

Summary of The Lion's Share COVID-19 Response Small Grants



Project Document

<p>Programme Title: The Lion's Share COVID-19 Response Small Grants – Resilience in Wildlife Communities</p>	<p>Recipient Organization (RO): UNOPS</p>	
<p>Programme Contact: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Name: Edriss Riffat E-mail: EdrissR@unops.org Phone: +1 917 293 6161</p>	<p>Programme Partner(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elephants Alive - PAZESA Horticultural Community - Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project - Fundación Pachamama - Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO Trust) - Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation - Enjojo Wildlife Foundation - Biodiversity Research and Conservation Society Nepal - Bhutan Ecological Society 	
<p>Programme Description: The Lion's Share Resilience in Wildlife Community Small Grants support initiatives in communities dependent on wildlife-based tourism. The small grants will support non-profit organizations in developing countries to carry out innovative local-level action to increase resilience and well-being of communities against external shocks such as pandemic crises in wildlife rich areas.</p>	<p>Total Cost of the Programme: USD 412,164</p> <p>Total Lion's Share Contribution of the Programme: USD 206,082</p> <p>Parallel Funding – GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP): USD 206,082 (Annex A)</p>	
<p>Programme Countries and Locations (provinces or priority areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Africa - Greater Kruger National Park (GKNP) - Zambia - Kalichero, Mphomwa and Mambwe - Sri Lanka - Rekawa - Ecuador - Achuar indigenous territory, Amazon Rainforest - Namibia - Kunene Region - Mongolia - Uvs, Khovd and Bayan-Ulgii provinces - Uganda - Queen Elizabeth National Park - Nepal – Badia National Park - Bhutan – Manas River basin 		
<p>Start Date: October 10, 2020</p>	<p>End Date: October 9, 2021</p>	<p>Total duration (in months): 12 months</p>
<p>On behalf of United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Mr. Kirk Bayabos</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____ <u>29 October 2020</u> _____</p>	<p>On behalf of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for The Lion's Share Steering Committee: Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____ <u>26 October 2020</u> _____</p>	

I. Institutional Arrangement

Launched in 2018, The Lion's Share Fund is the first ever multi-partner global platform hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for wildlife conservation and animal care with a goal of stemming the rapid loss of biodiversity by leveraging private sector leadership. As part of the initiative's overall investment strategy, the Lion's Share invests funding as small grants to programs and initiatives that benefit wildlife and environmental conservation worldwide. These grants are small investments that have the potential to provide visible and tangible contributions to global wildlife conservation efforts.

For The Lion's Share's recent call for proposals "Resilience in Wildlife Community Grants", selected grants will be managed by UNOPS as Participating UN Agency according to the MOU agreement with the MPTFO, through an existing delivery mechanism under the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP).

The SGP provides financial and technical support to communities and Civil Society Organizations to meet the overall objective of global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions. SGP provides grants to community-based and civil society organizations (CBOs and CSOs) in 125 countries that promote community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth.

The SGP management and implementation arrangements are detailed in the SGP Operational Guidelines (please see attached). At the national and local levels, SGP operates in a decentralized and country-driven manner through country programme teams composed of a National Coordinator (NC), often a Programme Assistant (PA), and a National Steering Committee (NSC) in each participating country. Given its proven grant-making model complemented by extensive experience in capacity building and outreach, SGP is recognized as an effective and reliable partner to reach and manage large number of small grant projects implemented by CSOs and CBOs. Moreover, SGP's efficient grant making procedures can ensure that grants meant for local communities can be committed in a fast and effective manner. Therefore, it is envisaged that the SGP mechanism will be utilized for the delivery of the COVID response grants – co-funded by Lion's Share and SGP. Four out of the nine selected projects will be financed through the Lion Share Fund through this agreement. Remaining 5 selected projects will be financed in parallel by the GEF SGP with the GEF resources.

UNOPS will manage and deliver the project through the SGP, and will also provide necessary execution services including administrative, financial, legal, operational, and procurement as described in detail in the UNOPS SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). UNOPS will assume full responsibility and accountability for the use of the Lion Share's resources. UNOPS will also provide necessary financial and status reporting on the grants.

