WWF GEF Agency
ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Title (GEF ID): Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (MaWRiN) Project (10727)

Project Report information:

Report Author(s)	Nabin Dhungana, PhD
Report Completion Date	July 31, 2025
Reporting Period	January 1 – June 30, 2025

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	**Agency Approval Date**	17 Jun 2022
	Fiscal Year	2025
	Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, Final PIR)	1st PIR
2. CURRENT YEAR RATINGS	**Overall DO rating**	N/A
	Overall IP rating	N/A
	Overall Risk rating	
3. KEY DATES	**Actual Implementation Start Date[1]**	September 11, 2024
	First Disbursement Date	25 March 2025
	Expected Mid-Term Review Date	FY28
	Expected Completion Date[2]	August 14, 2030
	Expected Financial Closure[3]	
4. BUDGET	**Total Project Budget (please distinguish GEF trust fund from LDCF and SCCF funding)**	US $ 9,024,312 (LDCF)
	Total GEF disbursement (USD) through June 30 of the FY for project that has been in implementation for at least 1 FY	US $152,308
	Materialized Co-finance	US $26,820,917

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[1] Start date is grant agreement signature or "soft start".
[2] As specified in the CEO Approval/ Endorsement or subsequent revision.
[3] Should be no more than 12 Months after the expected closing date. Please keep current.

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I. GEF SECRETARIAT REQUIRED INFORMATION

A. Ratings

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year X
Implementation Progress	Satisfactory (92%)						
Development Objective	Unsatisfactory (26%)						
Risks	Low (L)						

Justification for Current Year Ratings:

The development objective is unsatisfactory (26%) due to a 48.63% (of USD 296,784.50) budget reduction under Grant Assistance (on-budget, on-treasury) by the Ministry of Finance (MoF), which significantly impacted the project's result framework. Additionally, Year 1 result framework targets were set based on an assumed timeline from July 2023 to June 2024 (although the project legally started on 15 August 2024), but field-level interventions only began on 4 May 2025 after the fund was released to the cost center. In Year 1, the project mainly focused on preparatory and planning activities to create a foundation for implementation in Year 2 and beyond. The underperformance in the result framework will be addressed in the coming years. Implementation progress appears satisfactory against the revised work plan, considering the reduced budget.

B. Outcomes and Impacts Achieved

Component 1: Enabling environment for mainstream climate change, through the development of capacity of the municipalities and other key local agencies to assess and understand climate risks and vulnerabilities, and accordingly mainstream climate change adaptation strategies and actions in local plans and policies, and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and cooperation on climate change adaptation at the watershed level.

Outcome 1.1: Improved understanding, knowledge and capacity to mainstream climate change adaptation in local plans and policies

To improve understanding, knowledge, and capacity to mainstream climate change adaptation into local plans and policies, the project conducted stakeholder consultations to validate and finalize project activities, sites, and execution strategies across six priority sub-watersheds (Simle, Dhungajor, Ghaghar, Phulbari, Kyan, and Jalkeni-Sakhauri) out of ten. It also assessed training needs and developed gender-sensitive training materials to support local stakeholders in assessing climate risks, evaluate adaptation options, and integrate climate adaptation into sectoral planning. Using a participatory approach—including literature reviews, focus group discussions (FGDs; n=48), key informant interviews (KIIs; n=53), field observations (n=36), participatory mapping (n=6), and GIS analysis, the project ensured community involvement through Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). These efforts led to the identification, validation of site-specific interventions, localized strategies aligned with policies and community needs, and tailored training needs and resources. A total of 844 participants, including 350 *Female*, 614 *Indigenous*, 91 *Dalits*, 319 *Youths* were involved in the process.

The identified activities, strategies, and training needs are tailored to address the specific vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities of each sector and community, ensuring a comprehensive and context-specific approach to climate resilience. These documents will serve as a foundational reference for future planning and

implementation. It will guide the formulation of Annual Work Plans (AWPs), support the identification and prioritization of climate-vulnerable sites, and inform the development of effective, evidence-based strategies for implementation. Furthermore, it will support the formulation of context-specific training modules and sessions that promote participatory, inclusive, and climate-resilient approaches at the local level.

These reports are being reviewed/screened for compliance and language checks and will be uploaded soon to the project website (https://mawrin.bagamati.gov.np/).

Component 2: Enhanced Resilience of Local Communities to Climate Change through a) community-based natural resource management such as community identification of adaptation interventions, support and demonstration of sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and livestock practices, improved water management, strengthened management of community and leasehold forests, and b) Nature-based solutions that reduce climate impacts and risks.

Outcome 2.1: Increased adaptive capacity of vulnerable households in the Marin Watershed to climate-induced disasters such as landslides, floods

To increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable households in the Marin Watershed to climate-induced disasters such as landslides, floods, the project supported the development of four fishery ponds as a physical barrier to flooding (Fig. 1), directly benefiting 4 indigenous and local community members including 1 single woman headed household. The interventions site and households were selected based on technical feasibility assessments, social inclusion, well-being status and climate vulnerability, prioritizing marginalized and climate-affected groups, such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, single women, indigenous groups, and those most affected by climate and economic crises. Selection process includes a series of consultations with communities, sub-watershed coordination committee, Local governments, Soil and Watershed Management Office and Project Management Unit. These ponds, with a combined water-holding capacity of 3,488 cubic meters, were developed through a comprehensive package of interventions including physical infrastructure, community capacity building, fingerling stocking, and greenery development while incorporating environmental and social safeguards such as protective mesh wire fencing and safety information. The activity has also generated temporary job to 90 individuals including 28 females.

Community orientation focused on the proper handling for the fish farming and their management. As suggested, by the fishery section of Livestock Service Office, 2,670 fingerlings of *Labeo rohita* (Rohu), *Cyprilus Carpio* (Common Carp) were release in the pond for rearing. The development of greenery around the embankment, including the plantation of *Musa paradisiaca* (Malvak Banana), *Leucaena leucocephala* (Ipil-Ipil), *Morus alba* (Mulberry), *Litchi chinensis* (Litchi) and other local perennial/semi-perennial grass species. These plantations, which may serve as erosion control measure, barrier to runoff and fish feed, contributed to the integrated management of the fishery pond. Mesh wire fencing around pond serves as a protective barrier, effectively reducing the potential casualty due to accidental entry by humans and livestock. The implementation has yielded multiple benefits, enhancing groundwater recharge and soil moisture retention in the watershed area. For local communities, the ponds have created livelihood opportunities through fish farming, improved food security, and increased climate resilience by providing supplemental irrigation water during dry periods.

