Applicant: **Secoy, Katherine**
Organisation: **The Zoological Society of London**
Funding Sought: **£4,906,934.00**

DIR29EX\1087

Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

Globally significant and recovering wildlife populations are being forced to disperse outside protected areas (PAs) through increasingly fragmented habitats, increasing human-wildlife conflict with significant impacts for both people and wildlife. This project aims to scale-up proven approaches to address these challenges in lowland Nepal, through ‘Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions’ to support up-scaling of HWCx; investments to mitigate HWC and effects of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, irrigation canals) and habitat fragmentation alongside livelihood investments to support communities to coexist with wildlife.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Jasmine
Surname	Pearson
Organisation	The Zoological Society of London
Tel (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Katherine
Surname	Secoy
Organisation	The Zoological Society of London
Tel	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Hem Sagar
Surname	Baral
Organisation	The Zoological Society of London
Tel	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	The Zoological Society of London
Phone	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

Q4. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application?

⦿ No

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Biome 3

Savannas and grasslands

Conservation Action 1

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

Conservation Action 2

Species management (harvest, recovery, re-introduction, ex-situ)

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1

Transportation & service corridors

Threat 2

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 3

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Q6. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Globally significant and recovering wildlife populations are being forced to disperse outside protected areas (PAs) through increasingly fragmented habitats, increasing human-wildlife conflict with significant impacts for both people and wildlife. This project aims to scale-up proven approaches to address these challenges in lowland Nepal, through 'Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions' to support up-scaling of HWCx; investments to mitigate HWC and effects of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, irrigation canals) and habitat fragmentation alongside livelihood investments to support communities to coexist with wildlife.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working with?

Country 1	Nepal	**Country 2**	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	**Country 4**	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⦿ No

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2023	31 March 2028	5 years

Q9. Budget summary

Darwin funding request	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total request
(April - March)	£588,226.00	£1,467,777.00	£1,450,519.00	£864,502.00	£535,910.00	**£** 4,906,934.00

Q10. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %	88

Q11a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

£[redacted] will be provided as match funding to include in-kind salary contributions for both ZSL Nepal and ZSL UK staff, funded from other sources.
The local governments (municipalities) from Bardia National Park (BNP) and Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) through our partner NTNC have provided verbal agreements and letters of support to the project. This support will include supervision and speculative in-kind match funding ca[redacted], amount to be confirmed and therefore not included in the budget as submitted.

Q11b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)	£211,866.00

Q11c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Of the total match funding, £[redacted] is secured and the remaining £[redacted] is unconfirmed. We will secure this additional amount of £[redacted] from new external grants. ZSL's Nepal programme has a strong track record of securing new funding and is well placed to attract repeat and new funding to meet this match funding gap. Furthermore, with a close working relationship with DNPWC, BZMC and our implementing partners, deploying resource where needed over the life of the project will help the project to adapt as and when funding becomes available over the entire life of the project.

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the evidence of the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Nepal's lowlands are important for people and for wildlife. The region is home to 50% of Nepal's human population and 80% of the country's globally threatened species. Tiger, elephant and rhino populations are increasing, as is the size of key protected areas. Resources are needed to tackle human-wildlife conflict (HWC) as wildlife populations recover and their presence and movement patterns shift in response to land use changes.

Nepal exceeded its St. Petersburg Declaration commitments [1,2] by recording 355 tigers in 2022 (+121 from 2009-2022). During the same period, wild elephants increased by nearly 100 individuals [3], and rhinos increased by 317[4]. 680sq km of protected area (PA) was added as Banke National Park (BaNP) and the Parsa National Park (PNP) extension, now 23.23% of Nepal's land area is protected.[5]

HWC has increased, with PA reports recording 33 human deaths from HWC [6](Bardia NP, 2021; BaNP, 2021; ShNP, 2021) and at least 2 tigers and 1 elephant were killed in retaliation/poaching. All incidents took place in buffer-zone forests and corridor areas [7].

Tigers and other wildlife increasingly use forests and corridor areas adjacent to PAs [6]. Nepal's 200-250 wild elephants are affected by deforestation and land use change [8, 9]. Inadequate access to fodder and water pushes elephants into human-dominated landscapes, increasing instances of human-elephant conflict (HEC) [10, 11]. HEC is the main threat for Asian elephant conservation, threatening elephants and human lives and livelihoods [12]. Annually 40% of HWC and 70% of wildlife-related human casualties in Nepal are caused by elephant attacks [8]. Of the 274 human fatalities between 2000-2020, 116 were women, 41.97% belonged to indigenous groups, and 16.8% belonged to Dalit communities [13].

Infrastructure development threatens the connectivity of PAs in Nepal [14], presenting an immense obstacle to wildlife movement. Existing and proposed irrigation canals, railways and highways in ShNP, Bardia NP and BaNP [15,16,17] increase pressure on wildlife populations, causing deaths from roadkill and drowning [20, Pers. Comm. DNPWC Assistant Conservation Officer]. Proper assessment and crossings can prevent infrastructure from fragmenting vital habitats, and intensifying HWC and wildlife mortality [15, 19,20,21]. Climate change will further amplify changes and our models indicate tiger range is poised to shift northwards in response to climate change [22].

Bardia NP is regarded by the government as the hub of a wildlife rescue programme for western Nepal, and this project will secure Banke and Shuklaphanta NPs as satellite facilities, ensuring training, standards, guidelines and infrastructure are in place and drawing on ZSL expertise. Currently, Bardia has 2 tiger enclosures, 1 gharial and 1 prey species enclosure; Banke has 1 tiger enclosure and 1 leopard enclosure; Shuklaphanta has 1 leopard holding cage [16]

1,759,841 people live in the proposed project area, with 347,342 in buffer zones and corridor forests [8] (CBS, 2010; BNP, 2018; BaNP, 2022). Livelihoods depend on subsistence agriculture, livestock, seasonal migration, ecotourism and forest resources. Drivers of poverty include limited livelihoods diversification/strengthening opportunities, inefficient market linkages resulting in poor prices, inadequate HWC mitigation, and limited education.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

☑ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
☑ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

Nepal's NBSAP focuses on the goal of enhancing the integrity of the country's ecological systems while also support local and national economic development. Set within the NBSAP are specific plans and targets, for which this project provides direct impact. These targets are closely aligned with broader CBD goals and SDGs to streamline implementation.

- Species conservation – the project uses tiger and Asian elephant as a flagship species for broader diversity within the protected landscapes. This supports NBSAP objectives to broaden conservation targets for additional species and also aligns with Nepal's Tiger and Elephant Conservation Action Plans. Additional focal species such as pangolin and one-horned rhino, support national efforts as expected within the Wildlife Act, Forest Policy, Protected Area Management Strategy, and Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Strategy and Action Plan.
- Landscapes – the project aims to support objectives to increase conservation for key landscapes within Nepal including the Sivalik.
- Climate change – within Nepals NDC and NBSAP (CC-A4 to A6) the project supports climate sensitive conservation and development, with a view to impacts on wildlife movement as well as climate smart income generation, as well as enhancing landscape connectivity and resilience (CC-B2)
- Enhancing PA effectiveness – target PA-A4 (NBSAP) focuses specifically on enhancing buffer zone function around PAs, particularly around financial management and support to local institutions.
- Human-Wildlife Coexistence – target PA-A5 aims to address increasing conflict with wildlife and supporting financial mechanisms for compensation. Equally a priority within the draft CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Connectivity – through evidence-based assessment of linear infrastructure impacts and in particular of unplanned or unregulated development, the project addresses PA-C2 and C3, which aim to mitigate the impacts of infrastructure

alongside or within PAs (PL-B1). This is also reflected within CMS COP13's emphasis on "the need for connectivity for better conservation of migratory species and their habitats".
- Tourism income – project activities will support mechanisms to further stimulate sustainable income being realised by communities in buffer zones (NBSAP PA-D1)
- Equality and sustainability - As a reflection of NBSAP's CE-A strategy "preparing community-based organisations for conservation-friendly management of their forests, with a particular focus on women and disadvantaged or indigenous groups" this project will work directly with underrepresented groups such as women and indigenous communities (also supporting NBSAP GSI-A1). This will also contribute to help Nepal achieve CBD's Targets 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15, and SDG goals 1, 5, 10 and 15. It will also support increased access and benefit sharing at a community level (PL-B2)
- Policy alignment – our landscape approach and engagement with local and regional governance further supports policy alignment (NBSAP PL-A11) to enhance effective implementation

Section 6 - Scaling up Approaches

Q14. Scaling up approaches

Q14a. Darwin Initiative Extra projects should utilise and build on evidence from past activities (from Darwin Initiative and beyond) to demonstrate why the approach will deliver. Please provide evidence and details on how your proposed project will do this.

ZSL has a strong track-record delivering large projects including DI projects (26-012, 24-015 and 22-009); IWT projects (IWT099, IWT041) and UK Aid Match project "STEWARD" in Nepal and Kenya on community livelihoods and HWC mitigation.

Other relevant experience includes jZSL/NTNC/PA/BZUC work supported by IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program Phase I & II, "Tigers in Nepal"; UK Trust for Nature Conservation; Panthera; and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Outputs 1, 2 and 3: ZSL is the first NGO in-country to facilitate effective community stewardship of species-focused, participatory conservation across a large area (four Community Managed Pangolin Conservation Areas established over five years). Other examples over last 10 years include Community Based Anti-Poaching Units, Gharial Guard Groups, and Fresh Water Information System representatives.

Output 4: ZSL brings expertise in HWC mitigation and animal rescue, handling, and disease monitoring, and can mobilise international experts and in-country collaboration for linear infrastructure mitigation.

Output 5: ZSL supports DNPWC to manage its PAs and wildlife monitoring, mobilising $5.6 million over eight years for 172 ha of grassland, 11 wetlands, eight guard posts, five watch towers and around 300km of fire-breaks, in the process training 250 PA staff and more than 3,400 law enforcement staff.

Q14b. We expect Darwin Initiative Extra projects to demonstrate that they are additional and complementary to other activities and funding in the same area or region.

Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

⦿ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

ZSLs partner NTNC has a strong track record of implementing projects complementary to the work outlined in this proposal. This includes 'Strengthening community tolerance towards Asian elephants in western Terai Arc Landscape of Nepal' (USFWS; $[redacted] 2021-2025); 'Strengthening Human Tiger Co-existence in Western Terai Landscape' in Nepal (USFWS; $[redacted] 2021-24); 'Mainstreaming Traditional Hunting Communities of Western Nepal in Tiger Conservation' (DEFRA IWT Challenge Fund, £[redacted] 2021-23) and 'Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Western' (USFWS, $[redacted] 2019-22). This new project will draw on the learning and experiences gained through these projects in order to successfully scale-up proven approaches across the landscape. Additionally, the 2022 USAID Align Project in the East on road expansion effects on wildlife is complementary, but Darwin Extra will bring analyses of western road expansion and examine effects of irrigation canals, recommending effective and evidence-based mitigation actions. This project will work towards mainstreaming the resources and efforts made by different intergovernmental, governmental, and

non-governmental organisations by promoting harmony among plans and programmes to leverage synergistic problem-solving for better conservation outcomes in the landscape.

