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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

Sub-Grant Application Form

Asia-Pacific Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Capacity Building on REDD+ (for Indigenous Peoples)

Section 1: Contact Details

1.a Legally registered name of the organization, official address including telephone number/s, website, skype

Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI) Nepal

Jwagal-10, Lalitpur, Nepal

Phone: +977-015536245, 015542717

Official Website & Email: www.nhimawanti.org.np nhimawanti@gmail.com **1.b Names of persons to be involved in sub-project implementation** (iii should be different from ii) i. Authorized to sign the Responsible iii. Responsible for finance for implementation if different Sub-Grant Agreement from (i). Name Kanti Rajbhandari Soni Gupta Subesh Gupta Position Chairperson Program Manager Finance Manager Telephone number +977-9851221702 +977-015536245 +977-9841502619 **Email address** kanti rb2006@yahoo.com guptasony0808@gmail.com info.subeshgupta@gmail.com

Section 2: Applicant Organization Information

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Names of members of governing b	ody and their role.				
Name	Position/Role				
Kanti Rajbhandari	Chairperson				
Aarati Shrestha	Vice-Chairperson				
Nirmala Shrestha	General Secretary				
Sarada Parajuli	Treasurer				
Sita Sunar	Secretary				
Anita Shrestha	Member				
Rekha Jha	Member	Member			
Tej Kumari Baniya	Member				
Mina Phulara	Member				
Tara Khadka	Member				
Sarada Rai	ada Rai Member				
Durga Devi Rana Member					
Lalkumari Karki Member Padma Shah Member					
requency of 1 meeting per month					
meetings:					
Number of full time staff of the en	Number of full time staff of the entire organization, indicate whether male or female.				
Project implementation – 8	Finance – 1 male, 1 female	Others -			
Females					

1

Memberships in Networks or Alliances including those with governments					
Name of Alliance/Network	Contact Person	Email Address			
Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Bharati Pathak	bharatipathak 2006@yahoo.com			
Sustainable Environmental Management & Conservation Forums (SEMCF)	Dilli Gautam	info@semcf.org.np			
NGO Federation of Nepal	Jitraj Lama	nepal-sdgs-forum-nfn@googlegroups.com			
Nepal Forum for Sustainable Development Goals (NSDGs)	Nabin Subedi	info@nsdg.org			

Rate your working relationship with government at local and national levels with 1 as lowest and 5 as highest and identify the government offices/agencies.

and identify the government offices/agencies.	
Local government – 4	National government – 4

Sources of funds from 2018 to the present

Sources of Junus from 2020 to the present					
Name of Donor	Amount in US\$	Contact Person	Email Address		
DAI/USAID	90,000	Deepa Shrestha	Deepa_Shrestha@dai.com		
Asia Pacific Network-China	450,000	Lu Qian	lu_qian@apfnet.cn		
Siemenpuu Foundation	40,000	Kari Bottas	kari.bottas@siemenpuu.org		
RECOFTC	25,000	Shambhu Dangal	shambhu.dangal@recoftc.org		
LUSH Charity Foundation	25,000	Kate Shippam	kshippam@lush.com		
Global Fund for Women	15,000	Leila Hessini	lhessini@globalfundforwomen.org		
UN Women	14,500	Anjana Vaidya	anjana.vaidya@unwomen.org		

Indicate the name and contact details of your organization's external auditor.

Name of the External Auditor	Email Address
Suraj Ghimire	surajghimire64@gmail.com

Previous and/or ongoing programs/projects/activities on REDD+, forest and health at local, national and regional levels including engagements with government agencies and the target beneficiaries of this sub-project since 2018.

Programs/Projects/Activities	Beneficiaries and Location
Gender sensitization training & workshop with	2 Rural Women Communities, Sarlahi district of Province 2
REDD+ stakeholders and to increase awareness	of Nepal
about the REDD mechanism – supported by REDD	
Implementation Center, Babarmahal	

Enumerate the trainings on REDD+, forestry and health that the target beneficiaries participated from 2018 to present.