Fig. 1: Construction of fishery pond in Ghagar sub-watershed, Kamalamai Municipality-1, Thunuwa, Sindhuli
(Left: Before intervention; Right: After intervention)

In addition, with the restoration and protection of two water sources (Fig. 2) for irrigation and domestic purposes through a comprehensive package of interventions including source registration, water quality test, catchment and source protection, source intake, improvement in supply and distribution systems, community capacity building. Bioengineering measures such as constructing 50 gabion boxes over 24 meters and planting *Bambusa nutans* (Mal Baas) and *Ficus benjamina* (Samee) were applied to stabilize the catchment area.
To strengthen the distribution system, 780 meters of HDPE pipe and six water taps were installed. As a result, the Project has secured a sustainable and safe water supply for 101 households including 87 *Indigenous* and 13 *Dalits*. The activity has also generated temporary job to 22 individuals including 8 females. This initiative has improved access to water, reduced time spent fetching water (particularly for women and children) and daily maintenance of water source, improved health and sanitation, and enabled supplemental irrigation for household kitchen gardens.

(A) (B) (C)

Fig. 2: Restoration and protection of a water source in the Simle sub-watershed, Ghyanglekh Rural Municipality-1, Khattar, Sindhuli
(A: Condition of the water source before intervention; B: Improved intake structure after intervention; C: Raj Kumari BK fetching water from a newly constructed tap)

Nepal's agricultural sector remains heavily dependent on rain-fed farming, with 65% of cultivable land relying on seasonal rainfall and traditional canals sourced from non-perennial rivers. These conventional systems face significant challenges, including water loss through seepage, flood risks, and dry-season shortages, limiting farmers to a single annual harvest. To address these constraints, a sub-surface water harvesting and distribution system (totalling 105 meters in length) was successfully developed (Fig. 3) at two sites, benefiting 45 households with 100% *Indigenous*. The activity has also generated temporary job to 57 individuals, including 17 female. This system captures and elevates seepage water flowing underground, ensuring a reliable irrigation supply during

dry periods. As a result, 10 hectares (~40 Bigha) of previously underutilized agricultural land now have year-round irrigation, enhancing crop production and productivity within the watershed. Moreover, it has reduced the dependency on forests, as traditional canals require fodder and forage materials to divert water flows.

Fig. 3: Sub-surface water harvesting and distribution system developed in Jalkeni-Sakhauri sub-watershed, Hariharpurgadhi Rural Municipality-5, Tamajor river, Sindhuli
(Left: Before intervention; Right: monitoring during intervention implementation)

Outcome 2.2: Nature-based solutions (NbS) reduce climate-induced vulnerabilities of community livelihood resources and assets.

As part of promoting nature-based solutions (NbS) to reduce climate-induced vulnerabilities affecting community livelihoods and natural assets, the project has supported the establishment and strengthening of multi-purpose nurseries. Two nurseries—located at the Sidheswor Sub-Division Forest Office in Sindhuli Madi, Division Forest Office, Sindhuli and the Mahendrajhyadi Sub-Division Forest Office in Shreepur, Division Forest Office, Marin, Sindhuli—have been supported to install shade house, development of nursery beds, drainage management systems, mesh wire fencing and seedling production. As a result, these nurseries now have the capacity to raise up to 180,000 seedlings. To date, 25,750 seedlings have been successfully raised and expected to be distributed to local communities free of cost. This support has also generated temporary job to 217 individuals including 62 females. The seedlings include a diverse range of species beneficial for both ecological restoration and livelihood improvement. Tree species include fodder and fruit trees such as *Artocarpus lacucha* (Badahar), *Bauhinia purpurea* (Tanki), *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Agarwood), *Melia azedarach* (Bakaino), *Magnolia champaca* (Champ), *Artocarpus heterophyllus* (Jackfruit/Katahar), and *Choerospondias axillaris* (Lapsi). Grass species include *Thysanolaena maxima* (Amriso/Broom Grass). These nursery supports aim to promote on-farm fodder production, enhance soil cover, conserve soil moisture, and reduce soil erosion and surface runoff.

(A) (B)

Fig. 4: Sidheswor Sub-Division Forest Office in Sindhuli Madi, Division Forest Office, Sindhuli (A) and the Mahendrajhyadi Sub-Division Forest Office in Shreepur, Division Forest Office, Marin, Sindhuli (B)

The project contributed to ecological restoration and enhanced biophysical conditions in the public land by supporting the plantation of 13,203 seedlings across one hectare (Fig. 5) in Marin Rural Municipality-2, Shikhar Danda. The site was selected based on vulnerability to landslides, soil erosion, and siltation, which could directly impact nearby infrastructure, biodiversity, and community agriculture land (1.7 hectors). The selected species, including fruit trees such as *Citrus limon* (Lemon), *Litchi chinensis* (Litchi), as well as grass species like *Thysanolaena maxima* (Amriso), *Chrysopogon zizanioides* (Vetiver), *Bambusa vulgaris* (Bamboo)—were chosen to restore watershed and improve the ecosystem services while also providing long-term livelihood benefits for 25 households that includes 100% *Indigenous*. The activity has also generated temporary job to 25 individuals including 11 females. To ensure sustainability of the plantation, the project also provided 32 meters of protective fencing and conducted capacity-building activity on proper management practices, including weeding, cleaning, and protection measures.

(A) (B) (C)

Fig. 5: Plantation and fencing support in Jalkeni-Sakhauri sub-watershed, Marin Rural Municipality-2, Shikhar Danda, Sindhuli
(A: Google image of showing the plantation area; B: Restored area after fencing and plantation; C: Planted *Litchi chinensis* seedling)

Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management, through tracking of project progress on a regular basis, garnering and analysis of lessons and good practices, and development and dissemination of knowledge that reinforces project results from components 1 and 2, providing sound basis for their replication, adaptation and sustainability.

Outcome 3.1: Project monitoring, evaluation, and learning to enable adaptive management, replication and sustainability.

To strengthen project monitoring, evaluation, and learning for adaptive management, replication, and sustainability, key milestones achieved during this reporting period include successful organization of inception and planning workshops, Project Coordination Committee (PCC) and Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings, establishment of ad hoc Sub-watershed Coordination Committees, and development of the project website.