Section 7 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q15. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- **how you have reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.**
- **the specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective and justifying why you expect it will be successful in this context.**
- **how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).**
- **what will be the main activities and where will these take place.**
- **how will you manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).**

Output 1: Foundations set for upscaling HWCx

We will build on existing HWC management capabilities within PAs/BZs by creating HWCx positions, organizing HWC-themed meetings, and producing participatory HWC maps. This work builds on ZSL projects DI26-012, IWT-099, and DI-29-011. We will also review HWC mitigation projects in Nepal to inform HWC best practices guidelines for South Asia.

Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPU) will be trained to take on HWC reduction as a core activity. We will strengthen 52 existing HWC reduction units and identify and train at least 100 HWCx champions from local communities who will also help upscale to other regions. We will pilot a network of GSM-enabled cameras for conflict species (elephant) surveillance in ShNP as an early warning system for communities near agricultural and village areas. We will also support HWCx champions to conduct safety drills for communities and schools.

Working with the insurance industry, we will test and if appropriate scale-up insurance mechanisms for mitigating HWC (primarily focused on tiger, elephant, rhino, and leopard), engaging local communities for viability assessments and pilots, and assessing options for support (CSR, micro-credit, government aid) for scaling-up across Nepal. We will strengthen access to government compensation for livestock loss as a stop gap solution until the results of the HWC insurance pilots are known.

Output 2: Livelihood investments to break the cycle of poverty

This project will replicate community banking cooperatives (creating new and strengthening existing ones) to provide livelihood support for disadvantaged communities. The community banks' sources of income are from livestock, agriculture, groceries, tailoring, automobile maintenance, and hospitality (and build on ZSL's experience under DI24-015, DI26-102, IUCN ITHCP, IUCN "Tigers in Nepal", and UKAM STEWARD).

We will also assess effective and relevant value chain strengthening options, including through consultation workshops to strengthen market access and valuation for chosen products/services from the project sites.

In addition, we will enhance community resilience in project sites, replicating agricultural and animal husbandry practices shown to be successful at reducing HWC and promoting methods of reducing unsustainable dependency on forest resources. ZSL's past project (DI22-009) successfully supported local communities to reduce dependence on natural resources from PAs by 20%.

To provide additional revenue streams we will strengthen existing ecotourism ventures in Banke, Bardia, and Shuklaphanta through investments in skill development for the HHs of HWCx champions.

Finally, we will conduct pre- and post-project beneficiary surveys to assess and evaluate changes.

Output 3: HWC mitigation investments for communities and BZUCs

We will assess locally appropriate HWC interventions for project sites and co-develop HWCx plans with local communities, the PAs, and the BZUCs. We will then support BZUCs/HWCx champions to implement the plans using proven HWC mitigation measures including wire fences, early-warning systems, predator-proof corrals, and solar lighting to help keep village areas safe. We will also promote HWC-resistant cash-crop cultivation (e.g., chilli, chamomile, mentha). At least 30 information boards on HWC mitigation will be installed at conflict-prone high-footfall areas. Pre- and post-project field work and social surveys in the participating communities will ascertain reductions in HWC and measure changes in people's perceptions of HWC.

To help scale-up our approach, we will organize exchange visits to Chitwan and Bardia NPs to promote uptake of successful HWC mitigation methods, assessing take-up rates 1-2 years later during follow-up fieldwork.

Output 4: Mitigation of effects of current and developing linear infrastructure (roads, rails, irrigation canals) and habitat fragmentation on wildlife and improved capacity of response teams to successfully perform wildlife rescue, handling, translocation, or holding of various species

A desk-based assessment - with field validation - of the impact of current and proposed linear infrastructure in the three national parks will be conducted with national and regional stakeholders and other experts. This process will also co-design impact monitoring for linear infrastructure and novel ways to ameliorate effects of understudied irrigation canals.

Camera-trap data on wildlife crossings plus fieldwork will identify priority animal crossing sites. The project will then support strengthening of those crossings in ShNP and assess their use.

We will produce recommendations for mitigating the impact of linear infrastructure and promote their adoption by DNPWC, Department of Roads, Department of Irrigation, Nepal Electricity Authority, and Department of Railways.

The project will strengthen wildlife response teams led by Bardia NP and representatives from ShNP and BaNP, equipping them for wildlife issues related to canals, roads, and HWC. Training will be provided by ZSL's Wildlife Health and Living Collection departments.

We will also strengthen post-rescue facilities in the three parks, supporting two vehicles and providing each park with wildlife medicines, darts, and other equipment used during the capture of problem animals/rescuing animals. Bardia NP will be provided with GPS collars to monitor the movement of released rehabilitated tigers/leopards, with data informing PA wildlife management and awareness raising during the project period. Scaling-up will be facilitated by staff trained by the project training other wildlife units in wildlife rescue/care.

Output 5: Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife with capability and capacity increased in 3 PA/BZs through better equipped and trained teams

ZSL will build on experience supporting DNWPC to develop management plans/guidelines/protocols. Stakeholders including PAs, NGOs, BZUC and CSOs will map priority areas for habitat management in the three PAs, then grassland areas will be improved, six waterholes will be improved to provide year-round availability of water, and 75km of fire-breaks will be created to reduce the extent of fires.

The project will strengthen the PA's capacity to monitor tiger, rhino, elephant, and browsing species through a series of workshops focusing on standard protocols and by bringing-in ZSL's expertise in monitoring. The project will support the National Tiger 2026 and Rhino Counts 2025, as well as conducting annual surveys for tiger prey species and elephants using standard protocols.

The project will collaborate with the three PAs, conservation partners, and universities to promote studies relevant to each PA, including assessments of the functionality of the Kamdi and Boom-Brahmadev corridors, which will inform management plans.

Finally, the project will support Conservation Assured Tiger Standard accreditation for the three parks.

Q16. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit and the post-project value to the country.

The project works directly with stakeholders ranging from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation to grassroots community members, enabling them to tackle issues relating to wildlife conservation and improving well-being of buffer zone and corridor communities. The project will achieve this both through direct interventions in the project sites and through research and policy support. The project will provide Conservation Assured Tiger Standard accreditation to three national parks, building the capacity of protected area managers in habitat and species management, in quantitatively measuring tiger and other species, and improving protected area conservation effectiveness in the parks. The project will also work directly with community members to create a network of Human Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions equipped with techniques and knowledge to reduce the rate of serious encounters between wildlife and people. From within the existing Community-based Anti-Poaching Units, a total of 100 HWCx members will be supported to promote effective conflict mitigation in the landscape as HWCx champions. Their capacity will be enhanced in dealing with a range of species alongside contributing to participatory data gathering. The project will increase the flow of HWC related information from HWCx champions to the protected area management by 25%. The project will also enhance capacity of HWCx champions and Wildlife Response Team in sharing HWC related information and decreasing conflict response time. The project will work with communities and the response team to decrease response time to early warnings by 50%. The project will build the capacity of DNPWC and NTNC teams to successfully perform wildlife rescue, handling, translocation or/and holding of various species.

In addition to building capacity in HWC mitigation and wildlife rescue, the project will directly improve community livelihoods. Training will be provided on improved agricultural practices to 3,000 households and improved livestock practices to over 4,000 households. The project will also build the capacity of communities to reduce crop damage from elephants and wild herbivores by 20% and livestock depredation by 39%.

The project will contribute to producing participatory lowland HWC mapping, data relating to HWC and effective mitigation approaches. The project will produce key information relating to impacts on key wildlife species from current and developing linear infrastructure, filling a significant knowledge gap. The information collected will be shared with DNPWC as well as the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. The project will facilitate expert learning and knowledge sharing among national and regional stakeholders including Department of Roads, Department of Irrigation, Nepal Electricity Authority, DNPWC, PAs, Asian Development Bank, World Bank and NTNC, in relation to impact monitoring from linear infrastructures.

The project will incorporate all the learning and response mechanisms into Nepal's existing Protected Areas and Buffer Zone Management Systems. The recommendations for HWC mitigation will also be prepared and institutionalized thereby making management plans relevant and robust to tackle existing threats pertaining to HWC and rescue mechanisms. Institutionalising knowledge will promote the sustainability of project outcomes.

Q17. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality

ZSL recognises the importance of gender mainstreaming to achieve fair societal outcomes and acknowledges the objectives set out by the UK International Development (Gender Equality) Act and the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5. Throughout this project, ZSL will seek to identify, understand and address gender-related differences and will promote gender equality in our own workplace and through all project activities.

As the project is centred around HWC, the most pressing issue identified by the government of Nepal in recent years, we will continue to protect the lives of those who are most vulnerable to HWC. Predominantly involved with natural resource collection in forest areas and livestock grazing, women are particularly vulnerable to HWC and have limited economic resilience and access to employment opportunities. The project aims to decrease dependency on activities with high HWC risk, and contributes to gender equality through increased security, access to livelihood opportunities and enabling inclusive voices in governance. In doing so, the project builds on ZSL's past successes enabling fairer representation of

women and marginalised groups (40-80% of participants) in livelihoods and governance work, and equitable benefits sharing. Across ZSL's existing project area in Terai, 29 cooperatives are supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable groups, including women (63%), indigenous (72%), and disadvantaged (90%) communities.

Moreover, ZSL considers Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles at all stages of project implementation (i.e., beneficiary identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, communication of results) and incorporates GESI analyses and risk assessments into IUCN aligned Environmental and Social Management Systems. Through this, we are committed to identifying and understanding existing barriers and intersecting vulnerabilities that can prevent participation by women and marginalised groups so that gender-responsive interventions that address these barriers can be appropriately designed, and appropriate communication methods identified to ensure women have a voice throughout the project cycle.

As part of gender mainstreaming, interventions will be designed to support gender equality; men and women will be given equal opportunities for recruitment into capacity-building opportunities, and women (>50% target) and marginalised groups will be prioritised for cooperatives and livelihood activities, ensuring the prevention of elite capture. Furthermore, grievances will be managed through locally appropriate and co-designed Grievance Mechanisms. Beneficiary feedback will support the context-specific needs of ZSL's target groups, such as women, and promote inclusive project adaptation and accountability. These mechanisms will fulfil the rights and entitlements of participants, redressing any issues on the ground. As such, they will also empower the participants by building their voice and reducing elite capture.

ZSL uses a GESI-sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that assesses representation, participation, access, and benefit sharing to demonstrate project impacts on equality. As such, datasets will be disaggregated by gender where possible. ZSL recognises that gender mainstreaming is a continuous process; through GESI-sensitive M&E, well-functioning grievance mechanisms and beneficiary feedback, we aim to facilitate adaptive co-management and continuous learning. Further, we take our obligation to gender equity seriously and promote understanding and commitment among colleagues and project partners through regular training on GESI principles.