According to the SGP Operational Guidelines, each grantee under the Lion's Share small grants will typically receive the grants in two-three instalments: at the start, mid-term, and final. A standard technical and financial status report will be submitted by the grantee with support from the SGP National Coordinator at mid-term and final stages of the project. Relevant information from the reports will be shared with the Lion's Share Secretariat for further use and analysis for knowledge management and other purposes.

Thematic Scope

As of April 14, 2020, over 1.8 million people worldwide have contracted the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The spread of COVID-19 is a health crisis but it is not just a health crisis. COVID-19 threatens to create devastating social, economic, and political crises that could leave deep scars for years to come - reversing development gains achieved over the last 20 years. The pandemic is moving like a wave – one that may yet crash on the systems and peoples least able to cope.

Resilience in Wildlife Communities

In recent years the emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases such as COVID-19 has increased significantly as habitat is disturbed and human exposure to formerly remote pathogen reservoirs in nature increases. As countries restrict international travel and the movement of people to slow the spread of coronavirus, many communities are experiencing insecurity from the loss of income generated from tourists.

The Lion's Share calls for proposals for the Resilience in Wildlife Community Grants, which supports initiatives in communities dependent on wildlife-based tourism and income from associated activities, to withstand this current, and future, outbreak of pandemics and other global shocks.

The small grants (US\$ 20,000 – 50,000) are disbursed to non-profit organizations in developing countries seeking funds to catalyze community/local-level action to protect severely threatened ecosystems or wildlife in their last strongholds. These grants will finance local projects that find innovative solutions to wildlife conservation challenges, while simultaneously enhancing local people's well-being and livelihood.

II. Selection Process

1. Call for Proposals

On April 16, 2020, The Lion's Share launched the call for proposals titled *COVID-19 Response - Resilience in Wildlife Community Grants*. The call for proposals was published on The Lion's Share website and social media platforms. It was also widely distributed through conservation networks and through UNDP's country offices.

The application period concluded on May 15, 2020. The Lion's Share COVID-19 Small Grants call generated 1,630 submissions from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Oceania, representing 106 countries.

The published announcement and proposal template can be found here: <https://www.thelionssharefund.com/content/thelionssharefund/en/home/news/COVID-19-response-call-for-proposals/>

2. Eligibility

The eligibility of each received proposal was assessed according to the following criteria:

- A. Recipient must be a non-profit, non-governmental organization. For profit social enterprises, state national park authorities, etc. are ineligible.
- B. Project must be located in a developing country (includes "countries in transition", e.g. Albania). The NGO recipient may be based in a developed country as long as the project and its implementing partners are based in a developing country.
- C. Project must be in wildlife rich areas and targeting communities working on conservation and deriving benefits and incomes from wildlife-based tourism/livelihoods.
- D. Proposal include the majority of submission elements:
 - a. Project Background
 - b. Current wildlife-based ecotourism operations

- c. Proposed activities and impact
 - d. Conservation benefits
 - e. Project beneficiaries
 - f. Project innovations
 - g. Impact on long-term sustainability within community
 - h. Grant recipient
 - i. Implementing partners
 - j. Budget breakdown
- E. Proposals must address COVID related threats and losses in the community as it relates to wildlife. General COVID-19 response proposals are ineligible.

3. Longlist Scoring

Eligible proposals were scored according to 5 criteria:

- A. Criteria 1 (Max 5pts) Presence of critically endangered and/or iconic species
- B. Criteria 2 (Max 5pts) Uniqueness and importance of the habitats
- C. Criteria 3 (Max 5pts) Dependency of communities on wildlife-based tourism and directly linked livelihoods
- D. Criteria 4 (Max. 5pts) Innovativeness and scalability
- E. Criteria 5 (Max. 5pts) Strong COVID linkage

The total maximum score of longlisted proposals is 25. Proposals that scored 23 or over were added to the longlist.

