Creating enhanced market opportunities for NTFPs and other commodities, b) Increasing sustainable collection/production and linking producers to markets and 4) Institutional Coordination and Project Management consisting of a) Institutional coordination and b) Project management. Key project beneficiaries include communities living in forest areas, especially women and NTFP collectors, as well as nomadic/transhumant/pastoral communities, who will benefit from improved access to and value from NTFPs, including fodder, medicinal and aromatic plants, and fruit trees. The project will also increase the skills and capacity of the HPFD and other government officials, as well as private companies involved in the selected value chains.

Social Assessment

A detailed assessment was undertaken to understand the existing and potential social risks and issues that the project is likely to face during design and implementation. Based on a detailed secondary literature review, and primary data collection, it has analyzed the states performance on key socio-economic indicators, its policy-legal environment related to social aspects of the project investments, capacities of implementing agencies to manage these social issues and risks and assessed to what extent the state's systems and processes are geared to avoid, address or mitigate these likely risks and impacts. This assessment has been used to develop a Social Management Framework (SMF) and Tribal Development Plan (TDP) for mitigating or avoiding adverse social impacts and for enhancing social benefits emerging from the project. The social assessment and management framework has been developed based on the principles of equity, social and gender inclusion, participation, transparency, accountability, good governance and appropriate land management. While initial assessments don't show requirement of private lands for the project, as most of the land used will be either

forest or government land, a Resettlement Policy Framework has been developed keeping in mind any possible, future land requirements.

Profile of the state

Himachal Pradesh has geographical area of 55,673 sq. km. and constitutes nearly 11 percent of the total area of Himalayas. Nearly 30 percent of its geographical area is permanently under snow and more than 66 percent is designated as forest - with nearly 15 percent falling within the Protected Area (PA) network. It has a total population of 68,64,602 (34,81,873 males and 33,82,729 females), with a population density of 123 as per 2011 Census. This is only 0.57 per cent of India's total population, recording a growth of 12.81 per cent. The Scheduled Caste population stands at 17,29,252 (25.19%) and the Scheduled Tribes population stands at 3,92,126 (5.71%). The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) per woman is 1.8, one of lowest in India. The Sex Ratio is 972 as against national average of 933. . The infant mortality rate stood at 40 in 2010, while its crude birth rate has declined from 37.3 in 1971 to 16.9 in 2010, well below the national average of 26.5 in 1998. The crude death rate was 6.9 in 2011. The life expectancy at birth in Himachal Pradesh is 72 years, higher than the national average of 68 years. The state's literacy rate is 83.78% (Male 90.83% and Female 76.6%). Himachal ranks 3rd in the entire country in terms of literacy in rural and urban areas while the state with overall literacy level of 83% ranks 4th in overall literacy level closely following Kerala (91%), Mizoram (89%) and Lakshadweep (87%) – the three top ranking states. About 90% of the population lives in rural areas. The population density per square kilometer of area has nearly doubled over the last forty (40) years. As per Census 2011, population density recorded was 123 persons per sq. km., which is almost double of 62 as recorded in the year 1971.

Out of a total of around 6.9 million people in the state only around 52% are engaged in some sort of economic activities, of which 58% are Main Workers. Only 18% of the female population and 41% males are categorized as Main Workers. About 71% of total workers are Main Workers among male population while only 41% of the female work force qualifies as Main Workers-, suggesting under-employment among women. 42% of the total work force of the state falls under the category of Marginal Workers. About 17% of the total male population and 26% of female population falls under this category.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of the state. About 69 per cent of the main workers are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Agriculture is beset with the disadvantage of small holdings, low productivity, poor irrigation facilities and low market infrastructure. Only 75 per cent of the total reporting area is available for cultivation. Most people in Himachal Pradesh depend for their livelihood on agriculture, pastoralism, transhumance (seasonal herding), horticulture, and forestry. Out of the total geographical area of 55.67 lakh hectare the area of operational holdings is about 9.55 lakh hectares and is operated by 9.61 lakh farmers. The average holding size is about 1.00 hectare.

The state has road network of 28,208 km (17,528 mi), including eight National Highways (NH) that constitute 1,234 km (767 mi) and 19 State Highways with a total length of 1,625 km (1,010 mi). Road transport is the principal mode of transportation in Himachal Pradesh. Passenger Transport is managed by a Government Owned Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC). As on 31st March, 2016 this Corporation had 2,735 buses, 19 trucks and 73 other vehicles.