HIMAWANTI NEPAL provided 5 days' gender training and workshop to REDD+ stakeholders i.e. rural women communities of Sarlahi district of Nepal to increase awareness about the REDD mechanism and its implementation benefits in the community forests. The training was provided with the support from the REDD implementing government agency i.e. REDD implementation center, Babarmahal, Kathmandu which also helped in knowledge enhancement of the targeted beneficiaries about the REDD mechanisms and its carbon sequestration techniques.

Fluency of staff in English and the language/s of targeted forest-dependent indigenous peoples.

Most of our staffs are fluent in English but the targeted forest-dependent indigenous people are weak in English. One of our staff i.e. project coordinator is fluent in language of targeted forest-dependent indigenous peoples.

Indicate the labor and occupational health and safety (OHS) standards of your government that your organization follow/implement.

Labor standards	OHS
i) Minimum Wages	The Labor Act – 2017 of Nepal
ii) Working hours	

What problems did your organization encounter related to labor and OHS standards of your country and how did you resolve these?

Our organization has been implementing the minimum wage and working hour standards as per the Labor Act of

our country. Thus, we haven't encountered much problems related to labor and OHS standards of our country.

Describe briefly how your organization settle/address complaints including use of traditional IP practices or just attach a copy of the GM.

Generally, our organization settle/address complaints by the discussions among the board members in the board meeting and by the decisions made in the board meetings.

What are the government requirements your organization has to fulfill before implementing externally funded projects including reports to be submitted?

First of all, we have to take approval from Social Welfare Council (SWC) Nepal for the implementation of the project. Then, after taking approval from Social Welfare Council (SWC), we have to take approval from the concerned District Administration Office (DAO) from the respective districts in which we have to implement the projects.

1 - 3					
What external challenges/risks did	hat external challenges/risks did you experience in project implementation and				
Risks	Remedies				
COVID 19 Risks	Following standard hea	alth	measures like use of masks,		
		sanitizers and social di	stanc	ing. No-cost extension of the	
		projects which could no	t be i	mplemented during the tenure	
		due to continuous lockd	own.		
Safety Risks during travel The risks of safety during			g the travel to the project		
	•	implementation site were mitigated by doing the health and			
	life insurance of the proj	ect st	affs.		
Rate your organization on the following, 5 points being the highest.					
Technical capacity	3	Reports preparation	4		
Safeguards implementation	3	Monitoring& evaluation	4		
Kindly provide 3 references who could attest to your organization's capacity if your proposal is shortlisted					
Name and Position/Designation	Organization/G	overnment Office		Email Address	
Dr. Renu Adhikari/Founder	Women's Reh	nabilitation Center, WO	REC	suchana.renu@gmail.com	
	Nepal				
Divya Devi Gurung	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture dibyadevigurung@gmail.c				
	and Natural Res				
	Nepal				
Radha Wagle	Climate Chan	ge Management Divis	ion,	radhawagle2000@yahoo.com	
	Ministry of Fore	est and Environment			

Section 3: Proposed Sub-Project Identification

Sub-Project title Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management & Biodiversity Preservation for Prosperous I					
Culture of Chepang Communities in Nepal by increasing their engagement in REDD+ mech					
		and decision making process through capacity building trainings and workshops			

Identify the indigenous peoples who will benefit directly from the sub-project and their location in the emission reductions program (ERP) area/s as indicated in your country's Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD).

This project aims to enhance sustainable biodiversity for prosperous living culture of Chepang in Nepal. Chepang is an indigenous ethnic group which is also known as one of the isolated tribal groups of Nepal. They have their own language known as Chepang but is called Chyo-bang by the people themselves. As per Nepal's Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD), most of the indigenous communities i.e. Chepang communities are located in Central and Southern Nepal especially in Chitwan district, Bagmati Province (Province 3). Chitwan district consists of seven municipalities, out of which one is a metropolitan city (Bharatpur metropolitan city), five are urban municipalities (Kalika, Khairahani, Madi, Ratnanagar and Rapti) and one is a rural municipality (Ichchhakamana). An urban municipality is bigger in terms of land area and have higher population compared to a rural municipality.