4. Shortlist Scoring

Longlisted proposals were then scored for potential shortlisting according to 6 criteria:

- A. Criteria 1 (5 Points) - Might the interventions help maintain confidence in conservation-based livelihoods?
- B. Criteria 2 (5 Points) - Does the project propose alternative livelihoods that supplement or alleviate dependence on nature tourism ventures?
- C. Criteria 3 (5 points) - Does this project address long-term sustainability challenges and/or future shocks faced by the community
- D. Criteria 4 (5 points) - Are the proposed activities scalable to other communities?
- E. Criteria 5 (10 points) - Does this project have strong storytelling potential/Can it be easily communicated to the public (5 points)? AND Could it engage people and generate an emotional connection/Is it inspirational (5 points)?
- F. Score Criteria 6 (5 points) - Does this project support marginalized groups (e.g. women, youth, indigenous peoples, etc.)? 5 points - 3 or more groups, 3 points - 2 groups, 2 points - 1 group, 1 point - indirect support of a group.

The total maximum score of shortlisted proposals is 35. Proposals that generated a total combined longlist score plus shortlist of 50 or over were placed on the shortlist for further consideration. The top scoring 40 proposals were sent to the Selection Panel for further review and consideration.

5. Selection Panel Approval

The selection panel reviewed a list of approximately 40 high scoring and critically important marine and terrestrial projects with budgets totalling nearly \$2 million USD. The top 40 projects were ranked by the expert panel for prioritization for funding.

6. Desk Review of Potential Grantees

Each proposal selected for funding had desk review completed to assess the credibility of applicant organizations prior to submitting for Steering Committee decision.

7. Steering Committee Decision

Following the final approval and ranking by the selection panel, the top ranked proposals were submitted and approved by The Lion’s Share Steering Committee, according to a sequenced funding approach (dependent on available funding).

III. Programme Activities

A. Funded by The Lion’s Share Fund Contribution

1. Project One: South Africa - Black Mambas: Bees, Permaculture, and Human-Elephant Conflict Reduction

The Greater Kruger National Park (GKNP) is one of the most biodiverse biomes in South Africa, and one of the few remaining savannah habitats in southern Africa that enables the large-scale movement of elephants and other species. The region makes up part of the Kruger to Canyon UNESCO World Heritage Biosphere, home to nearly 74% of South Africa’s elephants. The region is hugely dependent on wildlife tourism, as it employs over 10,000 people. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, wildlife losses could increase as people that have lost employment face starvation. It is critical that local communities are resilient to the loss of tourism and can improve their food security.

Based on the success of their elephant-impact mitigation project from 2015, Elephants Alive (EA) aims to support the vital services of the Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) by improving their skills and food security outside of the PAs where they live.

The project aims to enable the 22 mostly single-parent women of the Black Mamba APU to reach a point where they can ensure their own food security, through beekeeping skills and the maintenance of permaculture gardens. The first output focuses on holding quarterly training workshops in beekeeping, honey production and horticulture, installing 100 beehives, harvesting honey and producing honey related products, and selling honey and products to local lodges. The second output focuses on installing an irrigation system, constructing greenhouse tunnels, planting one permaculture, one medicinal plant garden, and one elephant-deterrent garden (with chili, garlic, etc.), and sale of excess produce to local lodges and farmers markets.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
<p>1: Black Mambas trained in beekeeping and derive income from sale of honey and wax</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: Alternative incomes are derived, reducing pressure on natural systems.</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Bees also function as crop protectors from elephants, as elephants fear bees, and will reduce human-wildlife conflict</p> <p>Outcome1.3: Bees will naturally increase the productivity of the plants and trees they visit, thereby benefiting people who require additional forms of income and food.</p>	<p>The Lion’s Share: 50,000 USD</p>

2: Establish a plant nursery, providing food and pollen for bees and cash crops	Outcome 2.1: Alternative incomes are derived, reducing pressure on natural systems.	
Total Lion's Share Funding		USD \$50,000

2. Project Two: Zambia - Fish Breeding Hub, Solar Horticulture, and Livestock Farming

Kalichero, Mphomwa and Mambwe are the most significant buffer zone for most stray wildlife from South Luangwa National Park, and a biodiversity hotspot. The communities in these areas support their livelihoods through tourism related activities from the Park, providing the sector with goods and services. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated poverty of these already vulnerable households, suffering an economic shock that has left them with less than USD\$0.3 of income per day. Consequently, Women and young people have resort to poaching using extremely poisonous toxins like Aluminium Phosphide and Termik, which signifies a high risk to their lives and this fragile ecosystem.