A high-level coordination mechanism was established at the provincial level through the Program Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Bagamati Province. The PSC comprises senior officials and representatives from central and provincial ministries, with the Project Management Unit (PMU) participating as an invitee. The committee has played a key role in endorsing the project work plan and budget, procurement plan, and Project Implementation Guideline (PIG), while also providing strategic guidance and an enabling environment for effective implementation across all levels of government.

To date, three PSC meetings have been conducted. During the first meeting on 7 September 2024, the Chief of the Soil and Watershed Management Office (SWMO) in Ramechhap was appointed as the Project Manager for the MaWRiN Project. Key decisions included the management of human resources for the PMU, approval of the Project Operational Manual, and identification of potential sites for the PMU office.

The second meeting, held on 9 January 2025, approved the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) and its submission to MoFE, Singhadurbar, Kathmandu for entry into the Line Ministry Budget Information System (LMBIS). It also endorsed the Program Implementation Guideline (PIG), confirmed the establishment of the PMU office in Kamalamai-6, Shantinagar, Sindhuli Madi, Sindhuli, and made several decisions to expedite office setup and administrative processes.

Similarly, the third meeting on 8 May 2025 approved the AWP&B for FY 2025/26 and forwarded it to MoFE for LMBIS entry. A task force was also formed to review and finalize the PIG.

In total, 53 senior officials and representatives from central and provincial ministries participated in the meetings. These meetings have fostered a shared understanding, strengthened coordination, and created a conducive environment for the successful implementation of the MaWRiN Project.

Fig. 6: Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

Project Coordination Committee (PCC) Meeting

At the project working area level, the Project Coordination Committee (PCC), chaired by the Chief of the District Coordination Committee (DCC), Sindhuli, was formed to coordinate, review, and monitor field-level project activities.

One PCC meeting was held on 25 April 2025, resulting in the following key decisions for recommendation to the PSC:

- Reviewed the progress of FY 024/25 (Year 1) and built a common understanding among stakeholders.
- Discussed and agreed to submit the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) for FY 025/26 (Year 2) to the PSC.
- Proposed the Division Forest Offices (DFOs) as cost centre for implementing forestry-related activities.
- Decided to request the addition of a new working site, acknowledging that all project areas are vulnerable.

A total of 16 officials and representatives from relevant institutions participated, contributing to a shared understanding and alignment on project priorities.

Fig. 7: Project Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting

Project inception and stakeholder engagement workshop

To introduce the project's objectives, scope, and institutional structure—and to strengthen collaboration and coordination among key stakeholders—five Project Inception and Stakeholder Engagement Workshops were organized (one at the district level and four at the municipal and rural municipal levels). These workshops aimed to build a common understanding of the project's objectives, components, institutional mechanisms, and implementation approach among federal and provincial government agencies, local governments (including elected representatives and officials), and community-based organizations. At the municipal and rural municipal levels, the workshops also facilitated the identification of local government priorities to be considered in the upcoming fiscal year. Participants expressed their appreciation for the project and committed to contributing to its success. The workshops concluded with a collective call to action, reinforcing stakeholder commitment and laying a strong foundation for smooth and effective project implementation. In total, 226 individuals including 123 *indigenous*, 46 *female*, 8 *Dalit* participated in the events representing 19 different stakeholders.

Fig. 8: Project inception and stakeholders engagement workshop (District level)

Fig. 9: Project inception and stakeholders engagement workshop (Rural/Municipality level)

Annual review and planning workshop

The annual review and planning workshop is a vital part of the project cycle and adaptive management process. With the objective of reviewing project progress and challenges, reflecting on lessons learned, strengthening team collaboration, and planning for the upcoming year, workshop was held in Okhaldhunga. The event was attended by seven project staff members. In addition to reviewing progress and planning future activities, participants also visited and observed key field interventions implemented under the "Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Vulnerable Watersheds in Nepal" project supported by GEF. These included RCC irrigation ponds, tarpaulin-lined plastic ponds, continuous contour trenches, eyebrow pits, and bamboo-fencing check dams. The workshop also served as a valuable platform for team building, fostering mutual understanding, and enhancing cohesion among team members—contributing to more effective and coordinated project implementation.

Sub-watershed coordination committee formation and planning workshop

To promote integrated and sustainable natural resource management, the project facilitated the formation of six Sub-Watershed Coordination Committees in priority sub-watersheds. These committees are crucial for aligning planning and implementation with the ecological boundaries of watersheds, rather than administrative units. They support cross-sector coordination, enhance stakeholder participation, and address upstream-downstream linkages and cross-boundary issues assuring more effective implementation and long-term sustainability. The committees comprise representatives from upstream and downstream communities, vulnerable groups, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), Leasehold Forest User Groups (LFUGs), farmer groups, women's groups, and youth. Additionally, local government representatives were engaged in an advisory capacity to provide guidance and feedback. These committees were engaged in identifying activities, supporting implementation, and coordinating with local governments and other stakeholders. A total of 224 individuals participated in the workshops, including 165 *indigenous*, 93 *youth*, 55 *female*, and 22 *Dalits*. The priorities and activities identified during these workshops were incorporated into the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) for FY 025/26.

Fig. 10: Phulbari sub-watershed coordination committee formation and planning workshop

Fig. 11: Facilitating Simle sub watershed coordination committee planning workshop

The details of the project website are mentioned in Knowledge Activities/Products section.

C. Summary of Major Challenges and Strengths

Challenges:

- **Delay on budget on treasury fund release process**: The budget release of grant assistance (on-budget, on-treasury) faced significant delays. First, the program and budget had to be entered into the Line Ministries Budget Information System (LMBIS) and the Provincial Line Ministries Budget Information System (PLMBIS), which took approximately 2.5 months. Only after completing this process did the Financial Comptroller General Office (FCGO) begin releasing funds to the cost center (i.e., Soil and Watershed Management Office, Ramechhap), which then took an additional 1.5 months.
- **Managing stakeholder expectations**: Balancing expectations of local governments, political leaders, and communities.
- **Prioritization of working area**: Out of the 10 sub-watersheds identified under the project, only 6 have been prioritized for intervention, even though all were assessed as vulnerable to climate risks and livelihood insecurities. Local government representatives, particularly politically elected leaders, have visited the PMU office and urged the project team to also implement activities in the remaining 4 sub-watersheds even in the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting.
- **Field movement/transportation**: Fragile geology, heavy monsoons, and reliance on limited transportation vendors hinder mobility.
- **Insufficient understanding**: Local governments and communities lack awareness of watershed management and climate adaptation.
- **Timely payment reimbursement process**: Most hardware-related project activities in the Marin watershed, Sindhuli, are implemented through agreements with user groups. However, after completing the activities, the user committees or PMU staff must travel to the Soil and Watershed Management Office (SWMO) located in Ramechhap district different from the project area, for budget reimbursement, causing delays in timely payments reimbursement.
- **Women participation:** Women's participation in project activities were lower than expected in the project document, indicating the need for more inclusive strategies to ensure their meaningful engagement in planning and decision-making processes.