Thus, the Chepang community is the one who is going to directly benefit from the implementation of this subproject, especially those who are located in Kalika & Rapti municipalities & Ichchhakamana rural municipality (these are the urban municipalities & rural municipality with high number of Chepang population) of Chitwan district of Nepal. Chepang involved at community forest users groups (CFUGs), other communities from the same forest user groups, representatives of concerned urban and rural municipalities, Chepang and indigenous peoples' networks in the district and related stakeholders in the district will directly benefit from the project, while policy makers in province, federal, development practitioners, civil society organizations and nearby municipalities benefit indirectly from the project.

Targeted number of direct ¹	Men – 120	Women - 240	Youth ² - 65	
beneficiaries				
Total Sub-Project cost (amount requested plus		66,161		
counterpart and from other source	res in USD)			
Amount requested from the project (in USD)		55,000		
Amount provided by your organization (in USD)		11,161		
Amount provided by other sources (in USD		-		

Section 4: Proposed Sub-Project Information

4.1 What are the issues and problems of forest-dependent indigenous men, women, youth and persons with disabilities related to REDD+/ERP implementation and delivery of COVID-19 support that the Sub-Project will address?

With increasing populations, lack of arable land and few irrigation options, malnutrition has been a historic problem for the Chepang despite forest supplements. The Chepang have often been characterized as the poorest of Nepal's poor. Forced teenage pregnancies are common. The Chepang men and women are basically egalitarian and no social ranking exists as it does in caste Nepalese society. Many Chepang cannot read and write due to a lack of education beyond elementary school, and this illiteracy stands in contrast to the great gains Nepal has been making in reducing illiteracy. Also, the issues and problems of forest-dependent indigenous men, women, youth and persons with disabilities are lack of income generation activities and poor livelihood due to negligible income sources, repressed and opposed equitable rights to land and forest resources, lack of awareness to claim and preserve customary rights and tenures confirming international laws and commitments ensuring indigenous rights, lack of preservation of traditional knowledge and practices used by the Chepang communities using the forest based resources.

Thus, because of all those issues and problems of one of the most marginalized and underprivileged indigenous community of Nepal (Chepang community) who are the direct forest-dependent beneficiaries, their engagement in REDD+ processes and decision making is also very low. Most of them are not even aware of the REDD+ mechanisms and its processes due to lack of participation in formulation and implementation of REDD+ strategies and actions including Emission Reduction Programs and Benefit Sharing Plans. The percentage of involvement of Chepang community in REDD+ processes and decision making is so low that most of the REDD+ mechanisms in Nepal could not even reflect their needs or address their problems properly. This also prove the deprivation of rights of those indigenous communities to participate fully and meaningfully in REDD+ related processes because of lack of proper inclusion of indigenous people rights in REDD+ designs and implementation processes by the concerned stakeholders. Due to negligible participation of indigenous people in REDD+ decision making process, it is not sure that their forest lands and territories are safeguarded during REDD+ design and implementation mechanism.

4.2 Kindly indicate name/s and contact details of the following:						
REDD+/ERP implementing unit						
Name: Yagynamurthi Khanal	Yagynamurthi Khanal <u>yagnamurti.khanal@nepal.gov.np</u>					
COVID-19 response unit:						
Name: Ghanshyam Bhandari	Email	address	and/or	telephone	number:	
	gshyambhandari1971@gmail.com					

¹ Direct Beneficiaries are IPs and members of indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions who will participate in capacity building and awareness raising activities and meetings/workshops with REDD+/ERP units and COVID-19 response implementers and other stakeholders.

² For uniformity, youth refers to those who are 15-24 years old based on UN Statistics definition

Representative/s of the targeted IP beneficiaries						
Name: Saurya Twapi	Email address and/or telephone number: sauryatwapi@gmail.com					
Name: Sandhya Lwai	Email	address	and/or	telephone	number:	
	lwaisandhya@gmail.com					

4.3 Please provide a short overall description of the proposed Sub-Project. Why is the Sub-Project important to forest-dependent indigenous men, women, youth and persons with disabilities? (Should be related to 4.1 above)

