

1) Organization brief (not more than 100 words)

YES BANK is a full-service commercial bank which offers a complete range of products, services and technology-driven digital offerings to its Corporate, Retail and MSME customers. YES BANK operates its investment banking, merchant banking and brokerage businesses through YES Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank. Service-focused and knowledge-driven, the Bank goes beyond the traditional boundaries to offer financial solutions to the economy's sunrise sectors and underserved communities. YES Foundation is the social development arm of YES BANK and aims to inspire the youth of India to lead economic and social development by skilling themselves for market-oriented jobs and by taking to enterprise, while retaining a focus on environment sustainability.

2) Organization's commitment to biodiversity (not more than 150 words)

YES BANK is the only Indian Bank to be a signatory to the Collective Commitment on Climate Action (CCCA) - a groundbreaking pledge taken by 38 global banks to align their services and lending with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Natural capital is one of the key focus areas at YES BANK and the Bank aims to mainstream the adoption of natural capital imperatives in financial decision making and advocate the importance of developing regulatory frameworks, disclosure mechanisms and reporting measures for natural capital accounting. The Bank has, through YES Foundation, undertaken multiple initiatives to preserve the biodiversity through its work in managing human-animal conflict, greening and climate resilient practices.

3) SDG Alignment (not more than 100 words)

YES BANK's project focused on conservation of critically endangered species is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal-15 of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, which aims to 'protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.'

4) Business alignment / causality/ logic used to choose this project for funding support (200 words)

As the only Indian banking signatory to the Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB), YES BANK is committed to aligning its business with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Bank continues to be the only Indian Founding signatory amongst the 230 global Banks that have joined the PRB's call to action. YES BANK has, over the years, taken a proactive approach towards instilling within its culture, a strong ethos of sustainability. This has enabled the Bank to stay highly responsive to the emerging expectations, regulations and opportunities presented by an ESG-driven business landscape. YES BANK continues to be recognized for its

benchmark ESG disclosures and in FY22-23, it achieved the highest ESG score amongst Indian Banks in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2022. The Bank was also rated 'A-' (Leadership Band) by Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), making it the highest rated Indian Bank for climate disclosures. Given the leadership position of the Bank in Sustainability space, niche projects for funding support are a differentiator from an investor and stakeholder engagement lens.

5) Potential for climate change mitigation (not more than 300 words)

Biodiversity is our strongest defense against climate change, which needs to be conserved in order to reduce adverse effects of the climate change. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation undermines the supply of ecosystem services which are vital to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

6) Details of the project (not more than 1000 words)

Developing an ecology based conservation strategy for critically endangered species

India is home to a rich biodiversity, many of the species being endemic to specific areas, and are under threat due to anthropogenic factors. As a financial institution, YES BANK took focused measures to ensure conservation of biodiversity and endangered species, while mitigating the factors affecting them. Being an environmentally responsible bank, YES BANK supported initiatives, which are focused towards the preservation of earth's natural capital. The Bank has steadily worked towards preventing extinction of critically endangered species such as Red Panda, Indian Pangolin, House Sparrow and Great Indian Bustard by supporting habitat restoration (protected & potential) and community-led interventions in the NCR, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim. These species have been listed in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species found in India.

The Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* and the Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* are the two species of pangolin found in India. Both these species are protected and are listed under the Schedule I Part I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and under Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Despite protective measures, pangolins in India are widely exploited and traded both domestically and internationally. As part of the project, a detailed study was conducted to identify places where pangolin poaching and trade were conducted in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The project also aimed to study the ecology of Indian pangolin to identify the key factors which govern their presence and habitat use. As part of the intervention, in-depth interviews with field/forest staff of Satpura Tiger Reserve and locals were conducted to gain information on sightings and probable sites to locate Indian Pangolin in the region. The entire project was implemented in phase-wise manner, which involved installing suitable telemetry equipment on pangolins in order

to track their movement and collect data to prevent poaching of pangolins. Additionally, dogs were trained to identify active burrows for camera trapping and site identification to radio-tag more pangolins in the region. This helped improve the efficacy of the forest staff in detecting pangolin presence and eventually led to developing a spatial conservation strategy for the species.

In Sikkim, the project focused on conservation of Red Panda was implemented in Khangchendzonga landscape which is nestled in the Himalayan biodiversity hotspot. A wide variety of endemic and threatened species thrive in this landscape due to variations in elevation, climate and habitat type. The work focused on enhancing ecological knowledge about red pandas as well as working with communities around red panda habitats to improve management of habitats and address key challenges. Preliminary survey indicated that that fuel-wood collection and resource extraction, unregulated tourism and trapping and poaching of wildlife are the major sources of disturbance to red panda habitat. Limited alternative livelihood options and lack of awareness about the precarious status of red pandas further perpetuated the anthropogenic threats to the species. Hence, the project was designed with a strong focus to promote community stewardship by training local panchayat members and influential community members to reduce their dependence on red panda forests for firewood collection and adopt fuel-efficient cooking stoves. The community members were trained on manufacturing bricks to adopt Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) in their households. These workshops were conducted in Sada, Bhareng and Phadachen villages of Sikkim covering 75 households which were found to be closer to the red panda forest and residents showed high dependence on forest for fuel-wood. Sada (South District), is situated at the junction of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve and Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary; Bhareng (West District), is located adjacent to Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, and Phadamchen (East District) is situated close to Pangolakaha Wildlife Sanctuary. All these protected areas house important red panda habitats in Sikkim. Along with this, to promote responsible tourism, household-based survey was conducted covering 32 villages and 220 households nearby Mulkharka village which has high potential for eco-tourism due to its serene location. This also led to revival of tourism committee in the village which drives sustainable tourism practices in the region.

In Rajasthan, YES BANK implemented project to save critically endangered bird- the Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis Nigriceps* (GIB) by garnering community support to conserve GIBs in the non-protected areas of the Thar desert. Statistically, the current viable population is of 100-125 individuals of the species with around 100 birds in Thar, Rajasthan; ~ 6-7 birds in Gujarat; ~ 2-3 in in Maharashtra; ~ 10 birds in Karnataka and ~ 3-4 Andhra Pradesh. As part of the intervention, field base was set up in Khetolai, Pokhran with a view to establish long-term bustard conservation programme; engage local Bishnoi community in developing village-level management plans and Bustard Community Conserved Areas (BCCAs) for saving GIB, develop a network of skilled youth from villages located in key GIB distribution areas to monitor the birds and

habitat and restore GIB habitat by removal of invasive species and creating suitable pastures. A total of 10 sites in Khetolai village were restored to establish ecological balance in the region. The enclosure has now become an activity hub for GIBs and other species like desert cat, vultures, etc. Total number of sightings has increased manifold as more of these critically endangered birds now find a safe haven here.

In Delhi NCR, the Nest making workshop for sparrow conservation were organized covering 110 schools. About 5,000 students were trained to build nests using natural raw material like bamboo, jute, threads and a piece of cloth. The objective of the project was also to generate environmental awareness, impart knowledge about house sparrows, their habitat, eating, migratory and nesting habits.

YES BANK has always endeavored to be conscious and responsible in optimizing the use of natural resources and minimizing the impact on natural ecosystems. Such projects are a clear testament to Bank's commitment towards environmentally conscious growth.