Strengths:

- **Government ownership**: Majority of activities are on-budget on treasury, with multi-stakeholder engagement in activities planning, implementation and monitoring through PSC, PCC, joint monitoring enhances the ownership.
- **Community-driven activities**: Component 2 focuses on hardware interventions preferred by communities.
- **Integrated site development**: Opportunity to consolidate and showcase results in priority sub-watersheds.
- **Indigenous community engagement**: High collaboration with IPs, who form the majority in the watershed.

- **Bottom-up planning:** Institutionalized Sub-Watershed Coordination Committees which are formed representing community stakeholders (such as farmers groups, Community Forest User Groups, women groups, IPs, Federation of Community Forestry Users and so on) within sub watershed for participatory planning.
- **Nexus approach**: Holistic integration of agriculture, livestock, climate change, forestry, and community development, supported by a multi-disciplinary PMU team.

D. Progress, Challenges, and Outcomes of Stakeholder Engagement

(Based on Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) or equivalent included in the ProDoc)

Summarize progress, challenges, and/or outcomes of stakeholder engagement, including strategies taken to ensure gender and social inclusion. Please report for each group of stakeholders (e.g. Ips, LCs, local government, etc). identified in the SEP plus any others identified during implementation.

The progress and outcome made as per stakeholder engagement plan are mentioned below with details of stakeholders engaged across different tiers and their respective contributions to various project activities:

Tiers/Level	Stakeholders Name	Expected mode of engagement (As mentioned in ProDoc)	Year 1 Progress	
			Project Activity	Mode of Engagement
Federal	Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE), Ministry of Finance (MoF) and President Chure Terai-Madhesh Conservation Development Board	• Policy level, programmatic guidance and technical backstopping. • Advisory role related to AWP&B and entry in LMBIS.	• PSC meeting • AWP&B finalization and entry in LMBIS • District Level Inception meeting	• Facilitated to finalize AWP&B and entry in LMBIS. • Technical guidance and facilitation
Province	Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) Bagmati, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) Bagamati, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning Bagamati, Institute of Forestry (IoF),	• Strategic guidance and enabling environment for the effective implementation • PSC oversees for PMU for the overall project implementation • Approval of AWP&B, procurement plan and Program	• PSC Meeting • District Level Inception Workshop.	• Approved FY 024 & FY 025 AWP/B • Approved PIG of FY 024 • Provide policy and strategic guidance • Create enabling environment to prepare AWP&B and PLIMBIS entry

	Hetauda and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU)	implementation guideline (PIG)		
District Level	District Coordination Committee (DCC), Division Forest Office Sindhuli, Division Forest Office Marin, Agriculture Development Office (ADO), Livestock Service office, Nepal Federation of indigenous Nationalities Sindhuli, HIMWANTI, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Relief Nepal, Nepal Red Cross Society: (NRCS), National Federation of the Disabled Sindhuli, NGO Federation of Sindhuli, Building a Resilient Churia Region in Nepal (BRCRN), Heifer International Sindhuli etc.	• Coordinate, review, monitor field level activities and facilitate wider stakeholder engagement • Technical backstopping and monitoring relevant to the affairs of their respective theme	• Project Coordination Committee meeting • District Level Inception workshop • Validation workshop to validate assessment/study findings	• PCC members at PCC meeting: Review FY 025 AWP&B, provide constructive feedback and suggestions. • Committed to support and to create enabling environment to implement project. Additionally interested and committed leveraging as per need. (District Level Inception). • Division Forest Office (DFO) Sindhuli, Marin and Livestock Service Office provide technical support. • Feedback, suggestion and share experience to refine study and assessments

R/Municipality Level	Kamalamai Municipality, Ghyanglekh RM, Marin RM, Hariharpurgadi RM, Ward Chairperson, Sub-division Forest Office Kapilakot, Sub-Division Forest office Hariharpurgadi, Sub-division Office Ghyanglekh, College of Natural Resource Management, Marin, Kapilakot, Sindhuli (CNRM), National Federation of the Disabled Marin Sector, NEIFIN Sindhuli, Gorkhapatra Journalist, Agriculture Cooperative, School, Mother Group, Women Group, FECOFUN, Community Forest,	• Implementation policy relevant activities • Climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) and CCA mainstreaming • Palika Level planning, implementation and monitoring of activities	• R/Municipality level inception workshop • District level inception • PCC meeting	• Committed to support and during implementation in the grass root level. • Resources leveraging • Facilitate and coordinate to organized R/Municipality level inception workshop especially by Chairperson. • Validation of climate change adaptation and training need assessment findings. • Engage in identification, planning, Implementation and Monitoring Process.
Local government ward office	Ward Office representative, Ward Chairpersons	• Facilitation, coordination and monitoring	• Sub-watershed level committee formation • Sub-watershed level planning • Facilitation in implementation of FY 024/25 AWP&B	• Facilitate in identification, recommendation and implementation activities of FY 024/25 and

				planning of FY025/26.
Community Based organization (CBOs) including sub-watershed level	Sub-watershed level committee coordinator, Political representative, CFUGs, LFUGs, Women's Group, Farmer's Group, Teacher/School Management Officials, differently able Group, Mothers Group,	• Direct implementation community level activities • Facilitation, coordination and monitoring • Household and site identification to implement project activities	• Sub-watershed level committee formation • Sub-watershed level planning • Facilitation and implementation of FY 024/25 AWP&B activities (Fishery Pond, Water source protection, Sub-surface water harvest, Afforestation/plantation)	• Implementation of community level activities such as fishery pond, water source protection, sub-surface water harvest, afforestation/plantation • Resources leveraging • Facilitate in identification, implementation activities of FY 024 and planning of FY025. • Sustainable use management project supported activities and resources

Major challenges in implementing the stakeholder engagement plan include delays in organizing events like district level project inception workshops due to the need to engage stakeholders across federal, provincial, district, and local levels, making it difficult to align schedules. At the sub-watershed level, the project formed coordination committees to ensure effective upstream-downstream collaboration and facilitate planning and implementation, an approach not originally envisioned project, requiring additional time and effort from the PMU team.