Q18. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

ZSL maintains an archive of knowledge products accessible to staff that hosts project reports and outputs in compliance with GDPR requirements. Any data collected will be freely available in English and Nepali and delivered to project partners. All project outputs will be made available on ZSL's and partners' websites and disseminated via social media, and content provided for inclusion in newsletters and press releases. ZSL's website has c.326k unique users/month; the separate conservation webpages receive 7k. ZSL reaches 25.3k people on Twitter and 11.5k on Instagram.

Outputs and publications will be published through open access peer-reviewed journals, with costs covered by overheads. They may also be listed on the ZSL library catalogue (c.6000 library users annually + c.22,000 digital users). Further dissemination is through IUCN specialist groups, other conservation and development agencies working in Nepal, and events held at ZSL London. Data can feed into global conservation initiatives such as the Living Planet Index, as well as being used for national needs, including regular reporting to the CBD.

ZSL Nepal shares progress and achievements through its annual report. Project partners will disseminate information about the project and findings through their websites, annual reports and social media outlets. Knowledge generated through the project will be shared to provincial and local government agencies, communities, partners and other relevant stakeholders through trainings, workshops and meetings to ensure access regardless of literacy levels. This project will develop awareness-raising materials (information boards erected at strategic places, signages, etc) and a documentaries for awareness around corridor conservation, HWC mitigation and tourism development. Training curricula in Nepali ensures accessibility to all users; effectiveness tracked through baseline/endline surveys, pre- and post-training tests, and short qualitative surveys with community members. DNPWC serves as long-term custodian of impact reports, knowledge documents e.g. survey reports and papers, and legal framework recommendations.

Q19. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

The project design is based on ZSL's experience working in the western Terai/Shivalik landscape and southern lowlands of Nepal. It also draws on the knowledge of ZSL's animal exhibits in London and Whipsnade Zoos, academic expertise through the Institute of Zoology and conservation work around the world by ZSL as well as national and international partners. ZSL's livelihood and conservation work has been hailed by the Nepal government as the most effective with resources reaching the most in need at grass-roots level, bringing positive change to people's lives and leaving lasting legacies. The short-term goal of the project is for efficient HWC management at site-level through capacity- building to manage forests and wildlife, awareness, and promotion of HWCx champions at community-level by improving livelihoods of those living close to biodiversity rich parks and corridors. The project aims for these lessons and capacity building to be replicated to other areas of Nepal in the long-term.

Foundations set for up-scaling HWCx: In the short-term, the network of 100 HWCx champions will reach 55,000 people living within the buffer zone and adjoining forests with awareness and education activities reducing loss of both property and lives. This will bring positive attitude changes among local people in support of biodiversity conservation. In the long-term this method has potential for scaling-up to other parks and high biodiversity areas through proper documentation , tool-kits and shared learning, as well as visits to project sites by stakeholders from other areas.

Breaking the cycle of poverty and leveraging government funds: A total of 7,265HHs will show a 20% increase in average income through diversified alternative livelihood options and linkages to higher value markets. Establishment and support of 52 community banks will provide low interest loans to the neediest families to support alternative livelihoods providing further resilience to community members. Livelihood interventions working together with buffer zone institutions and local government will enable a sustainable long-term future for communities living in poverty.

Reducing HWC for buffer zone communities: In the short-term, HWC mitigation measures (e.g. predator-proof corrals, early warning systems, physical barriers to prevent animals entering villages) will reduce loss of properties and lives. In the long-term, as many as 5,000HHs will enjoy improved wellbeing, with potential to benefit an additional 5,000HHs in the same landscape.

Managing wildlife dispersal and mitigating impact of linear infrastructure: Nepal's success in biodiversity conservation has led to increased numbers of animals looking for passage outside core park areas. Our interventions at two key identified wild animal crossing sites at ShNP show a 10% increase in its use and 10% reduction of movement into village/farmlands. This method will help funnel animal dispersal through narrow forest corridors linking other larger forest reserves. Similarly, our support to build partner capacity to monitor, rescue and handle problem animals will help reduce damage to both people and wildlife, as well as through improved management of the government rescue centre. This will help streamline animal welfare and management of several poorly managed mini-zoos at the local government level and rehabilitation of wild animals. Knowledge sharing with development agencies will help minimise adverse impacts to wildlife movement from linear infrastructure. Our pilot adaptations to existing linear infrastructure will be used for learning visits and data sharing. In the long-term this has huge potential of replication to other provinces.

Improving park habitat and facilities: Managing key grasslands (50ha), waterholes (six) and forest fires (through maintenance of 75km of fireline) will help support the most problematic wildlife populations within natural habitats as evidenced by the 20% increase of animals in these areas . Capacity building of 450 park, DNPWC and partner staff will help manage species and habitats in and outside the park following the CATS standard. Five MSc scholarships provided through the project will help build capacity in park and people management. Research and other equipment will help monitor key wildlife species with publications encouraged through support of our own biologists.

Our approach of packaging three PAs and adjoining corridor forests, wildlife and local communities with multiple benefits to stakeholders will provide a model for replication both in Nepal and further afield. This project is scaling-up a number of successful interventions including women-led community-banks linked to livelihoods of some of the most marginalised people in Nepal. This approach also includes reducing HWC by engaging communities in learning about animals, avoidance from them and leadership in biodiversity conservation. These interventions will change community attitudes and build the

framework for HWCx. In a devolved and federated Nepal, this approach has enormous potential for replication.

Q20. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

This should directly relate to your overall project's Theory of Change which must be uploaded alongside your application in Flexi-Grant. See the separate Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance **for further information on your Theory of Change.**

This project will employ a participatory and inclusive approach, based on extensive experience working in the landscape, to secure sustainable connectivity of southwestern Nepal's largest and most biologically diverse landscape, encompassing lowland Terai and Shivalik grasslands, forests and wetlands. This will facilitate safe passage for wildlife, whilst benefiting communities through proven and sustainable livelihood interventions.

We will improve park habitats to support wildlife within the core through strengthening capacity of NP staff. Additionally, we will work alongside community members and government agencies to implement habitat management in degraded priority corridor forests, ensuring animals have enough resources within the corridors to reconnect with other populations. Where large infrastructure obstructs animal movement through parks and corridors, efforts will be made to adapt and modify the design to minimise disruption. Such interventions have potential for scaling-up elsewhere.

Wild animal movement through corridor forests will be made safe for local communities through deployment of pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures, including predator-proof corrals and wildlife-prevention fencing, supported by awareness-raising through CBAPUs and HECx champions. Training and capacity building on problem animal monitoring, rescue and handling will further help reduce HWC incidences. Rescue centre and Rapid Response Team capacity enhancement will also support HWC reduction.

Sustainable alternative livelihood schemes will increase community incomes, reducing dependency on forests for livelihoods. Livelihood options (e.g. tourism) will provide long-term income-generating opportunities, fostering positive community attitudes towards conservation, promoting HWCx. Community banks will provide support to every marginalised community member in the project sites, contributing to leave no one behind.

The project will ensure all partners and relevant stakeholders, particularly local and provincial governments are fully engaged and informed about the project. This will help secure goodwill as alongside match funding support for livelihood, HWC reduction and biodiversity conservation efforts, contributing to sustainability and scalability of outcomes.

Q21. Exit Strategy

How will the project be sustained or continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

How will post-project scaling of the approach be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?

ZSL is dedicated to working with communities, government agencies and other stakeholders to promote sustainable and equitable protected area management. This commitment to inclusive and collaborative work with resident stakeholders and disaggregated by need, ensures the sustainability of our programming.

Community empowerment to address dangerous human-wildlife conflict, especially in the face of recent successes in increasing tiger populations, is core to the project. Support to buffer zone communities and local government is essential but also proven, for long-term success.

Activities were selected for their ability to deliver change post-project. Investment in communities' skills, infrastructure and equipment ensures that income and wellbeing continue to improve after the project ends as with other ZSL community banks in the same landscape, growing in capital and membership post-project. Buffer zone communities, local government and provincial government all have resources to sustain these initiatives so long as the initial investment and testing is

made. By embedding HWCx positions in the BZMC structures, with the HWCx champions operating out of and liaising with both BZMC and BZUCs and each other, the line to PA managers and with communities is assured, as is the ability to continue to direct resources where HWC priorities can be mutually identified on an ongoing basis (such as relief payments or longer term decisions about co-insurance mechanisms) and aligned with their own PA-BZ HWC reduction strategies. HWC mitigation plans will be developed with HWCx champions sitting within the community banks, including recommendations for actions that can be taken by relevant institutions outside of ZSL, and ensuring standalone plans for the community. The established resource generation opportunities from good agri/livestock practices, BZUCs' commitment, and the PA's legal guidance set a strong course for the future. Collaboration that will help better habitat management can also reduce wildlife encounters. The livelihood knowledge and skills will remain in the communities supported by the PA's guidance. HWCx champions, agroforestry practitioners, and nature guides will all remain in their communities, able to share the knowledge they've gained.

Ultimately, with the group learning, pilot-testing and empowerment for problem-solving with locally appropriate methods, adaptive solutions will match the potentially shifting and adapting challenges likely to continue by both wildlife and people responding to environment and development shifts.
This approach can be scaled up to other critical connectivity sites by the Nepal government and conservation partners strengthening connectivity in the Terai Arc programme, which is in the middle of its 50-year vision.

The Government of Nepal requested ZSL's support in this area, and our project designs are reviewed and approved by DNP senior leadership. This close collaboration with DNP, and our alignment with regional and national goals, ensures the government buy-in essential for sustained change. The government will internalise most of the outputs of this project, and recommendation documents submitted to agencies, with the on-ground demonstrations from a 5-year project will add to the validity of the HWC problem-solving model. ZSL and partners have a permanent presence in Nepal and will remain available for ongoing technical support.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps or references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

Final Maps and References
03/10/2022
23:50:35
pdf 1.55 MB

Section 8 - Risk Management

Q22. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft and submit their initial risk register, using the Risk Register template, and upload below.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk

Fiduciary Funds not used for intended purpose and misappropriation	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Use of web-based accounting software tools help monitor transactions in real-time and activities are coded and linked to our financial accounting system. Partner expenses are submitted quarterly and verified. Clear roles, responsibilities and system checks reduce risk of fraud and errors. External audits take place annually.	Minor
Safeguarding Safeguarding risks not identified and incidents not dealt with appropriately which could lead to individual/ environmental harm and reputational damage.	Major	Possible	Moderate	ZSL has robust safeguarding policies and procedures (policy attached) . Environmental and Social Management Plans and monitoring effectiveness of Grievance Mechanisms and FPIC processes with communities, help ensure safeguarding risks are identified, monitored and acted upon. Training is provided to teams and partners must adhere to ZSL policies/their own equivalent.	Moderate
Delivery Chain Key project staff turnover	Minor	Possible	Moderate	ZSLs delivery model works through national and site-based partners providing opportunity for shared learning and capacity building. Project Management Units (PMU) have been formed in each PA we work in to oversee implementation. Key staff are required to give advance notice (6-weeks) before vacating roles giving time to fill positions.	Minor
Risk 4 Exchange rate fluctuation	Minor	Possible	Moderate	Due to unstable global financial markets and fluctuating exchange rates at the time of submission, a percentage buffer has been incorporated in the budget by the ZSL Finance team. Regular monitoring to review budget variances with ZSL Nepal and implementing partners/consultants will ensure project delivery and value for money.	Minor
Risk 5 Women and girls will suffer inequitable hardships resulting from occasional pandemics e.g. Covid, dengue, etc	major	possible	moderate	ZSL will seek relevant government and NGO support. ZSL will mitigate impact by providing access to government relief packages to affected community members. ZSL's focal point for health and safety will advise on precautions and responses to minimise risk to communities in case of pandemics/epidemics	minor

Risk 6 Key partner turnover disrupts project	moderate	unlikely	moderate	Ensure 2 deputised staff are included in meetings for shared institutional knowledge. Transparency steps outlined so newer additions to the project team/stakeholder group quickly grasp the project. ZSL works with other implementing partners, so adapting is possible if necessary to sub in implementers with donor consent	minor

Please upload your Risk Register, with Delivery Chain Risk Map, here.