The proposed sub-project titled "Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management & Biodiversity Preservation for Prosperous Living Culture of Chepang Communities in Nepal by increasing their engagement in REDD+ mechanism and decision making process through capacity building trainings and workshops" is expected to achieve the desired goals by strengthening the role of Chepang community in REDD+ implementation process and designs. The forest-dependent indigenous community i.e. Chepang community of Nepal (Chitwan) who are always deprived of their rights as indigenous people will be empowered through various rights based approach to increase their participation in equitable benefit sharing mechanism of REDD+ designs and implementation programs of our country. Thus, the sub-project is important to forest-dependent indigenous men, women, youth and person with disabilities in following ways:

- As being a national level women based organization comprising of indigenous women members, we are
 planning to address all the issues and problems of one of the most underprivileged indigenous community
 of Nepal (Chepang community) who are the direct forest-dependent beneficiaries through various
 capacity building training, awareness raising program, indigenous people rights advocacy campaigns,
 meetings and discussions with the policy makers about securing the rights of indigenous communities in
 REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism, & so on.
- We are also planning to increase the engagement of those indigenous communities who are direct forest-dependent beneficiaries in REDD+ mechanisms and decision making processes through various awareness raising programs and skill development trainings. Also, we are trying to increase their engagement, especially women community members, by leadership development trainings and advocacy campaigns to secure their maximum percentage of representation in REDD+ decision making committees. By the formation of REDD+ mechanism process decision making committees and securing the maximum percentage of women representation in those committees, it will help to reflect the needs of the community and address their problems properly.
- To increase the participation in formulation and implementation of REDD+ strategies and actions including Emission Reduction Programs and Benefit Sharing Plans, we are planning to advocate to make sure that the representatives of the indigenous properly are compulsorily invited to the meetings and workshops related to the REDD+ strategies and actions including ERP programs by the concerned governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.
- We are also planning to enhance and strengthen the understanding of indigenous sovereign rights over land and biodiversity sources as well as traditional and customary practices linking to their cultural diversity through various refectory programs and preservation campaigns.
- Lobbying for the inclusion of indigenous communities' rights in REDD+ design and implementation process and also securing their rights to equitable benefit in REDD+
- Capacity building trainings and awareness raising campaigns to indigenous communities of the project selected district in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+)
- Development of COVID 19 support mechanism within the Chepang communities to help them build a safe working environment and become aware of the preventive measures to reduce the risks and causes of spreading of COVID 19 virus within the communities.

Thus, the project has been designed to achieve the outcomes with the help and support from the experts, resource persons, government representatives from REDD+ Implementation center of Nepal, local level stakeholders like municipalities and rural municipalities, forest division offices etc. Further, we have also planned to develop the working modalities during the project implementation process considering the three tier national REDD+ institutional structure (i.e. Nepal REDD+ Authority, national REDD+ carbon registry and a REDD+/Carbon Payment Authority at central level) which has been proposed for Nepal's REDD+ implementation framework.

4.4 Desired Overall Outcomes (what benefits and/or immediate positive changes do you anticipate for the targeted indigenous peoples, their communities and/or organizations in relation to the implementation of your country's REDD+/ERP and government's COVID-19 response that are directly related to sub-project implementation?)

The benefits and/or immediate positive changes that we anticipate for the targeted indigenous peoples, their communities and/or organizations in relation to the implementation of our country's REDD+/ERP and government's COVID-19 response are as follows:

- 1) Increased participation of direct project beneficiaries in formulation and implementation of REDD+ strategies and actions
 - First, the successful implementation of this sub-project will strengthen the engagement of targeted forest dependent beneficiaries in REDD+ implementation mechanisms and decision-making processes. REDD+ takes place in three phases, namely Readiness, Demonstration and Results-Based Payments. The readiness phase in Nepal focuses on basic readiness activities, including completion of a draft REDD+ strategy, studies evaluating strategies, awareness raising, consultations, and capacity building of various right holders and stakeholders, and preparation of the REDD+ Readiness Package. Thus, the implementation of this sub-project would significantly help in ensuring that the IPs communities that are the direct beneficiaries in REDD+ are not left out & also their capacity is enhanced in sustainable forest management in the ongoing readiness phase of REDD+ in Nepal.
 - Another positive outcome will be the increased participation of project beneficiaries in formulation and implementation of REDD+ strategies and actions. There are various committees formed by the government at national and provincial level for the implementation of REDD+ strategies and programs. For example: National REDD+ Steering Committee (NRSC), National REDD+ Coordination Committee (NRCC), are the various committees formed by the government in which representatives from the networks/organizations of women, indigenous peoples, local communities, Madhesis, Dalits, & private sectors engaged in forest resource management are also the members of those so-formed committees which makes decisions on various REDD+ implementation and policy making matters. Thus, the implementation of this sub-project will ensure the meaningful participation of the representatives of indigenous communities in those REDD+ committees and ensure their significant role in decision making processes.
 - Also, the joint implementation of the project with the government agencies will directly benefit the
 indigenous communities by securing their rights in REDD+ benefit by the policy makers and REDD+
 implementing government and non-government agencies through various advocacy, lobbying and
 awareness raising campaigns;
- 2) Increased participation of project beneficiaries in Emission Reduction Programs and Benefit Sharing Plans
 - Most of the issues and problems of one of the most underprivileged indigenous community of Nepal (Chepang community) who are the forest-dependent beneficiaries will be addressed through various capacity building trainings, awareness raising programs, indigenous people rights advocacy campaigns, meetings and discussions with the policy makers about securing the rights of indigenous communities in REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism, & so on.
 - Another positive outcome will be that the beneficiaries of REDD+ benefits who felt neglected, left before
 will feel valued, and highly considered when the project implementation will reflect their needs and
 rights.
 - As being a women-led and women-focused IPOs organization, the implementation of the project will also focus on the rural women's rights to empower them through capacity buildings trainings and leadership development trainings. The beneficiaries who will be benefitted from the implementation of the project will be the 425 Chepang communities' members including men, women and youths of Chitwan district.

4.5 Kindly enumerate and describe the activities to be implemented by the Sub-Project and the expected results.

Activities for beneficiaries only

Expected results (refer to the indicators in the invitation/call)

A) Increased participation of direct project beneficiaries in formulation and implementation of REDD+ strategies and actions

1. Capacity building trainings in formulation | 1. Strengthen the engagement of targeted forest dependent

and implementation of REDD+ strategies and actions, and in Emission Reduction Programs and Benefit Sharing Plans (3 days for 25 women, men and youth per municipality)

- 1a. Kalika municipality
- 1b. Rapti municipality
- 1c. Ichchhakamana rural municipality

beneficiaries in REDD+ implementation mechanisms and decision-making processes, ERP programs and benefit sharing plans. The training would also help to:

- Analyze the drivers of deforestation and mechanisms for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) as well as define the reference levels;
- Clarification of Carbon rights issues and distribution mechanisms for REDD-plus benefits;
- Gain knowledge about the carbon markets and fund-based mechanisms and performance based payments for emissions reductions and carbon stock enhancements.
- 2. Awareness raising on REDD+ mechanisms and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) (3 days for 25 women, men and youth per municipality)
- 2a. Kalika municipality
- 2b. Rapti municipality
- 2c. Ichchhakamana rural municipality
- 3. Incorporating and publishing women's rights, laws and policies documents related to REDD+, and adjusting knowledge materials to existing literacy levels and spoken languages of women
- 2. The awareness raising programs would let the members of IPs communities i.e. Chepang communities to become aware of the REDD+ mechanisms and the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The programs would also let them become aware about the rights of forest dependent IPs in REDD+ mechanisms.
- 3. Such policies documents would help in documenting the Chepang women's rights, laws and policies related to REDD+, and adjusting knowledge materials to existing literacy levels and spoken languages of those Chepang women. This document is 20-25-page booklet which would be prepared by us in local language i.e. Nepali in a very simple manner. The publication will include the general information about the REDD+ mechanism, ERP information and REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism in a simplified & pictorial manner that would be distributed to the direct beneficiaries during the trainings and other programs. This document will be prepared before the initiation of any training activities by us. In addition, we are planning to publish such document in around 1000 copies.

The published document would also provide information about all relevant aspects in appropriate language and forms to raise awareness and support the capacities of indigenous and forest dependent communities to participate before any start of the capacity building training and other activities.