The fairs and festivals of the rural communities, especially in the Kullu valley attract pilgrims as well as tourists from neighboring states and from within Himachal Pradesh in large numbers. The town of Dharmshala has more recently emerged as a sacred site, particularly for Tibetan Buddhists; it was in Dharmshala that the Dalai Lama settled after he fled from Tibet in 1959 in the wake of China's occupation of Lhasa. Aside from their festivals and sacred sites, the Shimla hills, the Kullu valley (including the town of Manali), and Dalhousie are popular tourist destinations, especially for outdoor recreation. Indeed, skiing, golfing, fishing, trekking, and mountaineering are among the activities for which Himachal Pradesh is ideally suited.

Rivers which flow through this State are Beas in Kullu, Mandi and Kangra districts, Satluj in Kinnaur, Shimla and Bilaspur districts, Yamuna has its tributaries in Shimla and Sirmaur districts, Chenab (Chander Bhaga) flows through Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba districts and Ravi through Chamba district. The Land Use and Land Cover Distribution of the state indicate that 24% of the land area is occupied by Forests and 33% land is occupied by grass and shrubs which acts as pastures. Agricultural land accounts to 13% of the total geographic area of the state While 17% is un-culturable, barren land. About 80 percent of this part of Inner Himalayas is under pastures, with cultivated and forested areas only spread over 10 percent of land, and inhabited mainly by transhumant, indigenous communities that use these alpine pastures for grazing their livestock during summers.

The forests of the State have been classified on an ecological basis, as laid down by Champion and Seth, and can be broadly classified into Coniferous Forests and broad-leaved Forests. Distribution of various species follows fairly regular altitudinal stratification. The vegetation varies from Dry Scrub Forests at lower altitudes to Alpine Pastures at higher altitudes. In between these two extremes, distinct vegetation zones of Mixed Deciduous Forests, Bamboo, Chil, Oaks, Deodar, Kail, Fir and Spruce, are found. The richness and diversity of flora can be gauged from the fact that, out of total 45,000 species found in the country 3,295 species (7.32%) are reported in the State. Most people in HP living on forest fringes use significant quantities of forest goods and services, for some of which there is no available substitute and for which they are totally dependent on forest products.

Himachal Pradesh is also facing severe impacts of climate change as temperatures are rising and rainfall, snowfall are becoming erratic- affecting forests, agriculture, horticulture and livelihoods. The monsoon in state is increasing but overall rainfall is on a decline. The glaciers which are direct indicators of climate change show that due to increase in temperatures, in Spiti valley, deglaciation has been to the extent of 10-12 percent between 2001 and 2007. Area under snow cover too has changed between October to June in six river basins. The decline in snow cover ranges between 5-37% for 2010- 2014 period as compared to 2015-16. Climate change has also affected quality as well as yield of the apple crop and increasing the vulnerability of communities. As a result, in recent years many farmers have shifted to growing other horticultural crops such as pomegranate and even vegetables like cabbage in their apple orchards. The immediate repercussions of climate change on forests are visible in the form of shifting of tree line to higher altitudes, movement of pine species to higher altitudes. A large scale shifting of forest biomes and severe impacts on bio- diversity has been projected. This is also likely to increase the vulnerability of forest dependent communities for whom forest help in increasing resilience and help in adaptation to impacts of climate change.

Himachal Pradesh has around two decades of experience with the JFM approach. The state government issued the first JFM Notification in 1993 for constitution of Village Forest Development Committees (VFDCs). In 2001, Himachal Pradesh Participatory Forest Management Rules were issued for registration of Village Forest Development Societies (VFDSs) under the Societies Registration Act. Subsequently - 2002-03 onwards - JFMCs were constituted and federated into FDAs at the Forest Division level with support under National Afforestation Programme-NAP. The JFMCs are registered with HPFD as per the provisions of the NAP guidelines, whereas FDAs are registered as Societies. The SFDA was constituted in 2010 in accordance with the central guidelines.

Legal and Policy Framework

Some important legal and policy provisions of Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh include the Constitutional Safeguards, Indian Forest Act 1927, The Himachal Pradesh Transfer of Land (Regulation) Act, 1968, Himachal Pradesh Public Premises and Land (Eviction and Rent Recovery) Act, 1971, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendment 2002, Land Reforms Legislations - HP Village Common Land Vesting and Utilization Act, 1974, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996, Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, etc. While some of these legal provisions safeguard the forests from over exploitation and advocates strict conservation and protection, there are other instruments that recognize the customary rights of over forest resources meet, their role in conservation and development, while some provisions try to strike a balance between the two by suggesting judicious use of forest resources and brining in community as the co- owners of forest along with the forest department.