2022_Biodiversity_Challenge_Funds_Risk_Framework_Template_Final
03/10/2022
23:03:18
xlsx 115.24 KB

Section 9 - Implementation Timetable

Q23. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project and upload this below as a PDF.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

BCF-Implementation-Timetable-Template-2022-23-FINAL
03/10/2022
23:07:58
pdf 283.21 KB

Section 10 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance).

Darwin Initiative Extra Projects are required to commission an Independent Final Evaluation to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.

The M&E Officer will conduct day-to-day data collection, and monthly indicator reporting and evaluation. Existing PMUs will facilitate implementation and initial site-level monitoring. The Project Leader and DNPWC-led Programme Coordination Committee (a government-formed committee facilitating ZSL Nepal projects) will conduct annual monitoring with partners and stakeholders. Project milestones and baselines will be established, and monthly, mid-term and final M&E conducted, including an independent final evaluation.

ZSL's Livelihoods Specialist, Wildlife Biologist and M&E Officer will monitor outcome indicators. Community surveys - conducted with a stratified random selection of participants (data disaggregated by gender and ethnic groups) - will be used to evaluate livelihoods, wellbeing, and natural resource dependence/perceptions indicators. Reflection sessions (women and marginalised group-led) will yield qualitative insights. Wildlife camera trap and sign surveys will monitor the population and movement of key species (tiger, elephant and free-roaming mammals) to understand how connecting forest patches facilitates movement. CA/TS will be used by national and international experts to evaluate the performance of rescue centres and park management.

Output 1: monitored through products and records of activities promoting HWCx and community champions. The output will be evaluated through reduced HWC, actively engaged community leaders acting as HWCx champions, networking with insurance companies, alternative livelihood schemes operating, establishment of community banks, school awareness programmes and community drill reports for problem animals. These will include training/workshop attendance records, minutes, institutional documents.

Output 2: monitored with support from BZMCs park and partner agencies. The Livelihood Specialist will carry out pre- and post-project surveys supplemented with information on community bank records, trainings logs and post-training assessment. Monitoring will measure beneficiary numbers, income levels, wellbeing, market-chain links, local government match support. Information will be obtained through meeting minutes, photos, workshop and training reports, exposure visit information etc.

Output 3: monitored with support from park and partner agencies, local government and BZMCs. Monitoring will assess numbers of predator-proof corrals, bio-fencing and other barriers; economic valuation of interventions; human lives saved through meeting minutes, photos, workshop and training reports, physical structures.

Output 4: monitored through biological and socio-anthropological surveys with support from park and partner agencies. Camera trap technology will determine effectiveness linear infrastructure modifications assessing animals use. Establishment of the rescue centre in Bardia NP ; and Rapid Response Team effectiveness will also be assessed. Monitoring data is through meeting minutes, photos, workshop and training reports, number of rescued animals and animal facilities. This Output will involve significant UK-Nepal collaboration, sharing academic and animal handling knowledge from London/Whipsnade Zoo and Institute of Zoology. Visitor logs and training days will be measured. Veterinary knowledge of Nepali staff will be monitored through course curriculum and certificates.

Output 5: mixed methods will assess park management and wildlife populations. Monitoring will be led by park and partner staff supported by our Wildlife Biologist (Nepal and UK expertise). Methods will involve camera traps, visual direct counts, sign surveys, blockwise vegetation sampling in various quadrat sizes. Park management effectiveness will be monitored through standard CA/TS tools. Survey reports, CA/TS reports, published papers and books

Independent Final Evaluation in GBP	[redacted]
Independent Final Evaluation (%)	[redacted]
Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£[redacted]
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	180

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q25. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

See the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance for advice on completing a logical framework and selecting Indicators.

- Logframe Template

The **logframe template** needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

Please upload your logframe and Theory of Change as a combined PDF document.

BCF-St2-and-Single-Stage-Logical-Framework-and-TOC-FINAL FOR SUBMISSION
03/10/2022
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pdf 405.36 KB

Impact:

Well-being of buffer zone and corridor human communities, and status of globally significant wildlife populations, are secured through improved management capabilities of Nepal's Protected Area authorities and other government agencies.

Outcome:

Capabilities strengthened for 12,265 households and three Protected Areas to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and poverty, with investments in proactive-and-tested solutions for better management of increasing and dispersing wildlife species.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Foundations set for upscaling HWCx: Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions are created from existing successful "HWC reduction community units", bringing strengthened skills for replication in other PAs to reduce the rate of serious encounters between wildlife and people, and future-proofed by incorporating HWC safeguards, learning and response mechanisms into Nepal's existing and inclusive PA and buffer zone (BZ) management system.

Output 2:

Livelihood investments to break cycle of poverty: Entry points to breaking the cycle of poverty are strengthened in existing communities (2,615 HHs) and upscaled to adjoining communities (4,650 HHs) around the 3 focal PAs (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) through better access to solid economic returns from existing and/or new livelihood options.

Output 3:

HWC mitigation investments for communities and BZUCs: targeted HWC mitigation investments in priority communities resourced and delivered benefiting 1,000 existing HHs from previous projects and 4,000 new HHs through PA-wide community engagement, with longer-term sustainable means of mitigation identified for a further indirect 3,000 HHs.

Output 4:

Mitigation of effects of linear infrastructure and habitat fragmentation on wildlife: impacts of current and developing linear infrastructure (roads, rails, irrigation canals) on key wildlife species reduced through strengthened learning and evidence-based planning and through improved capacity of DNPWC teams to successfully perform wildlife rescue, handling, translocation or holding of various species.

Output 5:

Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife: threats to wildlife reduced and kept low, with better habitat and wildlife management interventions meeting needs previously identified by managers, and capability and capacity increased in 3 PA/BZs through better equipped and trained teams

Do you require more Output fields?

N.B. – Most projects have 3-4 Outputs. It is advised to have fewer than 6 outputs.

⦿ No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

1.1 Build on existing understanding and capabilities within PA-BZ management with regards to HWC reduction by creating HWCx positions, organizing HWC-themed meetings, and producing participatory HWC maps.
1.2 Review HWC mitigation projects in Nepal and identify the effectiveness of mitigation tools trialled to inform HWC best practices guidelines for South Asia.
1.3 Map the existing network of Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) and facilitate the CBAPUs to put HWC reduction at their core.
1.4 Strengthen HWCx champion groups within the project sites to deliver their allocated responsibilities and for scaling up the work in other parts of the country
1.5 Pilot network of GSM-enabled cameras for conflict species (elephant) surveillance in ShNP as an early warning system for communities near agricultural and village areas.
1.6 Strengthen access to existing government quick relief mechanism for compensation for livestock loss
1.7 Support HWCx champions to conduct awareness programmes linked to behaviour change and safety drills for communities and schools.
1.8 Test and if appropriate scale-up insurance mechanism for mitigating HWC (primarily focused on tiger, elephant, rhino, and leopard).

2.1 Assess the existing mechanism of livelihood support at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level through workshops on value chain promotion for livelihood commodities/services
2.2 Consultation workshops to identify and establish market needs for key products/services from the project sites and strengthen market access and valuation.
2.3 Replicate community banking (establish new and strengthen existing ones), with by-laws covering conservation and subsidy scaled for households with different levels of marginalisation
2.4 Enhance community resilience by replicating agricultural practices especially that have been shown to reduce HWC in the project sites.
2.5 Replicate animal husbandry practices for better livestock health and rearing, introduce means of sustainable fodder and productivity reducing dependency on natural resources in PAs.
2.6 Strengthen existing ecotourism ventures in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta through investments in skill development.
2.7 Connect HWCx champions (under Output 1) with skill development trainings.
2.8 Conduct pre and post project surveys of the beneficiaries to assess and evaluate changes.

3.1 Build on the existing knowledge base of HWC in the landscape by participatory consultations for co-developing locally appropriate mitigation methods for the project sites.
3.2 Support BZUCs through HWCx champions under Output 1 to implement HWCx plan using proven proactive HWC reduction measures.
3.3 Arrange exchange visits to past ZSL sites (PAs) to enable best practice adoption for HWC reduction, assessing take-up rate of methods 1-2 years later.
3.4 Produce awareness-raising materials and outlets to spread HWC mitigation and biodiversity conservation messages to the larger public using channels identified under Output 1.
3.5 Pre and post project social and field surveys in the participating communities to ascertain reduction in HWC and measure changes in perception to HWC.

4.1 Relevant stakeholders are engaged through workshops and meetings to identify gaps and opportunities to link with current mitigation strategies for the negative impacts of linear infrastructure
4.2 Assessment of impact on wildlife of current and proposed linear infrastructures in the three national parks.
4.3 Priority wildlife crossing sites identified by scoping visits to Shuklaphanta NP and Bardia NP are strengthened.
4.4 Produce best practices recommendations for ShNP, BNP and BaNP based on the project learning for mitigating the impact of linear infrastructure on wildlife.
4.5 Strengthen wildlife response team led by Bardia NP, with two representatives from satellite sites (ShNP and BaNP).
4.6 Strengthen existing post rescue structures in the three parks through meeting the parks' infrastructural and equipment needs.
4.7 Support linking the wildlife response team with HWCx champions (under Output 1) to promote participatory approach to safe rescue and handling of wildlife.
4.8 Improve DNPWC's existing institutional capacity regarding post-rescue management of wildlife.
4.9 Scale-up the use of in-country expertise to train and systematically manage other wildlife units such as mini zoos that are operated at the municipal and forest user group level in the country and on wildlife rescue and handling.