The project aims to improve conservation of wildlife by creating viable and sustainable livelihoods for these vulnerable communities. The project will promote tilapia fish farming implementing a fish breeding hub, crop production through the installation of a solar horticulture, and livestock farming. This will enable the community to produce fish, meat, and vegetable for consumption and commercialization of the surplus, improving their overall health and reducing adverse external impacts. The project includes training and empowerment of the community, including women and youth, for ensuring the sustainability and replicability of the effort. The community will also be sensitized on the risks of poison poaching.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
1: Provide households with year-round food security and leveraged income through tilapia, vegetable, and livestock farming.	<p>Outcome 1.1: The project will reduce ecotourism dependence through viable and sustainable livelihoods enterprises and will enhance food security and income, creating lifetime resilience reducing dependence on external employment.</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Fish breeding will continually provide fingerlings and trainings to ensure long-term sustainability of the initiative.</p> <p>Outcome 1.3: The project will apply the Climate Smart Aquaculture approach using pond liners, tanks and customized solar aquaponics, reducing labor strains digging ponds, water loses through percolation, and will help combat climate change.</p>	The Lion's Share: 26,600 USD
2: Sensitize the local population on risks of poisonous poaching and conserve the biodiversity	Outcome 2.1: Poison poaching and illness caused by poison exposure is reduced.	
Total Lion's Share Funding		USD \$26,600

3. Project Three: Sri Lanka - Sea Turtle Conservation Through Rangers, Community Livelihoods and Education

The beaches and mangroves of Rekawa, Sri Lanka, are a hotspot for sea turtles, which have been protected over the last 20 years thanks to the efforts of Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) to educate the local community and provide income through conservation and ecotourism. However, significant threats still exist in the form of sea turtle harvesting, turtle egg gathering, mining of corals and sand, mining shells from the lagoon, and cutting mangroves. Lack of education on marine and coastal resources, lack of law enforcement, lack of community participation in conservation and management of coastal resources have been contributory factors to the destruction of coastal ecosystems.

TCP, through its education programmes and ecotourism benefits, is a model for community conservation. Egg poachers are now tour guides and nest protectors, but without tourism income this project is facing serious shortfalls in funding for continued operation.

The project proposes to support beach rangers while the pandemic continues, meanwhile developing sustainable organic farms in 15 households to reduce income stress in the community. The community center which serves as the ecotourism hub will be improved and a website developed, to improve marketability for domestic tourism. Importantly, education is a major aspect of the project’s implementation. Booklets and educational materials will be dispersed through the community, targeting young people. This will foster conservation minded activities for the future and increase awareness of the potential for ecotourism and the benefits of conservation.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
1: Support beach rangers for continuing patrols	Outcome 1.1: Conservation of all sea turtle nests – Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Olive-Ridley, Leatherback, Green. 5 of 7 sea turtle species nest here and nest protection will continue by use of funds for local rangers/nest protectors.	The Lion’s Share: 50,000 USD
2: Develop alternative livelihoods in the community	Outcome 2.1: Community income increased through alternative livelihoods, including organic gardening, herb cultivation, and sewing for masks/PPE production. (small scale)	
3: Improve the community center for community education and develop strategy for domestic tourism marketing.	Outcome 3.1: Community members are sensitized on conservation and ecotourism benefits. Outcome 3.2: Domestic tourism is encouraged, reducing dependency on international tourism which is less resilient to global shocks.	
Total Lion’s Share Funding		USD \$50,000