B) Increased participation of direct project beneficiaries in Emission Reduction Programs and Benefit Sharing Plans

- 4. Capacity building activities including on the elements of REDD+ such as safeguards, grievance redress mechanisms, benefit sharing arrangements, monitoring, and carbon accounting (3 days for 45 women, men and youth of Kalika & Rapti municipality & Ichchhakamana rural municipality)
- 5. Formation of REDD+ mechanism process decision making committees at municipality level/Capacitate existing IPs' forest based
- 4. Enhancement of the knowledge on the elements of REDD+ such as safeguards, grievance redress mechanisms, benefit sharing arrangements, monitoring, and an overview of carbon accounting among the IPs communities. The training would also help to support the establishment and/or strengthening of independent grievance and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- 5. Increasing the capacity of existing IPs' forest based committees and also increasing the number of women representation in those committees would ensure the

committees and securing the maximum percentage of women representation in those committees (1 day for 25 women, men and youth per municipality)

5a. Kalika municipality

5b. Rapti municipality,

5c. Ichchhakamana rural municipality

5d. 3 days Capacity building training in women leadership to the existing IPs' forest based committees and securing the maximum percentage of women representation in those committees (35 women from Kalika, Rapti municipalities & Ichchhakamana rural municipality)

transparency in equitable benefit sharing mechanism of REDD+ benefits. One committee will be formed in each of the municipalities.

- 6. Capacity building trainings to increase the understanding of indigenous sovereign rights over land and biodiversity resources as well as traditional and customary practices linking to their cultural diversity (3 days for 45 women, men and youth of Kalika & Rapti municipality & Ichchhakamana rural municipality)
- 6. Enhance and strengthen the understanding of indigenous sovereign rights over land and biodiversity resources as well as traditional and customary practices linking to their cultural diversity through various capacity building training programs, refectory programs and preservation campaigns. The training would also ensure safeguards for self-determination, free, prior and informed consent, and special consideration of indigenous peoples' rights and livelihoods, including security of land tenure and resource rights and arrangements in REDD-plus process.
- 7. Capacity Building training on alternative/sustainable livelihood like farming using for the representatives of Indigenous communities in Kalika & Rapti municipality & Ichchhakamana rural municipality (3 days for 45 women, men and youth of Kalika & Rapti municipality & Ichchhakamana rural municipality)
- 7. The training on alternative/sustainable livelihood like farming would help to enhance the farming knowledge and skills to increase the productivity using the new techniques and tools by the representatives of IP communities. The training also aims in improving farming & increasing access to forest resources like barren lands by cultivating them that also would help in sustainable forest management.

Joint activities with governments, other stakeholders and beneficiaries

- 8. Gathered recommendations and learnings from the trainings are shared with the district/provincial/national level governments and other stakeholders including raising awareness on the proper inclusion of IPs and understanding of related international instruments on the rights of IPs to lobby for the inclusion of indigenous communities rights in REDD+ design and implementation process and also securing their rights to equitable benefit in REDD+ (1 day per activity for 35 participants from government and representatives from Kalika and Rapti municipalities Ichchhakamana rural municipality & other concerned stakeholders)
- 8. District/Provincial/National level government stakeholders gets cognizant about the facts and gaps about the IPs rights in REDD+, which would help them to address the issue of exclusion of indigenous communities' rights in REDD+ design and implementation process and securing their rights to equitable benefit in REDD+. Most of the government representatives at district/provincial/national level would become aware with the REDD+ strategies and actions and in Emission Reduction Programs and Benefit Sharing Plans, which will help to secure the rights of indigenous communities in REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism. The program would also help to raise awareness about the importance of proper inclusion of indigenous peoples, and understanding of related international rights provisions amongst government officials and other stakeholders.
- 8a. District level (Chitwan district)
- 8b. Provincial level stakeholders

8c. National level

The activity would also support local government agencies in their capacity assessment, conducting dialogue sessions, training sessions and interventions in different organizational capacity areas with focus on marginalized and underprivileged IPs communities.

- 9. Capacity building training to reduce the risk of COVID 19 within the IPs communities in Chitwan District (3 days for 45 women, men and youth per training for Kalika, Rapti municipalities & Ichchhakamana rural municipality))
- 9. Prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 or the virus causing COVID-19.