5.1 Stakeholders including PAs, NGOs, BZUC and CSOs are engaged to co-design approaches to improve wildlife habitat management.
5.2 Collaborate with PA authorities to better manage priority habitats identified within the three PAs.
5.3 Strengthen PA's existing capacity to monitor key species (Tiger, Elephant, Browsing species) within the PAs.
5.4 Build on existing PA infrastructure and equipment within the three parks to improve management effectiveness.
5.5 Collaborate with stakeholders (PAs, conservation partners, universities) to promote studies towards strengthening the conservation effectiveness of each PA.
5.6 Improve upon existing recommendations and policies to incorporate changes following the results of National Tiger Survey 2022.
5.7 Understand the impact of project interventions on the retention of wildlife within protected areas to assess effectiveness of intervention
5.8 Produce best practices document as future recommendation strategy for biodiversity conservation.

Section 12 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet below, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Note that there are different templates available, please ensure that you use the BCF budget template**. Please refer to the Finance Guidance for more information.**

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

BCF Budget ZSL Final DIR29EX1087
03/10/2022
23:29:03
xlsx 94.33 KB

Q27. Funding

Q27a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

⦿ New Initiative

Please provide details:

This initiative will build on existing work and support the government's Protected Area Management Strategy and the broader TAL programme's vision. The project will build upon better practices and lessons learnt from ZSL and other partners working in this landscape. ZSL has implemented several livelihood and biodiversity conservation projects in this landscape including three UK government funded projects within the last 10 years. Most of these projects have been smaller in terms of time frame and resources tackling challenges at specific communities and sites.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

⦿ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

ZSL operates in Nepal with a fully-fledged country office with a long-term commitment towards biodiversity and people. The current landscape is a priority conservation site for ZSL and other conservation partners like NTNC and WWF.
We have worked on aspects of the proposed activities on a project-by-project basis, awaiting the opportunity to scale up. Certain activities are completely new to the area bringing livelihoods opportunities and HWC mitigation work from elsewhere.
We have chosen communities and areas of the parks not reached by other organisations or by our approach (e.g. HWCx champions). Our interventions are coordinated through the park director in order to build synergy and avoid duplication.

We want to expand our work in the Shivalik-Terai landscape, applying lessons learnt and best practices from ZSL and project partners around reducing poverty and maintaining healthy ecosystems in this landscape, especially under shifting climate scenarios. We also plan to target HWC in the mountains but the majority of incidences occur in this more populous region. We are in discussion with ICIMOD aware of their interest to collaborate as the landscape extends to India, Easter Pakistan and Bhutan. With similar HWC challenges occurring along its range, there is significant potential for scaling.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

All capital equipment purchased during this project will remain the property of ZSL upon closure of the project. The inventory record of capital items purchased will always be maintained by ZSL and partner organisations. One tractor will be purchased as an all-purpose habitat management vehicle and grass-cutter to Shuklaphanta NP. Two vehicles will be purchased to serve as rescue ambulances (under Output 4) to Bardia NP and Shuklaphanta NP. Similarly, each park will be supported with firefighting equipment.

All the equipment will be purchased following ZSL and Darwin's procurement policy and using the value for money concept. We are not requesting more than 10% in capital costs. Equipment for field sites, for example the information centre, rescue centre, for park habitat management will be managed and operated by the partners through the end of the project handover process.

Q29. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

ZSL has 25 years' experience working with DNPWC, the Government of Nepal and the local communities, improving ZSL's access to information, tools, permits and local expertise, enabling cost-effective impact. The project utilises methods, data, infrastructure and learning from our existing ZSL Nepal programmes and wider portfolio of community-based conservation and development projects. ZSL projects in the past have focussed at grassroots level of marginalised communities with maximum benefits and lasting legacy.

ECONOMY: Costs are reduced by using existing systems, equipment, and infrastructure in Nepal; match-funding for key technical staff; and employing local staff. Required capital equipment, where feasible, will be sourced in-country, avoiding unnecessary shipping/customs charges. Community contributions to relevant interventions will support cost reduction and ensure community ownership.

EFFICIENCY: Building on established relationships with experienced local partners, having carried out similar work before, ensures inputs are efficiently translated into outputs, keeping administrative costs low from the outset of the project.

EFFECTIVENESS: Implementing tested approaches will support effective project implementation. For example, community banks are excellent investments, as demonstrated by our previous successful projects across South and Southeast Asia and Africa.

EQUITY: Activities are appropriately targeted to individuals, to take into account specific needs around gender and age.

OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS: ZSL is experienced in developing deliverable, locally cost-effective budgets. The sustainable and scalable nature of the project will continue to provide benefits in the long term as previous ZSL projects have, without the need for further funding. The project will implement cost-effective management improvements with low start-up costs and overheads but large impacts on conservation and community development. By developing local physical and human capital, further long-term conservation benefits are unlocked, in addition to those targeted in the short-term, so increasing the return on investment.

Section 13 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with all partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

If your project involves data collection and/or analysis which identifies individuals (e.g. biometric data, intelligence data), please explain the measures which are in place and/or will be taken to ensure the proper control and use of the data. Please explain the experience and role of the involved partners in managing this information in your project.

ZSL has invested heavily in its safeguarding policies and procedures both in the UK and globally. Throughout ZSL's long-term experience implementing projects jointly with Nepali NGOs, local governments and local stakeholders, the team has developed ways to introduce locally appropriate safeguarding policies inclusive of vulnerable people. As part of due diligence, partners are required to show that they meet the same environmental and social safeguarding requirements and will be oriented on ZSL policies before making agreements with ZSL. Training is also completed in safeguarding, GDPR and code of conduct as a pre-requisite for all projects.

Q31. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

ZSL has in-house protocols for ethical approval adhering to international commitments for human rights and biodiversity, including Nepal's National Human Rights Commission Act 2012. ZSL Nepal's existing projects have undergone review through the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and this project will be managed through similar ESMS-aligned standards to ensure programmatic risks and potential negative impacts on communities and biodiversity are assessed, mitigated and reported on. An Environmental and Social Management Plan (including Environmental and Social Impact assessment, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Indigenous Peoples Plan and co-developed grievance mechanism), will work to ensure project interventions are equitable, gender-sensitive and prioritise participation of marginalised groups (50% target). This project will not introduce new access restrictions; rather, it supports improved livelihood options through livelihood improvement plan (output 2), conservation and management of natural resources in an equitable manner. Free, Prior and Informed Consent will be obtained across all aspects of programming to safeguard indigenous and local people's right to give or withhold consent, whilst ensuring traditional knowledge, practices and cultures are respected. As such, target communities were consulted in the design phase and their safety is prioritized. Output 3 is dedicated to safeguarding communities from current and potential HWC.

Section 14 - FCDO Notifications

Q32. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

⦿ Yes (no written advice)

Section 15 - Project Staff

Q33. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the Finance Guidance**.**

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr. Hem Sagar Baral	**Project Leader**	20	Checked
Dr. Bhagawan Raj Dahal	Deputy Project Leader	40	Checked
Bishnu Thapaliya	Project Manager- Nepal	80	Checked
Shashanka Sharma	Knowledge Management and Monitoring	35	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Prakash Sigdel	Wildlife Biologist	40	Checked
Muna Thapa	Programme Management Specialist	30	Checked
Sunjeep Pun	Programme Officer	100	Checked
Maheshwar Basnet	Livelihood Specialist	50	Checked
Amit Pajiyar	Project Finance Officer (Nepal)	50	Checked
Reshma Shrestha	Project Admin Officer	50	Checked
Simon Hedges	HWC Cross Cutting expert (UK)	5	Checked
Amanda Guthrie	Wildlife Health Expert-UK	10	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

CVs
03/10/2022
23:37:44
pdf 1.38 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⦿ Yes

Section 16 - Project Partners

Q34. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) you should upload alongside Q22.

Lead partner name:	Zoological Society of London
Website address:	https://www.zsl.org/
Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	ZSL was established in 1826. An international conservation charity with extensive experience managing large field-based conservation projects in over 40 countries, in Nepal, ZSL has supported the Government of Nepal for over 25 years in conserving priority landscapes and species, working with Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and partner, National Trust for Nature Conservation (below). ZSL Nepal's field offices have delivered other highly rated DI projects; improving livelihoods and establishing community-led conservation, providing technical and financial oversight, monitoring and safeguarding, and results-sharing nationally and internationally. ZSL's200 years' experience animal keeping in two internationally regarded zoos, follows high welfare and genetic diversity standards to maintain socially, behaviourally and reproductively competent animals. Its welfare audit processes can integrate with Nepal's wildlife response teams and rescue centres. Experience includes: a veterinary training course to handle and translocate conflict tigers in Indonesia, crocodilian handling in Nepal, training on handling and identification of venomous snakes in the field and captivity, (vipers being a likely group of animals frequently encountered through Nepal's rescue centres); and annually ZSL is part of a consortium running a field course in Sariska NP, India,"Interventions in Wild Animal Health (IWAH)" for wildlife conservation handling and investigating emerging infectious diseases.
International/In-country Partner	⦿ International
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£[redacted]
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes
Have you provided a cover letter?	⦿ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⦿ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
Website address:	https://dnpwc.gov.np/en/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	Under the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), DNPWC is the leading government line agency responsible for the conservation and management of wildlife, their habitat and outstanding landscapes of ecological importance. DNPWC is currently managing 20 protected areas and 13 buffer zone areas across the country, with support from its 1,937 members of staff. It leads on the preparation and implementation of species conservation and action plans. DNPWC is also responsible for implementing conservation-related national and international treaties and conventions like CBD, CITES, Ramsar, GTF, and UNESCO/WHS. It has conducted periodic national surveys for protected flagship species like tiger and rhino. It also facilitates the distribution of human-wildlife conflict relief across the country. ZSL and DNPWC have worked in partnership for over 25 years. ZSL has had an MoU in place with DNPWC since 2014 to support Nepal's conservation mission. DNPWC provides overall guidance on conservation issues, needs and interventions. It monitors and evaluates projects implemented in all protected areas and their buffer zones. In this project, DNPWC will support on the central and field-level coordination required for planning and implementation, as well as monitor, evaluate and advise on effective project interventions.
International/In-country Partner	⦿ In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

2. Partner Name:	National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)
Website address:	https://www.ntnc.org.np/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	NTNC was established in 1982 by a Legislative Act as an autonomous not-for-profit organisation, mandated to work in the field of nature conservation in Nepal. They have a permanent presence in two of the three target PAs in Nepal and have managed several livelihood development and biodiversity conservation projects funded by the US and UK governments as well from donors like the World Bank. ZSL has a long-standing relationship with NTNC spanning nearly three decades. NTNC will provide technical staff and will assist in implementing field activities for tiger and prey monitoring in Nepal as well as community conservation initiatives such as HTC mitigation and strengthening community-based anti-poaching units

International/In-country Partner	⦿ In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