E. Information on Progress on Gender-Responsive Measures

(As documented at CEO Endorsement in the Gender Action Plan or Equivalent)

In line with the Gender Action Plan, during the reporting period, a total of 1,535 beneficiaries were reached through workshops and meetings, including 68.40% *indigenous*, 33.94% female, 8.99% Dalits, 0.39% persons with disabilities, and 40.52% youth. Additionally, beside workshops and meetings other interventions directly benefited 175 households with 7.4% *Dalit*, 91.4% *indigenous* individuals and 1 single woman headed household. A total of 194 individuals (33.0% female) engaged in temporary employment through project activities.

Participation data across different levels of intervention reveals that representation of *Dalit*, *indigenous*, *female*, and *youth* participants was generally higher at local-level activities compared to province/district-level events. For example, At the ***Province/District level activities*** (such as PSC and PCC meeting, district level inception and stakeholders' engagement workshops), overall participation was limited totalling 114, with only 0.87 % *Dalits*, 24.56% indigenous, 14.91% females, and 28.07% youth. In contrast, Palika-level inception workshops (Total: 181) showed improved inclusiveness, with 4.1 % Dalit, 58.56% *indigenous*, 20.99.0% *female*, and 49.72% *youth* participation.

Further, in ***community level activities*** such as sub-watershed level planning workshops, assessment, etc (Total: 1240), participation showed higher inclusiveness, with 10.40% Dalits, 73.87% *indigenous*, 37.58 % *females*, and 40.32% *youth*. The ***sub-watershed level committees***, including advisory members, comprise 26.3% *female*, 11.3%

Dalit, and 46.25% *indigenous*. Excluding advisory members, representation increases to 43.05% *female*, 10% *Dalit*, and 76% *indigenous*. Notably, 18% of women hold key leadership positions such as Treasurer and Secretary, reflecting inclusive and gender-responsive committee institutions. Additionally, identify specific needs on capacity development, assessment plan includes information on gender dynamics, adoption of gender sensitive approaches and languages etc.

Despite efforts to ensure inclusive participation, deep-rooted sociocultural norms and gender stereotypes in some communities posed challenges to the active engagement of female—especially single women and marginalized female groups—in project activities and decision-making processes. Many women, particularly from mothers' groups and single-women households, faced challenges balancing their participation in project activities with their existing household and caregiving responsibilities. This constrained their ability to engage fully, particularly in prolonged training and consultation sessions. In case of government and non-government line agencies, participation in events, such as mandated by the project's institutional mechanism, including the PSC, PCC, and various district or municipal-level inception workshops—is typically represented by the organizational head by default, who are predominantly male. As a result, female participation often falls short.

F. Knowledge Activities /Products

(When Applicable, as Outlined in Knowledge Management approved at CEO Endorsement)

Based on the knowledge management and communications plan as approved at CEO endorsement, the project has made the following progress:

Project website: A project website has been developed to disseminate knowledge and communication products generated by the project. The site is currently undergoing refinement. It features project information in Nepali, Tamang (the primary language of Indigenous Peoples in the project area), and English, and includes a platform for submitting grievances. The website is accessible at https://mawrin.bagamati.gov.np/, and to date, it has been viewed by 55 visitors.

Assessment and consultation: The project completed an assessment to identify training needs and develop gender-sensitive training materials aimed at helping local stakeholders assess climate risks, evaluate adaptation options, and integrate climate adaptation into sectoral planning. Additionally, stakeholder consultations were conducted to validate and finalize project activities, sites, and implementation strategies. The related reports are currently undergoing formatting, compliance, and language checks, and will soon be uploaded to the project website: https://mawrin.bagamati.gov.np/.

Project brochure: The project brochure was developed to raise awareness, enhance visibility, and effectively communicate the project's goals, components, and expected outcomes to stakeholders. It is available at https://mawrin.bagamati.gov.np/uploads/resources/1751960381-1hLgER9HqYJ6n4Q8pwfIXlNbWsKO7t.pdf

Featured on official websites: The project inception has been featured on the official website of Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Bagamati Province and WWF Nepal, highlighting the project's aim to strengthen watershed resilience in Nepal. The features can be accessed at:

- WWF Nepal: https://www.wwfnepal.org/?390595/MaWRiN-Project-launched-to-Strengthen-Watershed-Resilience-in-Nepal
- MoFE, Bagamati Province: https://mofe.bagamati.gov.np/content/193/for-the-project-construction-of-the-jaladhan

3D terrain model: The project developed a 3D terrain model to help visitors understand and visualize the project's working area, priority sub-watersheds, and various land use types. This model serves as an educational tool to promote awareness and support climate-adaptive, sustainable watershed management. It is available at https://mawrin.bagamati.gov.np/.

Online database: The project has used the WWF Nepal online database management system which has enhanced knowledge management by ensuring centralized, accessible, and real-time documentation of project activities. It is available at https://depositary.wwfnepal.org.np/.