4.6 Describe any potential external factors/risks that may affect implementation and how you will mitigate these.

Risks/Challenges	Remedies/Mitigation		
1. Third wave of COVID-19 risk in Nepal	1. Follow standard health protocols like using masks,		
	sanitizers, gloves and social distancing while the		
	implementation of the project.		
2. Local government reluctance to support the inclusion	2. Creating pressure groups and campaigns to make		
of IPs rights in plans and policies related to REDD+	local government accountable for the inclusion of IPs		
mechanism	rights in plans and policies related to REDD+		
	mechanism.		
3. Travel restrictions	3. Working closely and in coordination with both		
	central and provincial governmental agencies.		
4. Indigenous communities i.e. Chepang communities	4. Hiring a translator from the local region to reduce		
language barriers	the risks of language barriers.		
5. Very low literacy rate among the Chepang	5. Selection of representatives from Chepang		
communities of the targeted beneficiaries	communities who are educated and can explain to		
	other members of the communities in a simpler		
	manner		

4.7 Which other groups/organizations, including government, will be involved in Sub-Project implementation?

Name of group/organization	Email Address	Roles/Responsibilities		
REDD Implementation Center,	yagnamurti.khanal@nepal.gov.np	Effective monitoring and guiding the		
Babarmahal		project team in effective implementation		
		of the project		

4.8 How will you ensure the proportionate participation of men, women, youth and persons with disabilities in sub-project implementation, monitoring and evaluation?

As being a rural woman based organization, our mission, vision and goal is to strengthen the role of rural women in natural resource management by securing their equitable rights in the benefit sharing mechanism in natural resources. (HIMAWANTI) Nepal is an independent, non-governmental, non-political, non-profit making national-level organization involved in advancing gender equality and strengthening the role of marginalized and underprivileged rural women and girls, especially youths, in sustainable natural resource management. It has been working on the promotion of women's role in natural resource management (water, forest, and land) and associated issues, including active and meaningful participation of rural women in the political, economic, and environmental issues. Our organization has been working to improve the quality of lives of marginalized and underprivileged rural women and girls through networking, advocacy and awareness campaigns, skill development, and capacity-building training.

Since its inception in 1998, the outreach of HIMAWANTI has grown into a national network with membership of over 25,000 women & youths, and has also working in partnership with over 100 like-minded local and regional organizations. HIMAWANTI has successfully enabled rural women to increase their incomes, enhance their leadership skills and become self-reliant while participating in decision-making activities. Over the years, HIMAWANTI has led projects that have created sustainable economic empowerment opportunities for women while also improving the ecosystem in sustainable manner. HIMAWANTI has ensured that women have a strong voice in community forest management, developed agro-forestry-based entrepreneurship opportunities, created eco-tourism projects, initiated urban forestry projects, created climate change mitigation activities and carried out reforestation and disaster risk reduction projects.

Thus, we ensure the proportionate participation of men, women, youth and persons with disabilities in our proposed sub-project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

4.9 How will Sub-Project gains/benefits be sustained after completion?

Most of the project interventions are for the short term that could hinder the actual result and show the impact, but project sustainability depends on first making the governance work, coordination among all stakeholders maintained, local networks made functional, mainstream the program under the government agenda, and comply with SDG goals. Indigenous communities may not have access to equitable benefit sharing, decision-making processes, thus, our organization will ensure that at least these Indigenous communities form their own groups and network and get an equal opportunity to closely work with the local government for getting technical and financial assistance. The proposed project is designed to work with the beneficiaries from the phase of project planning, identification of issues and challenges, and outline sustainability steps until the end of the project. In addition, we would ensure the sustainability of the project gains and benefits by making sure that the ownership of the project is transferred along with the knowledge, skills and capacities in the formulation and implementation of Nepal's REDD+ strategies and actions including in the implementation of Emission Reductions Program (ERP) and benefit sharing programs.

Further, the implementation of the project would also help the three tiers of government levels to upscale their future initiatives in designing REDD+ programs by taking into consideration the rights of forest dependent IPs in REDD+ mechanisms. The project would also ensure the capacity building and meaningful participation of the local IPs communities/targeted beneficiaries in sustainable forest management that would help REDD+ to meet its intended objectives.