3. Partner Name:	Buffer zone Management Committees
Website address:	n/a
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	The fourth amendment of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 in 1992, brought the buffer zone concept to Nepal. With the proper government approved guidelines in 1996, several protected areas started to set aside their fringe areas as the buffer zone, where spill-over populations of wildlife from the park could thrive and at the same time local communities sustainably manage their resources through elected representatives. The lowest unit that is elected in this manner is the buffer zone forest user group, and many such groups together elect representatives to be in the higher umbrella committee called Buffer Zone User Committee. The apex body associated with a protected area, the Buffer zone Management Committee (BZMC) a protected area is democratically chosen through an election process, and. works in coordination with the park, receiving 50% of the park's income (their biggest source of income) as well as income from other sources. They also work closely with conservation partners such as ZSL to implement livelihood and conservation activities in their region. BZMC will primarily work through NTNC and ZSL in community livelihood improvement, awareness and human-wildlife conflict management with an ultimate goal of living in harmony with nature.
International/In-country Partner	⦿ In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

4. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*
International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

6. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? **(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**	*No Response*

International/In-country Partner	◯ International ◯ In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a cover letter and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

All Support Letters
03/10/2022
23:40:46
pdf 5.56 MB

Section 17 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35a. Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

◉ Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
29-011	Bishnu Prasad Thapaliya	Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods
DARCC001	Paul Barnes	Mainstreaming livelihoods, health, poverty, and wellbeing into EDGE species conservation
DARCC010	Fridah Mutili	Building effective and equitable multi-stakeholder mitigation for HWC in Tsavo
28-006	Monica Wrobel/ Tungalag Ulambayar	Protecting Mongolia's Gobi Desert for wild camels and herder communities
DARPP222	Samuel Turvey	Respecting expertise of mountain people; conserving Vietnam's surviving bears
CV19RR16	Matthew Gollock	Responding to livelihood impacts of COVID-19 in the Northern Philippines

Q35b. Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the Lead Partner that demonstrate your credibility as an

organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	The IUCN Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP), funded by The German Cooperation via KfW Development Bank over three phases
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	EUR [redacted]
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	7 years, ongoing
Role of organisation in project	As the lead organisation, ZSL is responsible for the overall delivery and administration of this project. It provides coordination, technical and logistical support, and implementation of key project activities.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project aims to secure the Terai Arc landscape to increase tiger populations through improved management and monitoring of five trans-boundary PA tiger sites in Nepal and India, with foci on law enforcement, biological monitoring, and sustainable development for local communities. ZSL is currently implementing Phase II of the project, working with buffer zone communities in Nepal and India. Phase III started in June 2022 and will build on the achievements from Phase I which saw a measurable increase in estimated tiger populations and important tiger prey species, while complementing Phase II by promoting tiger conservation and community wellbeing.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Elisa Facchini, Programme Officer, Conservation Action, IUCN. [redacted]

Contract/Project 2 Title	Partnership for Landscape Management Support, Kelola Sendang, funded by the UK Government's UK Aid under the UK Climate Change Unit.
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	£[redacted]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	5 years (2015-2020)
Role of organisation in project	The project (led by ZSL) fed into a provincial wide Ecoregion and Landscape Management Partnership funded by the Governor of South Sumatra. This collaboration brought together a number of landscape actors from the public and private sector to achieve the aims of the project.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	KELOLA Sendang was a ZSL-led project, working with the Indonesian Government, communities and private sector across 1.6million hectares in South Sumatra. This landscape lies between two PAs, Sembilang NP (home to an estimated 10% of the remaining Sumatran tiger population worldwide) and Dangku Wildlife Reserve. The overall aim was for inclusive economic growth and community prosperity, biodiversity conservation, forest protection and restoration, and reduction in land-based greenhouse gas emissions through ending deforestation, peatland drainage and wildfires to restore valuable ecosystems. The project was handed over to the provincial government, ensuring landscape managementis continued by those most closely affected.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Tom Owen-Edwards, Head of UK Climate Change Unit [redacted]

Contract/Project 3 Title	Protecting the Dja Conservation Complex in Cameroon Project under the EU funded Program for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems (ECOFAC)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	£[redacted]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	5 years (2017-2022)
Role of organisation in project	ZSL is lead implementer of this project alongside African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), responsible for coordination and facilitating activities for the duration of the project.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The Dja Faunal Reserve and surrounding landscape functions as a globally outstanding reservoir for Central African biodiversity and sustaining environment for Cameroon's forest-dwelling people and nature-based economies. This project aims for 100% of Dja Faunal Reserve to be covered by patrols by 2022; minimum 30 local communities involved in management of natural resources and minimum 4 companies (forestry, agro-industrial, hydroelectric, etc.) committed to responsible environmental/social management. Achievements to date include capacity building of law enforcement officers, community focal points; consolidation of 18 Village Savings and Loans Associations; increased community interest in conservation and understanding of sustainable use of natural resources.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Sylvanie Jardinet, Attache, Agriculture and Environment team, EU Delegation, Republic of Cameroon [redacted]

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

◉ Yes

Section 18 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of

£4,906,934.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- **I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, a budget, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name	Monica Wroble
Position in the organisation	Head of Strategy and Design
Signature (please upload e-signature)	MicrosoftTeams-image (1) 03/10/2022 23:46:52 png 44.71 KB
Date	03 October 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

ZSL Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21
03/10/2022
23:47:58
pdf 5.03 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

HR Global Safeguarding Policy ZSL
03/10/2022
23:48:15
pdf 189.95 KB

Section 19 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance**", "**Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance**", "**Risk Guidance**", and "**Financial Guidance**".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • my completed **logframe** as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
• my **budget** (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
• my completed **implementation timetable** as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
• my **risk register**, including **delivery chain risk map**, as an Excel file using the template provided	Checked
• my 1 page **Theory of Change** as a PDF which includes the key elements listed in the guidance	Checked
• **1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff** identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
• a **letter of support** from the Lead Partner and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
• a **cover letter from the Lead Partner**.	Checked
• a **copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy**, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	Checked
• a signed **copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts** for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked

(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website **immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.**	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the Forms and Guidance Portal.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1																						
1.1	Build on existing understanding and capabilities within PA-BZ management with regards to Human-Wildlife Conflict reduction by creating HWCx positions, organizing HWC-themed meetings, and producing participatory HWC maps.	12 months																				
1.2	Review HWC mitigation projects in Nepal and identify the effectiveness of mitigation tools trialled to inform HWC best practices guidelines for South Asia.	9 months																				
1.3	Map the existing network of Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) and facilitate the CBAPUs to put HWC reduction at their core.	12 months																				
1.4	Strengthen HWCx champion groups within the project sites to deliver their allocated responsibilities and for scaling	24 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	up the work in other parts of the country																					
1.5	Pilot network of GSM-enabled cameras for conflict species (elephant) surveillance in ShNP as an early warning system for communities near agricultural and village areas.	18 months																				
1.6	Strengthen access to existing government quick relief mechanism for compensation for livestock loss	18 months																				
1.7	Support HWCx champions to conduct awareness programmes linked to behaviour change and safety drills for communities and schools.	27 months																				
1.8	Test and if appropriate scale-up insurance mechanism for mitigating HWC (primarily focused on tiger, elephant, rhino and leopard).	21 months																				
Output 2																						

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.1	Assess the existing mechanism of livelihood support at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level through workshops on value chain promotion for livelihood commodities/services	12 months																				
2.2	Consultation workshops to identify and establish market needs for key products/services from the project sites and strengthen market access and valuation.	12 months																				
2.3	Replicate community banking (establish new and strengthen existing ones), with by-laws covering conservation and subsidy scaled for households with different levels of marginalisation	15 months																				
2.4	Enhance community resilience by replicating agricultural practices especially that have been shown to reduce HWC in the project sites.	24 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.5	Replicate animal husbandry practices for better livestock health and rearing, introduce means of sustainable fodder and productivity reducing dependency on natural resources in PAs.	24 months																				
2.6	Strengthen existing ecotourism ventures in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta through investments in skill development.	18 months																				
2.7	Connect HWCx champions (under Output 1) with skill development trainings.	18 months																				
2.8	Conduct pre and post project surveys of the beneficiaries to assess and evaluate changes.	18 months																				
Output 3																						
3.1	Build on the existing knowledge base of HWC in the landscape by participatory consultations for co-developing locally appropriate	18 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	mitigation methods for the project sites.																					
3.2	Support BZUCs through HWCx champions under Output 1 to implement HWCx plan using proven proactive HWC reduction measures.	42 months																				
3.3	Arrange exchange visits to past ZSL sites (PAs) to enable best practice adoption for HWC reduction, assessing take-up rate of methods 1-2 years later.	12 months																				
3.4	Produce awareness-raising materials and outlets to spread HWC mitigation and biodiversity conservation messages to the larger public using channels identified under Output 1.	36 months																				
3.5	Pre and post project social survey in the participating communities to ascertain reduction in HWC and measure changes in perception.	18 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 4																						
4.1	Relevant stakeholders are engaged through workshops and meetings to identify gaps and opportunities to link with current mitigation strategies for the negative impacts of linear infrastructure	12 months																				
4.2	Assessment of impact on wildlife of current and proposed linear infrastructures in the three national parks.	18 months																				
4.3	Priority wildlife crossing sites identified by scoping visits to Shuklaphanta NP and Bardia NP are strengthened.	24 months																				
4.4	Produce best practices recommendations for ShNP, BNP and BaNP based on the project learning for mitigating the impact of linear infrastructure on wildlife.	12 months																				
4.5	Strengthen wildlife response team led by Bardia NP, with	45 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	two representatives from satellite sites (ShNP and BaNP).																					
4.6	Strengthen existing post rescue structures in the three parks through meeting the parks' infrastructural and equipment needs.	24 months																				
4.7	Support linking the wildlife response team with HWCx champions (under Output 1) to promote participatory approach to safe rescue and handling of wildlife.	9 months																				
4.8	Improve DNPWC's existing institutional capacity regarding post-rescue management of wildlife.	18 months																				
4.9	Scale-up the use of in-country expertise to train and systematically manage other wildlife units such as mini zoos that are operated at the municipal and forest user group level in the country and	12 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	on wildlife rescue and handling.																					
Output 5																						
5.1	Stakeholders including PAs, NGOs, BZUC and CSOs are engaged to co-design approaches to improve wildlife habitat management.	6 months																				
5.2	Collaborate with PA authorities to better manage priority habitats identified within the three PAs.	42 months																				
5.3	Strengthen PA's existing capacity to monitor key species (Tiger, Elephant, Browsing species) within the PAs.	51 months																				
5.4	Build on existing PA infrastructure and equipment within the three parks to improve management effectiveness.	24 months																				
5.5	Collaborate with stakeholders (PAs, conservation partners,	42 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q44	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	universities) to promote studies towards strengthening the conservation effectiveness of each PA.																					
5.6	Improve upon existing recommendations and policies to incorporate changes following the results of National Tiger Survey 2022.	27 months																				
5.7	Understand the impact of project interventions on the retention of wildlife within protected areas to assess effectiveness of intervention	12 months																				
5.8	Produce best practices document as future recommendation strategy for biodiversity conservation.	9 months																				