4. Project Four: Ecuador - Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Medicinal Knowledge and Database for Commercial Use

Emblematic wildlife species in this region of the Ecuadorian Amazon include pink river dolphins, giant river otters, harpy eagles, and jaguars. It is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, representing more than 10% of the world’s biodiversity. The primary rainforests on the Ecuadorian Amazon are under pressure from the oil industry, illegal logging, and human expansion, threatening the fauna of this biodiverse ecosystem. However, the Achuar indigenous community in southeast Ecuador have continued to protect their forest and have developed an ecotourism industry that supports their community and promotes conservation activities. COVID-19 has disrupted

their revenue stream from tourism which was linked to the conservation and education activities carried out by the community.

This project aims to develop new and alternative forms of income for this indigenous community, and women in particular. They will train members of 12 communities in the methods of sustainable home-gardening, increasing the diversity of local farmed species including manioc, hot peppers, and local medicinal plants. Furthermore, funds will be used to form community group enterprises for the sale of handcrafts and local products at the regional and national level, as opposed to a larger network of single sellers. Finally, a database of local sellers and producers will be created to develop a network and platform for communication and sales between buyers and producers in the local area.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
1: Train communities in the methods of sustainable home-gardening, increasing the diversity of local farmed species including manioc, hot peppers, and local medicinal plants.	Outcome 1.1: Strengthened local capacity to guarantee food security through sustainable agriculture.	The Lion's Share: 50,000 USD
2: Form community group enterprises for the sale of handcrafts and local products	Outcome 2.1: Strengthened local capacity to safeguard natural medicinal knowledge and revitalize its use. Outcome 2.2: New community revenue streams are created	
3: Develop a network and platform for communication and sales between buyers and producers in the local area	Outcome 3.1: Community enterprises are a model of business that may also be adapted by other communities, it taking only communication and organization to get started. Outcome 3.2: Strengthening local networks retains wealth in the community and decreases reliance on outside markets.	
Total Lion's Share Funding		USD \$50,000

IV. Selected Organizations to be Contracted by UNOPS

With reference to the MOU signed between MPTFO and UNOPS regarding *The Lion's Share COVID-19 Response Small Grants – Resilience in Wildlife Communities*.

UNDP has selected the following organization(s) to be contracted by UNOPS in the context of the *COVID-19 Response Small Grants – Resilience in Wildlife Communities* programme engagement:

1. Elephants Alive, South Africa - Black Mambas: Bees, Permaculture, and Human-Elephant Conflict Reduction, \$50,000 USD
Contact: Michelle Henley, michelephant@savetheelephants.org
2. PAZESA Horticultural Community, Zambia - Fish Breeding Hub, Solar Horticulture, and Livestock Farming, \$26,600 USD
Contact: Paul Phiri, pazesacommunity@gmail.com

3. Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project, Sri Lanka - Sea Turtle Conservation Through Rangers, Community Livelihoods and Education, \$50,000 USD
Contact: Thushan Kapurusinghe, Project Leader, kjthushan@yahoo.co.uk
4. Fundación Pachamama, Project Four: Ecuador - Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Medicinal Knowledge and Database for Commercial Use, \$50,000 USD
Contact: Javier Félix, javierfelix84@gmail.com
5. Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO Trust), Namibia - Virtual Safaris, Permaculture Gardens and Elephant-Human Conflict Reducing Chili Fences, \$45,200 USD *(To be funded by GEF SGP parallel financing – See Annex A)*
Contact: Charlotte Hiernard, awareness@tosco.org
6. Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation, Mongolia - Cheese Production for Conservation and Improving Livelihoods in Snow Leopard Landscape, \$37,500 USD *(To be funded by GEF SGP parallel financing – See Annex A)*
Contact: Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, bayarjargal@snowleopard.org
7. Enjojo Wildlife Foundation, Uganda - Establishing Beekeeping Around Queen Elizabeth National Park, \$50,000 USD *(To be funded by GEF SGP parallel financing – See Annex A)*
Contact: Kristien Debref, krisdebref@me.com
8. Biodiversity Research and Conservation Society Nepal, Nepal - Permaculture Farming and Revitalization of Local Traditions, \$45,000 USD *(To be funded by GEF SGP parallel financing – See Annex A)*
Contact: Manoj Barakoti, brcsnepalktm@gmail.com
9. Bhutan Ecological Society, Bhutan - Community-Based Aquaponic Agriculture, Virtual Tourism and Community Awareness, \$45,000 USD *(To be funded by GEF SGP parallel financing – See Annex A)*
Contact: Pem Lama, pem@bes.org.bt

