

# Assessment of Final Impact Evaluation of the GEF SLEM (Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management) project in Uttarakhand

## Executive summary

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The Government of Uttarakhand through the Watershed Management Directorate (WMD) has received a grant from Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF) as an additional financing under the ongoing Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project (UDWDP).

The project development objective (PDO) for the GEF additional funding is “to restore and sustain ecosystem functions and biodiversity while simultaneously enhancing income and livelihood functions, and generating lessons learned in these respects that can be up-scaled and mainstreamed at state and national levels”.

The additional financing targets 20 micro watersheds of the parent 76 micro watersheds where UDWDP was operational for implementation of Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management (SLEM) activities. Micro-watersheds included in this project are identified based upon the severity of erosion, poverty and lack of infrastructure facilities.

A total of about 125 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in 20 micro watersheds covering a total area of approximately 60,000 ha, benefiting approximately 70,000 people is covered.

The project duration is four years and the major activities are as follows:

- Watershed planning through community participation;
- Controlling land degradation through the SLEM approach at watershed level;
- Reduce pressure and dependence on the natural resource base through fostering markets for NTFPs;
- Enhance biodiversity conservation and management through watershed planning and community participation;
- Improve adaptation to climate change in natural resource based production systems;
- Documentation of best (worst) practices to share them within the state as well as through the SLEM partnership;
- Project Management, monitoring and capacity building.