World Bank Operational Policies Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 and Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12 applies to this project as tribals constitute more than 50% population of Kinnaur district (project area) and the transhumant communities move along designated routes along the Satluj river- from Shivalik range (foothills of Himalayas) to the upper reaches in summers, along established routes for pasture. The forests and highlands are home to several communities and social groupings that have lived in relative geographical isolation in these areas for protecting their cultural heritage and social fabric. As a result, these landscapes have significant cultural, historical as well as religious importance for these communities. OP 4.10 is triggered as access to pastures, traditional routes, etc. may be closed for enhancing the resource base and may have adverse livelihoods impact. Social assessment in consultation with trans-nomads and Scheduled Tribe will be undertaken to ensure compliance with Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) to prepare the Social Management Framework and Indigenous People Development Plan. Moreover, to ensure compliance with Panchayat Raj (Extension to Scheduled Areas), Act, specific consultations will be held in Scheduled V areas

Impact Assessment – Surveys and Consultations

This assessment surveyed a total of 502 Households (HH) in 11 villages. Among these around 55% HH were of the people from General Category 17% from SC and 28% from ST category and 13% were women Headed Households. Average Family size of the HH was 4 for the study sample and is quite comparable to the average HH size in the census. Out of a total of 2185 family members 52% belonged to the General Category while 20% of the members were from SC category and 28% belonged to ST category. SC and ST HH are predominantly found in Kinnaur district. Out of the total 504 HH surveyed 25% of them belonged to BPL category. The BPL category HH was identified based on the village list and Ration card copy of the HH. Literacy Levels of the population surveyed indicate that the average literacy of male population (83%) is higher than female literacy levels (75%). Though the 79% of population of the sample households is literate only 9% of people have completed graduation or above. Total worker population among study sample is 54% with 75% of males and 33% of females forming the workforce. The remaining 46% population is either old/ retired or still undergoing studies or belong to the “non-school going age group”.

Most of the villagers were marginal farmers with land holdings of 2-5 bigha (1 bigha = 809 m²) approximately 0.3-0.4 ha and grew crops like wheat, maize, barley. Average household landholding was found to be 0.5 ha (6.2 bigha). Wheat, Maize, Peas, Potato, Rice, Barley, Pulses and Apple are the major cash crops grown in the study villages. Horticultural crops are grown for consumption within the household. 36% of the total households did not have any livestock holding. 64% of the remaining households had an average of 2 livestock animals per household. On an average each HH rears around 5 sheep on average and similarly around 4 goats and every 2 families had 3 cows and 1 buffalo on an average. 79% of the total households surveyed owned Television. 30% of the total households surveyed during the social assessment study had Kachcha houses made of wood, mud or stones 21% of the households had RCC/ concrete walls and thatched, tiled or sheets of tin, asbestos or wood. RCC structures (pucca) were 49% of the total household surveyed. 96% of the households had their own houses. Only 4% of the respondents surveyed confirmed that they resided in rented accommodation.

60% of the households surveyed during the assessment study stated that they visited forests for collection of fodder for their livestock. Procuring fodder from market was preferred by 54% of the respondent households surveyed as compared to collecting it from forests. Only 4% of the households surveyed stated that they are solely dependent on pastures for fodder. 25% of the households use roughage and crop residue of the crops cultivated on their own land. Consultations with communities brought out that degradation in forest quality, spread of invasive species had made fodder collection from forests more time consuming and difficult. 79% of the Households surveyed stated that they do not require timber now as they have their houses constructed and whenever they will have any requirement for construction purpose they would prefer to get it through the Timber Distribution System (TDS or TD as popularly known). Only 2% of the households confirmed to have received timber for construction of their houses through TDS.

NTFP collection was not confirmed by the respondents in any of the villages under the apprehension that they might be penalized for collecting the NTFPs from forest. However they stated that there are people in the village who go the forest for collection of NTFP from the forests. The NTFPs usually collected were Nag Chhatri, Gucchi (wild Mushrooms), Bar, Kakri, Bahera, Amla, Mustak etc. along with Dadu (wild pomegranates) and Chilgoza. Only 4 respondents openly stated that they would go to collect Katar Singe and Naag Chhatri

(restricted species) from the forest. However, almost all the respondents maintained that planting of medicinal plants, Gucchi, Dadu, good quality walnuts etc. would be beneficial for the community.