UNDP confirms that, in selecting the above grantees, it has complied with applicable internal rules regulations and procedure.

Furthermore, since the selection is outside UNOPS' control, UNDP recognizes and agrees that UNOPS shall not be accountable, or otherwise carry any liability, for the performance of the selected entities above.

V. Total Budget

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	Lion's Share Contribution Total USD
1. Staff and other personnel	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	
4. Contractual services	
5. Travel	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$176,600
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs (M&E + Project Opening Fee)	\$16,000
	\$192,600
Total Direct Costs	
8. Indirect Support Costs (UNOPS 7%)	\$13,482
TOTAL Costs	\$206,082

ANNEX A

A. Funded by GEF SGP Parallel Financing

1. Project Five: Namibia - Virtual Safaris, Permaculture Gardens and Elephant-Human Conflict Reducing Chili Fences

The Kunene Region in northwest Namibia is expansive, sparsely populated and semi-arid, and is home to a large diversity of wildlife. The region counts 38 communal conservancies, which are self-governing, democratic entities, recognized by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), including more than 65 000 members. Kunene has a roaming population of black rhinos and a population of desert-adapted lions that expanded from 20 in 1990 to 150 in 2015. Drought causes conflict with wildlife as lion attack livestock and elephants damage water infrastructure. A lack of tourists in the area may embolden poachers. The Conservancies have experienced a significant loss of income from wildlife-based tourism due to COVID-19 measures.

The first activity, setting up permaculture gardens and growing chillies, will reduce human-elephant conflict through the use of chili fences and bring additional income to the communities through sales. The second activity, virtual safaris for the international market, will also bring in income and help maintain the communities' confidence in tourism and conservation. The third activity, "Living with Wildlife" experiences for local tourism: "a day in the life of a ranger", "living-with-wildlife stories at the campfire" and "elephant-friendly permaculture experience" will enable communities to maintain a positive attitude towards wildlife, reducing the chance of human-wildlife conflict and retaliatory killings, as well as inspiring and training a new group of wildlife rangers and guides. The income from the activities will go towards employing "elephant rangers".

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
1: Set up virtual safaris for the international market.	Outcome 1.1: Virtual tourism will provide the community an income from their wildlife and therefore will be more likely to support conservation efforts in the area. Outcome 1.2: The training in camera/technology use will provide future opportunities for employment.	SGP: \$45,200 USD
2: Establish permaculture gardens, primarily to grow chillies for elephant proof fences and "elephant friendly chilli products for local and international market".	Outcome 2.1: Provide employment and self-reliance for the community members and increased co-existence between the human population and wildlife. Outcome 2.2: Increase food security by local production of food sources.	
Total SGP funding		USD \$45,200

2. Project Six: Mongolia - Cheese Production for Conservation and Improving Livelihoods in Snow Leopard Landscape

The remote provinces of Uvs, Khovd and Bayan-Ulgii present both dry arid steppe desert and large areas of mountainous habitat, including the highest mountain in Mongolia. Several Protected Areas encompass this prime

mountain habitat which are home to unique wildlife such as the snow leopard. A significant part of the population of this region live in semi-nomadic subsistence communities that eke out a living from livestock herding. For these communities, ecotourism represents an important part of their economies, allowing them to conserve the local biodiversity. Due to COVID-19, communities have lost their main source of income, increasing the threat to wildlife by poaching, overgrazing and mining activities. As tourism has halted, communities have also lost roughly 40% of income derived from selling of handicrafts.