Social media: The MaWRiN Project has created Facebook page titled *"MaWRiN Project."* It has reaches over 151 followers. This platform has been effective for sharing project updates, engaging with stakeholders, and raising awareness about key activities and impacts. It is available at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574294127886

G. Adaptive Management

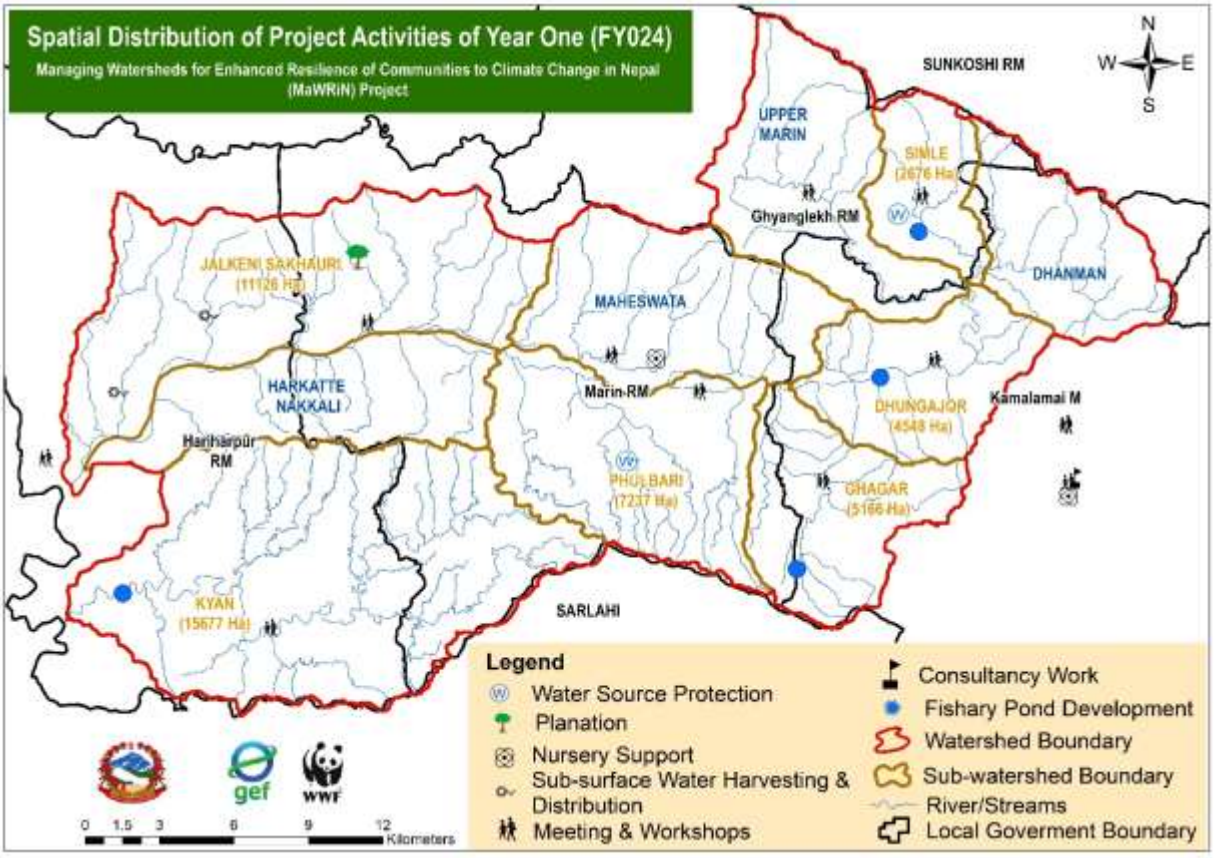
Please check all applicable modifications made to the project during this reporting period noting a description of the change, justification for the change and the date of No-Objection given by the WWF GEF Agency. If not applicable, please leave blank. Please see guidance on definitions and procedures for Major and Minor Amendments. Note: it is recommended that all changes be discussed in advance with the GEF Program Manager.

Category of change	Description of the change	Justification	Date of No-Objection by WWF GEF
Major Amendments			
☐Project Scope			
☐ Project Objective			
☐>5% Increase in financing			
Minor Amendments			
☐ Results framework			
☐ Components and cost			
☐Institutional and implementation arrangements			
☐Financial management			
☐Implementation schedule			
☐ Executing Entity			
☐Executing Entity Category			
☐Minor project objective change			
☐ Safeguards			
☐ Risk analysis			
☐ Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
☐ Co-financing			
☐ Location of project activity			
☐ Other: <fill in>			

For any *proposed* or *anticipated* changes to the project this coming year, please describe below what those changes would be (e.g., in the workplan or results framework) and provide justification. Note: It may be helpful to reference project lessons, challenges, strengths and/or the project theory of change.

H. Geolocation

Please provide a location name, latitude and longitude for key locations of GEF-financed activities. The format should be in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format only – e.g. not degrees, minutes or seconds. Please use '-' instead of 'S' and avoid inserting '°'). As an alternative, you may enter a GEOname ID for locations of GEF-financed activities under this project. Location and activity description is optional. Maps or shapefiles are recommended, but optional. Please use this Guide for additional details.



Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description (Optional)
Stakeholders consultations to validate and finalize project activities and sites along with execution strategy and workplan given the 3 additional watersheds (Participatory Assessment)	27.21243	85.91589	https://www.geonames.org/13405738/participatory-assessment-by-consultancy-mawrin-project.html	
Assess trainings needs and, accordingly, develop curricula and materials for training on participatory gender- sensitive assessments of climate risks and vulnerabilities, adaptation options and CCA mainstreaming in key sectors at the local level (TNA)	27.21243	85.91589	https://www.geonames.org/13405739/training-need-assessment-by-consultancy-mawrin-project-pmu-office.html	
Fishery pond development as a physical barrier to flooding, Besitole, Jalkeni Sakhauri sub-watershed	27.18349	85.52753	https://www.geonames.org/13405693/besi-tole-fishery-pond-hariharpur-6.html	
Fishery pond development as a physical barrier to flooding, Dhungajor Sub-watershed	27.25159	85.83823	https://www.geonames.org/13405694/chisapani-fishery-pond-kamalamai-1.html	
Fishery pond development as a physical barrier to flooding, Simle sub-watershed	27.30398	85.85841	https://www.geonames.org/13405695/simle-khola-fishery-pond-ghyanglekh-1.html	
Fishery pond development as a physical barrier to flooding, Ghagar sub-watershed	27.18326	85.80137	https://www.geonames.org/13405696/naulo-srijansil-fishery-pond-kamalamai-1.html	