Plantations are carried out by the Forest Department on regular basis after the monsoon season. Out of the total 504 households surveyed during the assessment study only 12% of the respondents were aware of the plantation activities carried out in recent past, 88% of the households denied having any information on the plantation activities or the species planted in the forests. Only 5% of the households stated that the members of their family had participated in the plantation operations of the Forest Department wherein they were engaged as daily laborers for digging pits for the saplings to be planted, carrying saplings from the nursery to the plantation sites, watering the plants or other miscellaneous works. The villagers participating in the plantation activities are paid a daily wage rate of Rs. 210 – 220 as prescribed under the government norms. In the event of forest fires the villagers play an active role in informing the Forest Department and assisting them to get it extinguished. 90% respondents confirmed that they or one of their family member have actively participated in extinguishing forest fires. The HPFD is encouraging Fire Free Villages and giving an incentive of Rs. 5000/- to Fire Free Villages.

Lack of opportunities for employment and income generation was one of the major issues raised by the respondents in almost all villages. Members of the community in almost all the villages stated that the employment opportunities are scarce in their village. 16% of the respondents stated that employment opportunities are seasonal while 68% of the respondents denied any existing employment opportunities in the region. In almost all villages the members of the community depended on jobs available under MGNREGA. Male members of about 30% households seasonally migrate to cities, with 19% households reporting that migration of male members is often long term.

The respondents confirmed not having had a conflict with another member of the community or other communities over forest resources during the recent past. When asked about their interaction with the transhumants who have the forest rights the respondents both in the individual interviews and during the FGDs stated that the transhumant have permits to stay in the forest and they usually camp at the higher reaches of the forests and since they have the grazing rights they do not usually trespass into the village or private fields. Sometimes if any stray incidents have happened they were amicably sorted out through discussions and by engaging the PRI members of the village and having direct discussions with members of the transhumant community.

The respondents of the survey were unaware of the formal grievance redressal mechanism of the state however, in case of any complaints or issues related to a particular department the villagers would often approach the PRI member or contact the officials of the concerned department directly to register their complaint. In case their complaint was not addressed many were not aware where and how to escalate it to the higher level authority.

The expectations of the villagers from the project include- raising fruit bearing plants, fencing around the village to protect from wild animals, paths to forest, plantation in forest and local community members be engaged to ensure employment, plantation of fruit bearing trees and species of cultural/ economic importance to communities on plantation sites, construction of check dams/ irrigation facilities and slope stabilization works, conducting awareness

campaigns/ training for villagers, participation in plantations and nursery operations, participation in fire warning and control systems, protection against landslides, etc.

Community Consultations were conducted in the form of FGDs in each village to assess the economic dependence of the resident population on forest and assimilate their expectations from the Forest Department and the Project. A State-level Stakeholder Consultation and Disclosure Workshop was conducted on 15 October 2018 at Thana Kalan, District Una to seek feedback from the stakeholders. The findings of the consultations are related to state support for sale of excess produce, opportunities for participation of communities (employment) in Forest Management, support for NTFP collection, storage and sale of NTFP as well as agricultural products, more frequent timber distribution, etc. The relevant suggestions are incorporated into the report.

Gender Roles

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development, forestry and allied fields including crop production, livestock rearing, horticulture, etc. As per the survey, in 90 percent households women are involved in the collection of NTFPs and fodder from the forests, though decisions on sale of surplus is largely taken by male counterparts in which women are consulted. Women of forest dependent communities face severe handicaps, including direct, adverse impact of depleting forest resources, responsibility for agricultural production as well as collection of forest resources in households which witness migration of male members.

Institutional Assessment

The externally supported projects and state-wide programs of participatory/ joint forest management, launched by the HPFD in 1998 encouraged the direct involvement of the communities in protection, conservation and maintenance of forests. Of these institutions, VFDSs are registered under the Societies Registration Act; while VFDCs, VDCs and VEDCs are registered by the District Forest Officer. Except for IWDP, where watershed was the unit for a VDC, a Gram Panchayat is generally the unit. VFDCs, VFDSs, VEDCs and VDCs all have a general 'house' membership and an executive. The GoHP sets policy and strategic direction for the forest sector, in line with state-wide priorities and national obligations. For example the current 'Vision 2020' exercise, envisioned for the Government of HP, incorporates the HP Forest Department's 'Vision' and will contribute to the overall national 'Vision'.