Project Title: Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Well-being of buffer zone and corridor human communities, and status of globally significant wildlife populations, are secured through improved management capabilities of Nepal's Protected Area authorities and other government agencies. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome (Max 30 words) Capabilities strengthened for 12,265 households and three Protected Areas to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and poverty, with investments in proactive-and-tested solutions for better management of increasing and dispersing wildlife species.	0.1 40% reduction in perceived economic and social vulnerability from HWC in 5000 HHs in 3 project PAs in the landscape (Bardia National Park (BNP), Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) and Banke National Park (BaNP)) by the end of the project. 0.2 70% of 900 surveyed households in 3 project PAs and indirect beneficiaries in 3 additional PAs report lessened impacts of HWC due to improved knowledge of real examples of preventative and locally appropriate actions (compared to Y1 baseline) by the end of the project. 0.3 60% of 7,265 HHs (selected through consultation with	0.1 Pre- and post-project surveys to assess household incomes and natural resource dependency 0.2 HWCx champions' meetings reporting feedback, survey results of community members, use of grievance mechanisms 0.3 Wellbeing surveys of community bank members; community bank records of incomes and disaggregated membership groups, government enrolment records of additional HHs 0.4 Analyses and reports on attitude surveys using a LIKERT scale from HHs in HWC-afflicted areas	Human-Wildlife Conflict remains a priority challenge for Nepal government post doubling of tiger numbers and increasing of other globally threatened species. The size of the protected areas continues to remain the same. Habitat fragmentation within PAs continues as linear infrastructure (development aspirations) across the PA system continues to be proposed and developed. Climate change will increasingly shift tiger habitat northwards as temperature increases.

	BZUC chairs and participatory meetings and baseline surveys show) at least a 40% improvement in the wellbeing index (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of the project with: 0.4 60% of the community bank members (ca 135 per community bank and at least 52 banks) showing at least a 40% increase in wellbeing. - All women and indigenous ethnic minority people organised into community banks achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups. - Community banking toolkit produced and shared with provincial and local governments in the landscape by mid-Y2 to scale livelihood interventions to additional 3000 HHs through match funding secured from local government 0.5 Improvement in attitudes to key wildlife species (e.g., tigers, elephants) with by at least 70% of respondents (split into disaggregated groups	0.5 Reports on the status (vegetation cover, rate of habitat loss, use by key wildlife species) of the two corridors 0.6 Reports on regular monitoring of elephant, tiger and tiger prey population status conducted by project teams in Banke and Shuklaphanta NPs using National Tiger Monitoring Protocol 2017; reports from NTNC and WWF for similar surveys in Bardia NP; reports from government Rhino Count 2025 and Tiger Survey 2026 for all three focal PAs. 0.7 Survey and capability assessment results, (CA|TS) audit results.	Multi-dimensional poverty continues to be a challenge for community members living alongside protected areas. Disadvantaged groups (women, indigenous people, people with physical disability) face barriers to better income making livelihood options necessary. Community members remain supportive of biodiversity conservation and are willing to participate and such support increases over the lifetime of the project. Populations of key wildlife species will respond positively to reduced HWC (reduced stress, fewer retaliatory injuries, and killings), improved habitat management, and overall improvements in PA management effectiveness

	including women and indigenous groups) in 3 project PAs and 3 additional PAs (Chitwan, Parsa & Koshi Tappu NPs) for HWC-afflicted HHs in the project landscape reporting either positive or strongly positive attitudes, compared to Y1 baseline, by the end of the project 0.6 The viability for wildlife movements of the corridors in Kamdi (Banke) and Boom-Brahmadev (Shuklaphanta) has been assessed by end of Y4 0.7 Stable or increasing trends in elephant, rhino, tiger and tiger prey species populations in all three focal PAs throughout project lifetime 0.8 Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) accreditation achieved for all 3 national parks (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) by the end of the project, bringing recognition and eligibility for additional funding investments by the end of the project.		

Outputs: **1. Foundations set for upscaling HWCx:** Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions are created from existing successful "HWC reduction community units", bringing strengthened skills for replication in other PAs to reduce the rate of serious encounters between wildlife and people, and future-proofed by incorporating HWC safeguards, learning and response mechanisms into Nepal's existing and inclusive PA and buffer zone (BZ) management system.	1.1 Protected Area-Buffer Zone HWC mitigation collaborations are incorporated into Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC) structures for PAs by being streamlined and upscaled by Y2 with: 1.1.1 An HWCx position in the BZMC of each park (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) created and institutionalised by the end of Y1 and scaled-up to be functional also in Koshi Tappu National Park (KTNP), Chitwan and Parsa NPs by the end of Y3. 1.1.2 Climate-change-aware, lowland-Nepal-wide, participatory HWC maps prepared by the end of Y1 and informing recommendations for hotspot focussed HWC mitigation efforts by the end of Y2. 1.2 Existing community units for HWC mitigation are scaled up to create 100 HWCx champions across 3 PAs/BZ with capacities strengthened to include a suite of species and for participatory data	1.1 Protected area and Buffer Zone Management Council (BZMC) employment records; workshop reports/minutes, participant logs and photographs; HWC maps prepared and in use, updated based on ground-truthing as necessary 1.2 Reports and photographs pertaining to creation of HWCx champions for all target PAs; training reports; bylaw documents; reports on data flows 1.3 Community and school programme minutes, drill reports, photographs 1.4.1 Reports on disbursement of HWC relief payments; receipts 1.4.2 Reports on meetings with insurance companies detailing what schemes are in place in Nepal that might lend themselves to modification to include HWC	Structural barriers to institutionalising HWC mitigation at the PA-BZ interface are present. PA and BZUCs are willing to improve their HWC reduction strategies. CBAPUs are willing to reform their organisation to include HWC reduction as guiding principle. BZUCs are willing to match ZSL's contribution in creating a conduit of HWC reduction unit through providing focal points labour. Awareness and behavioural change programmes increase community members' sense of resilience to HWC thus improving attitudes to wildlife recovery. Insurance companies are willing to engage in new areas and interest by communities is at sufficient scale for initial discussions to be explored

	gathering by the end of Y3, with 1.2.1 Bylaws of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) network in the project landscape are amended to include HWC mitigation actions by the end of Y1, 1.2.2 52 existing HWC reduction groups from within the CBAPUs strengthened and the approach replicated to adjoining sites by Y2 to create 100 HWCx champions across the landscape. 1.2.3 Linkages created between Wildlife Rescue Response Team (Ind 4.5) and HWCx champions by the end of Y2. 1.2.4 25% increase (baseline to be set in Y1) in the flow of HWC related information from HWCx champions to PA through Ind 1.1.1 by the end of Y3. 1.3 A total of 10,000 HHs (55,000 people) in the project landscape reached through 96 awareness and drill	1.4.3 HWC data analyses; reports on meetings with insurance companies; insurance companies' analyses and other documents 1.4.4 Reports on meeting with banks, micro-credit agencies, private sector companies, and government agencies 1.4.5 M&E reports on insurance schemes performance for HWC around the PAs produced by insurance companies and project staff	Community members in HWC-afflicted areas around the 6 PAs are willing and able to take-up opportunities to insure their crops and livestock against HWC

	programmes for behavioural change (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) conducted by HWCx champions by the end of Y5, with 1.3.1 In combination with Output 3, a 70% increase across HHs surveyed in the positive perception of communities in three project PAs towards wildlife in current conflict areas against Y1 baseline by the end of Y5 1.4 Feasibility of HWC insurance options across all six lowland Nepal national park buffer zones assessed by the end of Y3, and if feasible insurance schemes operational in Y4 and Y5, with: 1.4.1 HWC relief payments, e.g., for loss of livestock, supported until insurance schemes in place 1.4.2 Any existing crop and livestock protection insurance mechanisms or other potentially appropriate insurance		

	schemes identified and mapped by the end of Y1. 1.4.3 Feasibility of adding HWC specific damages to existing insurance schemes assessed in consultation with insurance companies assessed by end of Y3 1.4.4 Options (micro-credit, CSR, government aid) for supporting farmers to pay insurance premiums explored during years 2 and 3, with feasible methods identified by end of Y3 1.4.5 HWC insurance schemes operational in at least 50% of HWC-afflicted communities around the 6 PAs by end of Y5.		
2. Livelihood investments to break cycle of poverty: Entry points to breaking the cycle of poverty are strengthened in existing communities (2,615 HHs) and upscaled to adjoining communities (4,650 HHs) around the 3 focal PAs (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) through better access to solid economic returns from existing and/or new livelihood options.	2.1 Livelihood schemes at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level for 7000 HHs within the three western parks are understood, assessed, and improved by mid-Y2, with 2.1.1 Participatory resource mapping for 20 BZUCs conducted by the end of Y1.	2.1 Workshop minutes and photographs, meeting minutes, participatory resource maps, market analysis reports 2.2 Community bank records, HH feedback in baseline, midline and project end surveys; livelihood training reports and	Below average income is a persistent problem within the project communities and is one of the major barriers to reducing multi-dimensional poverty. Community banks remain one of the most efficient ways of engaging communities in livelihood improvement schemes as

	2.1.2 Quantity and diversity of existing products/services (agriproducts such as vegetable, cash-crops, grains; livestock products; ecotourism services such as nature guides, homestays, and restaurants) assessed by the end of Y1, taking account of access for key vulnerable groups and HHs. 2.1.3 Market access established and functioning by the mid of Y2. 2.2 52 Community banks, 12 existing plus 40 new (with ca. 135 HHs per CB), are established and/or strengthened under the framework of BZUCs and are directly benefitting 7,000 HHs, (including the most vulnerable groups and HHs) with the potential to increase income as highly as 60-120% as shown in previous projects, by the middle of Y2, with: 2.2.1 3,000 HHs benefitting through improved agricultural practices by	photographs, survey reports, exposure visit reports and photographs 2.3 Pre- and post-project surveys evaluate learning and livelihoods trainings completed including self-assessments of new skills 2.4 and 2.5 Pre- and post-project surveys to assess household incomes, natural resource dependency and wellbeing index	demonstrated in previous ZSL Nepal projects (DI-26-012, 24-015, 22-009) and are particularly appropriate for disadvantaged groups (that include, but are not limited to, women, people with physical disability, and indigenous groups). Natural resource dependency is one of the major sources of livelihoods for communities in the project landscape. Avenues to improved livelihood are limited for those from vulnerable groups (women, physically disabled, and Indigenous people). Foreign exchange rate fluctuations are buffered sufficiently in the budget.

	the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5). 2.2.2 4,000 HHs benefitting through improved livestock practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5). 2.3 265 members from HHs of HWCx champions (under Ind 1.2) and existing homestays are linked to alternative livelihood schemes by the end of Y3, with 2.3.1 120 HHs benefitting from electrician, plumbing, mobile repair, motorcycle repair skills training by the end of Y2. 2.3.2 145 HHs benefitting from nature-based tourism skills training by the end of Y3. 2.4 Average income of the participating 7,265 HHs increased by 20% by the end of the project against Y2 baseline across 750 sample HHs surveyed using a wellbeing index (sample size >10% of total HHs).		