Restoration and protection of water sources /springs for irrigation and domestic purposes, Khattar	27.31059	85.84804	https://www.geonames.org/13405700/khattar-water-source-protection-ghyanglekh-1.html	
Restoration and protection of water sources /springs for irrigation and domestic purposes, Jyamire	27.20414	85.76301	https://www.geonames.org/13405701/jyamire-badala-chisapani-water-source-protection-marin-rm-5.html	
Sub surface water harvestimg and distribution, Dhanaman sub-surface water harvesting	27.25661	85.529	https://www.geonames.org/13405697/dhanaman-sub-surface-water-harvesting.html	
Sub surface water harvestimg and distribution, Tamajor sub-surface water harvesting	27.28329	85.5669	https://www.geonames.org/13405698/tamajor-sub-surface-water-harvesting.html	
Support to multi-purpose nursery establishment, maintenance, and promotion, DFO Marin	27.26141	85.74762	https://www.geonames.org/13405716/nursery-support-to-dfo-marin.html	
Support to multi-purpose nursery establishment, maintenance, and promotion, DFO Sindhuli	27.20576	85.91272	https://www.geonames.org/13405718/nursery-support-to-dfo-sindhuli.html	
Afforestation/ plantation support including protection and fencing	27.30242	85.62777	https://www.geonames.org/13405699/sikhar-dada-plantation.html	
Project inception and stakeholder engagement at local level	27.23142	85.9126	https://www.geonames.org/13405703/pcc-meeeting-kamalamai-4.html	
Conduct annual and semi-annual (Planning Annual and Semi Annual) monitoring visits to project sites (Including PCC)	27.23142	85.9126	https://www.geonames.org/13405703/pcc-meeeting-kamalamai-4.html	
Inception cum Palika level planning workshop,	27.21097	85.91293	https://www.geonames.org/13405704/kamalamai-planning-working-workshop-kamalamai-6.html	

kamalamai Municipality				
Inception cum Palika level planning workshop, Marin	27.26354	85.72953	https://www.geonames.org/13405705/marin-rm-planning-workshop-marin.html	
Inception cum Palika level planning workshop, Hariharpurgadhi	27.23359	85.49826	https://www.geonames.org/13405706/hariharpurgadhi-rm-planning-workshop-hariharpurgadhi.html	
Inception cum Palika level planning workshop, Gyanglekh	27.31965	85.81203	https://www.geonames.org/13405707/ghyanglekh-rm-planning-workshop-gyanglekh-1.html	
Kyan Sub-watershed level planning workshop	27.16895	85.58691	https://www.geonames.org/13405708/kyan-sub-watershed-planning-workshop-hariharpurgadhi.html	
Simle Sub-water-level planning workshop	27.31678	85.85809	https://www.geonames.org/13405709/simle-sub-watershed-planning-workshop-gyanglekh-1.html	
Dhungajor Sub-watershed level planning workshop	27.25708	85.8605	https://www.geonames.org/13405710/dhungajor-sub-watershed-planning-workshop-kamalamai-1.html	
Phulbari Sub-watershed level planning workshop	27.2491	85.76462	https://www.geonames.org/13405711/phulbari-sub-watershed-planning-workshop-marin-rm-5.html	
Ghagar Sub-water-level planning workshop	27.21477	85.81334	https://www.geonames.org/13405712/ghagar-sub-watershed-planning-workshop-kamalamai-1.html	
Jalkeni Sakhauri Sub-watershed level planning workshop	27.27858	85.63094	https://www.geonames.org/13405713/jalkeni-sakhauri-sub-watershed-planning-workshop-marin-rm-2.html	
Conduct annual and bi- annual review and planning workshops to reflect on project progress and performance and plan for upcoming year (Hotel Myra, Okhaldhunga)	27.31585	86.50231	https://www.geonames.org/13405720/annual-review-and-planning-workshop-okhaldhunga.html	
Conduct Project Steering Committee meetings as required and disseminate meeting proceedings and reports	27.43598	84.99772	https://www.geonames.org/13405702/psc-meeting.html	
Staff capacity building (annual retreat workshop)	27.72905	85.39397	https://www.geonames.org/1283384/gokarna-reserved-forest.html	

Gokarna Forest Resort				

II. WWF GEF INTERNAL INFORMATION

A. Summary of Expenditure and Implementation

Project Component	% Expenditure for Project Year[4]	% Implementation for Project Year[5]
1	95.0%	100.0%
2	65.5%	79.3%
3	84.0%	100.0%

(Note: The implementation progress has been calculated based on revised AWP&B under Grant Assistance).

B. Implementation of Workplan and Budget

The project commenced late, with the agreement signed on 11 September 2024 with the project executive partners, i.e., MoFE and Bagamati Province, and funds released to the executing partners on 4 May 2025, leaving only 1.5 months for implementation before the fiscal year closed. Against an approved Grant Assistance (GA) (on budget on treasury) budget of $152,460, the project utilized $56546.21 (37.09%) and against the total budget of the Technical Assistant (off budget off treasury) $ 184,792.53 the project expenses $144,985.48 (78.46%), achieving an overall burn rate (GA and TA) of 59.76% (total spending: $201531.68). Of the 35 planned/targeted activities (22 GA, 13 TA), 25 (92% achieved) were completed. However, GA activities, including 10 sub-surface waters harvesting and distribution and 1 fishery pond development, could not be implemented due to monsoon-induced high river flows, which might pose safety risks and potential harm to the community and watershed health. These activities (i.e., 11) and the corresponding budget (i.e. $92686.21), will be prioritized in the next fiscal year to ensure safe and effective implementation.

[4] *Percent of total spent per component as compared to the budget approved in Annual Workplan and Budget.*
[5] *Average achievement (%) of activity (or output) targets in the Annual Workplan and Budget.*

C. Progress, Challenges, and Outcomes of Safeguards

(Based on Environmental and Social Management Framework and any other safeguards documents included at CEO Endorsement)

The project has effectively implemented environmental and social safeguards to minimize adverse impacts on both communities and the environment. Safeguards were thoroughly integrated throughout the activity cycle, from planning and implementation to monitoring. Progress includes meaningful engagement of communities through the acquisition of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) before initiating any activities. Rigorous consultations with local governments, sub-watershed coordination committee, user groups and community members, along with technical assessments by the project team, ensured that project interventions aligned with local priorities, needs, and site suitability.

To protect the environment, the project avoided disturbances to natural habitats, minimized noise pollution, adopted bio-engineering techniques, and promoted the plantation of native species. Water quality testing was conducted to ensure the safety of water for human and households use, while mesh wire fencing with iron gates was installed to secure natural resources such as water, fish, and seedlings—without compromising community access.