The Forest Department has traditionally performed a policing role for protection and management of forest and with shifts in national/ state forest policies in the last 2-3 decades it has now started working with communities. Whereas certain rights like access to fuel wood, fodder, NTFPs and timber for house construction, of communities settled near the forests were always recognized, they were also expected to help the department in exigencies like control of forest fires. Lady forest guards have also been recruited in recent years to have a better dialogue with female members of the community. While policies are in place to promote participation and community co- management, low departmental capacities and willingness to engage with communities is reflected in the status of community institutions. Of the total 1475 JFMCs formed till April 2014, only 963 were functional under 36 Forest Development Authorities- suggesting their weak mobilization and gradual alienation. Also the state has so far been able to bring only a small portion of the forest area under joint management.

During the meetings and discussions with the HPFD and the project stakeholders certain gaps were identified in the capacity of HPFD to address the social issues, such as- low skills in social mobilization and undertaking community development works; lack of training of the field staff in participatory approaches; low willingness of field staff to shift from a policing to a co-management role and treat communities as equal stakeholders; deeply embedded mental models regarding communities and their contribution to conversation and forest protection; departmental workload due to which forest staff is unable to devote much time to interact with community members, etc.

The actions to address these gaps are; a) Engaging dedicated locally available educated community facilitators (including female staff), who would have greater access to women community members and skills for engaging with the communities, b) Training field and HPFD staff in participatory tools and techniques for eliciting participation, assessing needs, suggesting alternatives and providing local and community preferred solutions, c) Involving communities in forestry operations, including employing them in plantation and nursery development works apart from facilitating their participation in NTFP value chains and d) creating a dedicated system for grievance redress to handle community grievances arising out of project investments. Since this needs a long term change management process, in the short term, within the HPFFP, the SPMU will need to employ persons with social and community development skills to augment its capacities. This should be in the form of recruiting a Social Safeguards Specialist in the SPMU, duly supported in the field by Community Facilitators. This will be in addition to capacity building support to be provided to the key PIUs, Range level and field staff on social development and management issues.

Project Impacts

The anticipated impacts due to the project interventions are; a) Requirement of land including some parcels of forest land which is unsettled under FRA, Land under evictions of encroachers are underway and being monitored by the HP High Court, b) Limited opportunities for participation in nursery operations and choice of species, c) Diminishing interest of communities in conservation due to reducing stakes, d) Restrictions to access to seed stands, restrictions on movement of community and cattle for grazing, d) Impacts on livelihoods of Transhumants/ Nomads either through temporary restrictions/ denial of access (for a few years) on pastures to be conserved/ improved, e) Apprehension of forest department officials that transhumants/ nomads bring along invasive species into forests and pastures impacting the quality of forests and its bio-diversity, f) Potential resource conflicts among communities sharing pastures and forest resources, g) Limited community engagement, low involvement of forest related community institutions and lack of formalizing community role in forest activities -forest fires, forest protection and management, h) Complicated rules on access and benefit sharing, i) Low understanding within the community about their rights and entitlements vis-à-vis forests and forest resources.

Project risks identified by the assessment include -usage of land under disputes, exclusion of vulnerable groups, community ownership, inadequate role clarity, low HPFD social capacity, unaddressed grievances and information dissemination. These are to be mitigated through the use of Screening mechanisms, operationalization of strategies for -Stakeholder Engagement, Capacity Building, Tribal Development, Inclusion of vulnerable communities including women (Gender Action Plan), development of monitoring indicators to track inclusion,

participation and equitable access, IEC/ awareness generation and social mobilization to promote community participation, recruitment of Social Development and Safeguards Specialist and field level Community Facilitators and by establishing a dedicated GRM and systems for Citizens Engagement.

Social Management Framework

The Social Management Framework is prepared based on the assessment of social impacts and risks to guide the screening and preparation of plans and strategies as appropriate for the project interventions to be taken up under the project. This SMF comprises a) A Screening format for the project interventions, b) A Resettlement Policy Framework, c) Grievance Redressal Mechanism, d) Social Inclusion Strategy, e) Citizen Engagement Framework, f) Gender Strategy, g) Tribal Development Framework (Indigenous People's Development Framework, h) Monitoring Strategy, i) Capacity Building Strategy.