This project will help herder communities find alternative and more resilient ways to increase their incomes while also achieving their conservation targets. Specifically, funds will enable seven communities to build their own cheese-making industry. Dairy goods, especially local and environmentally friendly, are staples of the Mongolian diet, the products will have a very stable and steady market to break into and sustain communities for the long-term. The activities of the project include training for improved packaging and labelling, marketing strategies, implementation of a production centre and facilitating the access of the cottage-made dried cheese curd to local and regional farmers’ markets which are currently inaccessible. Through the project, the communities will also review and develop pathways for managing and distributing a portion of the earnings to support conservation and implementation of Community Responsible Area management plans.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
<p>1: Communities diversify their income source through commercialization of cottage-made dried cheese curd in local and regional farmers’ markets.</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: The establishment of local dairy cottage industries will provide a year-round steady income stream to herder communities.</p>	<p>SGP: \$37,500 USD</p>
<p>2: Community Responsible Area management plans are implemented, and conservation is supported.</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1: This project will add to the local skills base by expanding their understanding of marketing and promotion, particularly conservation-linked marketing, as well as their knowledge of local markets.</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: This initiative is scalable and will help communities across Mongolia share learnings and skills related to the cottage industries, especially with the additional 25 herder communities.</p>	
<p>Total SGP funding</p>		<p>USD \$37,500</p>

3. Project Seven: Uganda - Establishing Beekeeping Around Queen Elizabeth National Park

The Ishasha sector of the Queen Elizabeth National Park has a rich biodiversity and has a landscape made up of acacia forest, savannah, woodland, fig trees and numerous bird species. It is well known for its tree climbing lions of which there are only 25 left. The Ishasha sector is less popular than the northern regions of the park and the surrounding community live in poverty. The community of Kameme village is characterized by high infant and maternal mortality rate, high prevalence rates of malaria and HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and alcohol abuse, low enrolment rates in primary school, high adult illiteracy rate, inadequate water supply, no electricity, low access to sanitation, and poor farming practices. Many community members are engaged in subsistence poaching for bushmeat.

Prior to the pandemic, the community relied on tourism as a source of income through selling handmade crafts,

selling their honey and through direct employment. With their source of income gone, they are reverting back to illegal, unsustainable practices such as logging and poaching to sustain themselves. The project aims to provide an alternative source of income through beekeeping. They intend to hire experts to train 20 men and 20 women in beekeeping practices, purchase queen bees, bees and all the equipment needed to harvest, process and package the honey. The community has already established a relationship with a local honey company which is providing training and a market for their honey if necessary.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
1: Educate the community on how the natural environment can benefit them economically through eco-tourism, promoting stewardship.	Outcome 1.1: As beekeeping relies on the health of the surrounding environment, it will encourage community members to become stewards of the surrounding natural environment.	SGP: \$50,000 USD
2: Training in beekeeping practices and purchase of equipment, bees, queen bees and packaging. Construct 2 bee houses (150 beehives in each).	Outcome 2.1: Profits from the beekeeping would provide a sustainable and scalable alternative source of income to the community, increasing their resilience to shocks such as that of the Covid-19 pandemic. They have also already sourced an alternative market for their honey if they cannot sell it themselves. Outcome 2.2: They intend to reinvest some of the profits from the initial investment back into their beekeeping business, installing more hives, purchasing more packaging, etc. The reinvestment will also allow an ever-increasing number of community members to get involved and profit from the project.	
3: Increase awareness of Covid-19, including purchasing 2 sewing machines to produce masks.	Outcome 3.1: Reduce COVID-19 transmission in these rural communities.	
Total SGP funding		USD \$50,000

4. Project Eight: Nepal - Permaculture Farming and Revitalization of Local Traditions

The Bardia National Park supports populations of tigers, grey wolf, striped hyena, and an abundance of other fauna. In the border region of this park dwell 120,000 people of a mix of cultures, that depend on or utilize the park resources in some way. Ecotourism in particular is extremely important to the local economy, supporting 5000 families in the region, as the park is one of the highly rated in the world and draws significant international tourism. With tourist incomes greatly decreased due to COVID-19, unsustainable harvesting, illegal poaching, and human-wildlife conflicts are expected to increase.