Occupational Health and Safety measures were strictly enforced, with workers receiving insurance coverage and orientations on safety measures before beginning construction activities. Visible safety signage, such as hoarding boards, was placed to highlight risks, such as pond depth and to restrict unsafe practices. Social safeguards were also a key focus; user committees were oriented on financial compliance, infrastructure design, and supported activity management. To promote long-term ownership and legality, potentially conflict water sources were officially registered with local governments. Additionally, awareness raising on child labor helped ensure that no children were involved in project activities. The project ensures safeguard measures when engaging consultancy service providers. Key safeguard measures outlined in the ESMF have been extended to all third-party service providers. Relevant clauses have been incorporated into ToRs and agreement, and service providers are oriented before finalizing agreements to ensure compliance.

A formal Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was established, offering multiple communication channels, including a website, phone number, and suggestion boxes. Contact details were displayed prominently on-site, and a draft GRM guideline was developed to promote transparency and accountability. Despite these successes, the project faced challenges such as aligning construction schedules with community priorities, which required extensive coordination and consultation.

F. Lessons Learned

Since the project is in its first year, it has so far been implemented based on the theory of change. However, the following key lessons have been learned and are considered important for the project moving forward.

- Formation of sub-watershed level committees has facilitated activity planning and implementation by effectively addressing watershed and river system-level issues, challenges, and solutions. These committees bring upstream and downstream communities together on a common platform. However, greater inclusiveness and capacity strengthening are still needed.
- Regular engagement with the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Project Coordination Committee (PCC), local governments, and other stakeholders—along with timely feedback—has improved program planning, execution, and adaptive management.
- Effective project activities implementation and shared ownership of activities require regular capacity building, reviews, reflections, and technical guidance for cost centres and implementing partners.
- Consistent follow-up, monitoring, and community engagement are essential for maintaining quality outcomes and ensuring the successful delivery of project activities.

III. Action Plans and Risk Identification

For any ratings identified as Moderately Satisfactory or below in Part I A above, please provide an action plan. Risk mitigation plans are only required for "Substantial" or "High" risks.

A. Action Plan for Suboptimal Development Objective Rating

Please provide the specific actions that will be taken to improve on each of the objective and outcomes, including who/when these actions will be taken. Ensure these actions are integrated into the following years work plan.

B. Action Plan for Suboptimal Implementation Progress Rating

Please provide the specific actions that will be taken to advance delayed or underperforming activities in the work plan, with particular emphasis on components that have averaged less than 80% achievement of its activities.

C. Project Risk Identification and Risk Mitigation Plans

Please include both previously identified (e.g. from ProDoc and previous reports) and new risks. After assessing each individual risk according to the risk rating scale, the overall risk is assessed as an average of the individual risks. Please note this overall risk rating in Section I. A.

Individual Risks	Current Risk Rating (L – M - S – H)	Mitigation Plan (if "Substantial" or "High" risk)	Person or Team Responsible and Timeline for Mitigation

Annex I: Rating Scale

A. Development Objective Rating

The project Development Objective (DO) rating is quantified by analyzing progress against the Results Framework according to the rating scale below. Note that the average is not taken across component averages, but rather across all indicators in the Results Framework. No percent achieved should surpass 100% even if the target is exceeded.

DO Rating scale

Rating	% Achievement of Results Framework targets (average)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	100%
Satisfactory (S)	80 – 99
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	60 – 79
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	40 – 59
Unsatisfactory (U)	20 – 39
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Below 20%

Guiding Example: How to calculate DO Rating from Results Framework

Objective/Component/ Outcome	Indicator	Unit	Target Y1	Achieved Y1	Percent achieved Y1

Project Objective	Indicator 1	# policies	5	4	80
	Indicator 2	# ha	1,000,000	900,354	90
Component 1					
Outcome 1.1	Indicator 3	# beneficiaries	500	410	82
Outcome 1.2	Indicator 4	# sites	10	12	100
Component 2					
Outcome 2.1	Indicator 5	% score	80%	75%	93.75
Average of total					89.15

Note: Please average the achievement of all of the indicators together.

B. Implementation Progress Rating

The project Implementation Progress (IP) rating is based on progress against the annual workplan, based on the rating scale provided below. Note that the average is not taken of the component averages, but rather across all indicators in the workplan. No percent achieved should surpass 100% even if the target is exceeded.

IP Rating scale

Rating	% Achievement of annual workplan targets (average)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	100
Satisfactory (S)	80 – 99
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	60 – 79
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	40 – 59
Unsatisfactory (U)	20 – 39
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Below 20%

Guiding Example: How to calculate IP Rating from AWP&B

Project Activities Y1	**Unit**	**Target**	**Achieved**	**Percent Achieved**
Component 1				
Activity 1.1.1	Sites	5	4	80
Activity 1.1.2	Households	120	122	100
Average Component 1				90
Component 2				
Activity 2.1.1	Plans	6	5	83
Activity 2.1.2	Reports	2	2	100
Activity 2.1.3	Proposals	10	7	70
Average Component 2				84.3
Component 3				
Activity 3.1.1	Trips	2	0	0
Activity 3.1.2	Trainings	4	3	75
Average Component 3				37.5
Average achievement of all activities in workplan				72.57

Note: Please average achievement of all of the activities together, not the individual components.

C. Risks

Examine whether the project faces substantial risks in terms of the sustainability of project results. First identify the individual risks (internal and external) that the project is facing and rate those according to the rating scale. After

assessing each individual risk according to the risk rating scale, the overall risk is assessed as an average of the individual risks. In this example, the overall rating is identified as Substantial given that two of the three risks are Substantial, and one is Moderate. This rating is qualitative in nature and considered the best estimate for the average risk the project is facing.

Risk Rating Scale

Rating	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold, and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Modest Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/ or the project may face only modest risks.

Guiding example: How to determine Risk Rating from Risk Analysis in PPR

Risk Description	Risk Rating	Notes
Elections – change of leadership lead to not holding up to commitments	Substantial	If there is a party change, the MOU protected area designation may be thrown out. From our research, the party change is highly likely. See mitigation plan.
The newly established coordination mechanism does not meet regularly, and coordination fails	Modest	There is a history of newly established mechanisms not having the intended effects – which is partially due to limited resources and partially due to lack of buy-in. See mitigation plan.
The new equipment given to rangers will fail at some point and there will be no expert or replacement parts available to fix.	Substantial	Focal person of the lead ministry is engaged in multiple work. So has given very least priority to the project, wanted to take the position as PCC coordinator, however, has least concern in project implementation.