Screening for Adverse Social Impacts

All project interventions will be screened for land requirement. For this purpose a screening format is used. All land for planned interventions such as nurseries, plantation, storage facilities, etc. be undertaken on a) existing land available with HPFD, b) government land accessed through departmental transfer, c) land taken on lease under relevant legal provisions or d) through voluntary land donation by beneficiaries. All sites with unsettled forest rights, areas under eviction of encroachment (HP High Court), sites of cultural or religious significance, including those that restrict access to such sites, including community conserved areas, sacred groves, *deo bhumis* (with no alternate access routes) will be excluded from project investments.

Resettlement Policy Framework

The framework has been developed as enunciated in the national legislation, Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013. The primary objective of this RPF is to provide better standard of living to the project affected families or at least restore their standard of living to that of before project. If the affected persons belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category before the project, then this RPF aims to bring them Above Poverty Line (APL).

Land Requirement

HPFPP proposes various types of sub-projects to be taken up. These sub-projects will require land depending on their type and size. The land requirement would vary across sub-projects and locations. The type and size of the sub-projects will dictate the land requirement. The extent of land required would vary across the sub-projects and can't be estimated at this stage.

Usual Practice

GoHP is implementing similar projects on a regular basis, which require land, of which the ownership could be either public or private. Accessing public land is easier, but arrangements will have to be made for securing privately owned land. When additional lands are required, GoHP, as a first step, would try and secure public lands under different tenure systems where

feasible and available. If private lands are required, then GoHP would resort to, either through voluntary donation or by outright direct purchase or through using RFCTLARAR Act.

For any requirement of land for sub-projects under HPFFP, the GoHP will use only government land, which is free of encroachments and disputes. Land under court cases and under the purview of FRA (unsettled claims) will not be used. GoHP will use its own existing land/ premises/ buildings and/ or rented premises/ buildings for project purposes (such as raising nurseries, new plantation sites, installation of silt monitoring equipment, storage of NTFP).

However, keeping in mind any eventuality, the options are proposed for procuring/ acquiring private lands are 1) Land acquisition using LA Act 2013, 2) Direct Purchase and 3) Land Donation.

Entitlement Matrix

This Entitlement Matrix is developed giving various entitlements for all categories of PAFs, based on RTFCTLARR Act 2013. This Matrix can be used as a guide for designing Resettlement Action Plans for sub-projects. All the families will be entitled to two broad categories of assistance; 1) compensation for land loss; and 2) livelihood (rehabilitation) assistance for starting some income generation activity, which may include the purchase of lands, as decided by the PAF.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The HPFFP will establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) which will be implemented with the aim to respond to queries or clarifications about the project, resolve problems with implementation and addressing complaints and grievances. The GRM will focus on corrective actions that can be implemented quickly and at a relatively low cost to resolve identified implementation concerns, before they escalate to the point of harm or conflict. GRM will serve as a channel for early warning, helping to target supervision to where it is most needed and identify systemic issues. The GRM will directly focus on and seek to resolve complaints (and requests for information or clarification) that pertain to outputs, activities and processes undertaken by the Project, i.e., those which (i) are described in the Project Implementation Manual; (ii) are funded through the Project (including counterpart funds); and (iii) are carried out by staff or consultants of the organization, or by their partners and sub-contractors, directly or indirectly supporting the project.

In order to address grievances related to project activities, land acquisition and resettlement and rehabilitation implementation, livelihoods issues, etc., three bodies are to be established; PGRC at the state level, a Project level Committee at the SPMU and Grievance Redress Committees at the Division level. The former will be established under the chairmanship of PCCF, HPFD of the state to monitor and review the grievances, in his capacity as Chairman. CPD, HPFFP will be convener of this committee. The Grievance Redress Committee will be established at the Division level under the chairmanship of the CF for the Circle for redress of grievances of the stakeholders with DFOs as the convener of these committees and district level heads of related departments as members along with a PAFs representative and a prominent social worker of the District. The aggrieved will have two kinds of options for addressing their grievance s relating to the land appropriation. One is the grievance redress mechanism incorporated in this framework, as above. The other is the general legal

environment consisting of court of law to address their grievance. These options will be disclosed to the aggrieved during the public consultation process.