Biodiversity Research and Conservation Society (BRCS) proposes a cultural tourism and permaculture revolution to shift resource use away from the Park, aiming for a total of 2000 beneficiary households. There is a distinct indigenous culture in the region that has been eroded due to poverty and migration, but BRCS hopes to use

education and marketing to revitalize local traditions and products (local medicinal plants in particular) to be used as a selling point for the region. Importantly, permaculture training will be provided across the four target municipalities, providing sustainable income and food security into the future, as well as improving the image of the region for future tourism activities.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
1: Permaculture farming training and implementations – Weekly training seminars and the distribution of seeds and saplings for the start-up permaculture gardens.	Outcome 1.1: Developing permaculture-based agriculture will improve resilience of the community as whole in terms of food security and income.	SGP: \$45,000 USD
2: Marketing and awareness of cultural tourism in the region – including the use of local knowledge of medicinal plants to be cultivated for sale as alternative income	Outcome 2.1: Promoting cultural practices and products will strengthen the identity of the communities – lessons which can then be taken by neighboring communities to implement their own sustainable efforts. Outcome 2.2: Provide further alternative income sources	
3: Produce a final report summarizing project success to pinpoint methods and training that can be applied to other municipalities	Outcome 3.1: Enable scaling and application of cost-effective methods to other communities in similar ecological/cultural contexts.	
Total SGP funding		USD \$45,000

5. Project Nine: Bhutan - Community-Based Aquaponic Agriculture, Virtual Tourism and Community Awareness

The Manas River Basin in southern Bhutan, is home to a range of endangered species and supports over 11,266 people that live along the river basin. The rich biodiversity of the region includes the Bengal tiger, Golden langur, Rufous necked hornbill, Asiatic water buffalo, Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, and Ganges river dolphin. Conservation actions in this area can offer benefits to the 9 other Bhutanese national parks and 1 Indian national park connected by biological corridors as well as downstream communities as the Manas River flows into the Bay of Bengal. Unfortunately, the region experiences high rates of poverty and faces increased pressure due to loss of income from tourists due to COVID-19.

The first activity, establishment of community-based aquaponics, combines re-circulating aquaculture with hydroponic agriculture, presents a sustainable, low-waste means of growing multiple food products. The second activity is establishing virtual nature tourism experiences, adding to local guides’ portfolios and allowing them to continue pursuing their primary profession as a viable source of income even in times of crisis. The proposal seeks to link economic benefits from both virtual tourism and aquaponics with broader awareness that provides the foundation for local stewardship of natural resources. The third activity, an education and outreach program,

engages local schools, community members, and the river guides, to further emphasize these links between healthy rivers and people.

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES	Total Project Budget
<p>1: Community has a sustainable alternative source of livelihood via aquaponic agriculture.</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: - The project will provide the community with knowledge of a new method of farming that is both sustainable and resilient.</p> <p>Outcome 2.1: By learning aquaponics, the community gain greater food security and can supplement their incomes by selling products.</p>	<p>SGP: \$45,000 USD</p>
<p>2: River guides expand revenue streams by developing virtual nature tourism.</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1: Offering a cost-effective virtual tourism experience expands the potential market in times with travel restrictions and increase accessibility to people who are unable to travel to the park for financial or other reasons.</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Community members are educated about ecological processes and can implement aquatic conservation.</p>	
Total SGP funding		USD \$45,000

B. Total GEF SGP Parallel Financing Budget

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	SGP Parallel Funding Total USD
1. Staff and other personnel	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	
4. Contractual services	
5. Travel	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$184600
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs (M&E + Project Opening Fee)	\$8000
	\$192,600
Total Direct Costs	
8. Indirect Support Costs (UNOPS 7%)	\$13,482
TOTAL Costs	\$206,082