Grievance Redress Service of The World Bank

In addition to seeking to resolve their grievances through the GRM established at the government level, “communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank (WB) supported project such as this operation may also submit complaints to the Grievance Redress Service (GRS) established by the World Bank. The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may also submit their complaint to the WB’s independent Inspection Panel, after having brought the complaint to the World Bank’s attention through its GRS. Information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank’s Grievance Redress Service is available at <http://www.worldbank.org/GRS>. Information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel is available at www.inspectionpanel.org.

Social Inclusion Strategy

The project would ensure inclusion of all vulnerable groups including, women and tribals within the planning and implementation structures, community institutions in the proposed project interventions by undertaking; Consultation, Stakeholder Participation, Selection of Individual Beneficiaries, Information and knowledge Sharing, Special Attention to Women, Indigenous People, especially transhumant communities and Other Vulnerable Groups.

Citizen Engagement Strategy

This assessment indicates that many programs and schemes exist for forest conservation and tribal development, however communication on and community awareness of these programs is rather limited. Engagement tends to be more focused on individuals rather on community groups, as would be required in some of interventions under this project. Therefore, in a project of this nature involving beneficiaries across different social groups, a citizen engagement strategy is needed to engage with them to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. The social audit system developed for citizen’s engagement will provide project beneficiaries, as well as concerned citizens and civil society space to provide feedback on the project. As an accountability measure, offline and online mechanisms will be created for receiving citizen’s feedback. This feedback will be systematically analysed and used to inform the overall project implementation strategy. The awareness generation effort of the project will also include informing people about ways of providing feedback- like web portals and toll-free helplines. Key elements of this strategy are; Participatory planning, implementation and monitoring, Feedback using ICT, Support to grievance redressal, etc.

Gender Strategy

Like in other projects, as per available experience, in these sub-projects as well, women are likely to experience differential socio-economic impacts due to their disadvantaged position within socio-economic structures and processes. As a part of Gender Strategy, actions such as; Gender disaggregated socioeconomic baseline, separate focus group discussions and mobilization, inclusion of women and quality representation in forest committees, Training

and capacity building, Socially inclusive Benefit Sharing for shared/public goods, Convergence with existing state level schemes for skill development and empowerment of women, tracking of gender disaggregated monitoring indicators, Preference to deployment of female community facilitators have been proposed. The recommendations of the standalone gender study conducted by project will also be implemented by the project.

Monitoring

The SMF requires detailed supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the project on social aspects. In order to carry out this, HPFFP will have specific arrangements made at state and range level. This includes appointment of a Social Safeguards Specialist and a Gender and Social Development Specialist for the project period at state level. Further the HPFFP will guide the Field level agencies on how implementation of this SMF. The HPFFP SPMU will be in charge of implementing the SMF. The Specialists will guide and oversee its implementation and will be supported at field level by consultants and facilitators. Further the HPFFP will incorporate the provisions of this SMF as actionable points in the Project Operations Manual or other similar document prepared for the project. The Social Safeguards Specialist will oversee the application of these provisions and guide the process, while at the same time building the capacity of the PIU and the field units. Once every year, the HPFFP will prepare a report of the social safeguards status in the project districts including data and analysis of relevant parameters. The concurrent internal social monitoring will be done as part of the regular monitoring by the SPMU, PIUs and range level implementing agencies. However, independent external consultants appointed by HPFFP, will do the half-yearly social monitoring and audit of sub-projects for social safeguards compliance.

Capacity Building Strategy

The HPFFP will give its staff and the participating communities' exposure to social safeguards issues. But the interactions with them reveal that, this mere exposure is not enough for preparing and implementing social management plans. They need to have awareness, sensitivity, skills and hands-on experience regarding the social aspects of sub-projects planning and implementation. This capacity building and IEC strategy has been outlined as part of the SMF developed for the project aims at building social awareness and social management capacity in the project administration structure as well as among the intended target communities. Capacity building for social management will also be integrated within the overall capacity building component of the project. Targeted training and refresher programs are suggested for the implementing agencies and budget has been provided for these activities.

Budget

The total administrative budget for social management activities including training under the proposed HPFFP has been worked out as Rs. 7 Crore. The cost of implementing the proposed mitigation measures is not included in this costing. The cost of mitigating social impacts need to be included in the respective sub-projects' budgets.

Means of Disclosure

This SA, SMF along with RPF and the TDF will be kept at the DFO Office, District Collector's Office, and Range Office falling in the project area for interested persons to read and copy. This will also be made available on the forest department web site as well and at the Gram Panchayat Offices of the concerned villages.