	2.5 Communities' dependency on natural resources in adjacent PAs (i.e., firewood, fodder collection, livestock grazing) reduced by 20% in 50% of the participating HHs (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of Y5.		
3. **practices shown to be successful at reducing HWC and :** targeted HWC mitigation investments in priority communities resourced and delivered benefiting 1,000 existing HHs from previous projects and 4,000 new HHs through PA-wide community engagement, with longer-term sustainable means of mitigation identified for a further indirect 3,000 HHs.	3.1 Areas identified and assessed for locally appropriate interventions against high conflict species (i.e., tigers, elephants, browsing species) by consulting disaggregated groups (with at least 40% from Indigenous and other disadvantaged groups) across households by the end of Y1. 3.2 3.3 Exchange visits to previous ZSL and NTNC HWC reduction sites in Chitwan and Bardia NPs promote approaches to HWC mitigation tested by the project to a sub-set of 5,000 HHs and 100 HWCx champions by end of Y3 with uptake of the approaches assessed by the end of Y5 3.4 Lessons and experiences from the 3 project PAs made available to other HWC-	3.1 Maps produced and shared, meeting minutes, existing camera trap data, HWC incident reports 3.2 Trip reports, graphics and other learning documents and posters produced; follow-up visits and resulting feedback through end of Y5 3.3.1 HWCx champions' meetings reporting feedback, results of survey of community members, grievance mechanism reports 3.3.2 Reports on number of HHs accessing safety infrastructure (e.g., solar lights. early warning system, mesh wire fencing) and their satisfaction with these (assessed on a LIKERT scale) by end of Y4 3.3.3 Reports on usage of methods to reduce crop damage by elephants/browsing animals	HWC reduction remains a priority area for the DNPWC to invest in. HWC incidents occurring primarily in human settlements within 1 km of forest borders are a motivating factor for community participation. Vulnerable groups within the communities are currently highly dependent on natural resources from the forest as supplements to their livelihoods. Low levels of exposure to and awareness of effective HWC mitigation measures limit capacities of communities to implement best practices for HWC mitigation.

	afflicted communities including, with BZUCs and PA staff in by the end of Y5 3.5 Proactive mitigation measures against damage by high conflict species are replicated and reduce HWC by the end of the project in 1,000 existing households from previous projects and an additional 4,000 HHs as prioritised in Ind 3.1 3.5.1 At least 60% of 600 representative HHs report increased satisfaction with early warning systems for conflict species by end of Y4 compared to mid Y2 baseline. 3.5.2 20% increase in use of crop protection methods suitable for elephants and browsing animals in the participating communities by Y4 against baseline set in Y1. 3.5.3 30% reduction in livestock depredation from large and medium carnivores in the participating HHs by Y4 against baseline set in year 1.	3.3.4 Reports on number of HHs with predator proof corals and results thereof 3.3.5 Reports on injuries to people by wildlife 3.3.6 HH survey reports 3.4 HH survey reports 3.5 Baseline, midline and endline HH surveys plus HWCx champions' reports	

	3.5.4 15% reduction in direct physical harm to human beings by Y5 against baseline set in Y1. 3.5.5 3,000 additional HHs (repeat sample of 300 HHs) against Y1 baseline reporting a sense of preparedness and increased knowledge base for mitigating HWC incidents based on awareness of case studies from the 3 project PAs delivered by government match funds (i.e., number of people recall viewing awareness materials) by project end 3.6 70% of participating 5000 HHs HHs across 3 PAs reporting an increased sense of human-wildlife coexistence possibilities and resilience by project end (end of Y5). 3.7 Positive attitudes about conservation and participatory resource management in participating 5000 HHs surveyed in 3 PAs predicted to increase by 60% by end of Y5		

	against baseline set in at the start of Y2		
4. Mitigation of effects of linear infrastructure and habitat fragmentation on wildlife: impacts of current and developing linear infrastructure (roads, rails, irrigation canals) on key wildlife species reduced through strengthened learning and evidence-based planning and through improved capacity of DNPWC teams to successfully perform wildlife rescue, handling, translocation or holding of various species.	4.1 National and regional stakeholders identified, and expert learning provided by the end of Y1. 4.2 Evidence-based assessment of effects of linear infrastructure on wildlife movement and habitat quality/conflict drivers across the three parks and surroundings formalized by the end of Y2 4.3 Priority wildlife crossing sites for key species identified by end Y4 with: 4.3.1 2 priority sites for wildlife crossings in Shuklaphanta NP strengthened by the end of Y4. 4.3.2 10% increase (baseline to be set in Y2) in the rate of use of the wildlife crossings in Ind 4.3.1 by the end of Y5. 4.3.3 10% decrease against Y1 baseline in associated incursions by wildlife to within 1 km of HHs in the two existing conflict	4.1 Case study generated with the IUCN Elephant Transport Working Group and road ecology specialists; working group minutes; monitoring data; training reports 4.2 Pre- and post-project social survey reports, camera trap data, ranger focus group reports, wildlife roadkill and crossings data, community reports, secondary data on human fatalities and injuries, historical monitoring, and crop raiding data; recommendations document 4.3 Camera trap and wildlife monitoring data, expert workshop minutes and photographs, near-term wildlife crossing adjustments, HH surveys and HWCx champion feedback about conflict incidents 4.4 Reports submitted to government departments and agencies; official policy documents	Data and recommendations inform linear infrastructure construction/upgrades and associated mitigation interventions for key species in time for reducing drivers of HWC and for cost-effective measures to be taken by relevant departments and budget allocations. Climate extremes do not cause a high level of extraneous effects to severely hamper data collection about key crossings. Budget allocations by relevant departments and infrastructure development banks continue to reflect interest in funding mitigation of the effects of linear infrastructure effects during and after the project's lifetime.

	project sites by the end of Y5. 4.4 Recommendations for mitigation methods needed are reflected in project documents submitted to DNPWC, Department of Roads, Department of Irrigation, Nepal Electricity Authority and Department of Railways by end of Y2 and finalised by end of Y5. 4.5 Wildlife rescue response team, led by Bardia NP with two representatives from ShNP and BaNP, strengthened and equipped for wildlife issues (related to canal, road, and HWC) and trained by Wildlife Health Bridge programme of ZSL's Wildlife Health and Living Collection departments, by the end of Y4, with: 4.5.1 Animal holding facilities improved through staff training, enclosure improvements and best practice for animal nutrition and behaviour by the end of Y3.	4.5.1 Reports on training and inspection of facilities, photographs 4.5.2 Reports on animal tracking data and analyses and use thereof 4.5.3 Reports on training and inspection of facilities and sampling protocols, photographs 4.5.4 Reports on rescue operations	

	4.5.2 Post-release collaring data of large carnivores (i.e., tiger and leopard) from beginning of any animal releases informs PA wildlife and habitat management and community awareness-raising throughout project period 4.5.3 Disease monitoring capacity improved with sample collection and analysis links to management centre at Lalmati in Bardia NP established in Y2 4.5.4 Wildlife rescue response rate increases by 20% by project end compared to baseline set in Y2.		
5. **Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife:** threats to wildlife reduced and kept low, with better habitat and wildlife management interventions meeting needs previously identified by managers, and capability and capacity increased in 3 PA/BZs through better equipped and trained teams	5.1 Multi-stakeholder engagement (PAs, NGOs, BZUC, CSOs) co-design approaches during Y1, with 5.1.1 priority areas for habitat management identified by the end of Y1 5.1.2 priority needs of PA in research, infrastructure, equipment, policy, and capacity identified by the end Y1.	5.1 Meeting minutes, maps of priority areas, lists of agreed priority needs 5.2 Reports on plot samples to track grassland quality, camera trap images to reveal water hole use, reports including maps on firebreak creation and maintenance	Avenues exist to complement the activities of existing projects (government and other I/NGOs) within the three protected areas to magnify conservation outcomes. The PA authorities are willing to provide staff to participate in project activities.

	5.2 Habitats identified under Ind. 5.1.1 are improved against Y1 baseline for key species by the end of Y4, with 5.2.1 50 ha of grassland maintained by the end of Y4, 5.2.2 6 water holes are strengthened through solar lifts (pumps) by the end of Y3 5.2.3 75 km fire line maintained by the end of Y4. 5.3 Priority needs of PAs re research, policy, infrastructure, equipment, and the capacity to monitor wildlife and to address larger biodiversity issues are improved by the end of Y5, against Y1 baseline with 5.3.1 Key research projects (including 5 Masters students' projects) about animal movements, conflict incidents and mitigation, post-translocation, or post-release behaviours by end of Y5.	5.3 Iterative implementation plans for each PA 5.3.1. Research project data and reports, students' theses 5.3.2. Survey and capability results, (CA|TS) audit results 5.3.3. Reports on progress implementation plan 5.3.4 Procurement reports and receipts 5.4.1 Camera trap data 5.4.2. camera trap data, HH surveys, HWC champion reports 5.5 Number of peer reviewed papers in press and in preparation	The quality of habitat and resources within PAs are a limiting factor in supporting the increasing population of wildlife. Climate change continues to alter the intensity and frequency of natural disasters (fire, drought, flash floods) within the protected areas, requiring management to mitigate its effects. Management effectiveness of PA staff is a limiting factor for managing the increasing wildlife within the PAs, necessitating capacity building

	5.3.2 Capabilities of 450 park and DNPWC staff improved to ensure they comply with Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) requirements for accreditation by the end of Y4 (compared to Y1 baseline) 5.3.3 Three priority needs that were identified in Year 1 (e.g., renovations or facilities improvements for visitor in any of BaNP, BNP, and PA research facility) are addressed by the end of Y3. 5.3.4 Teams equipped with relevant gear for responses and monitoring with 3 vehicles (2 jeeps/trucks, 1 tractor), 20 GPS collars, 12 CCTV cameras, 90 cameras, both Global System for Mobile (GSM) and non-GS), supported by the end of Y3. 5.4 Improved evidence of key wildlife species being present		

	within PAs by the end of Y5, with 5.4.1 20% increase in key wildlife species' use of improved habitats such as grasslands and waterholes (against baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) by the end of Y5. 5.4.2 15% decrease (baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) in wildlife sightings in HWC hotspots by the end of Y5 5.5 Lessons learnt are documented, analysed, and promulgated through two peer reviewed papers within a year of project end.		

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

1.1 Build on existing understanding and capabilities within PA-BZ management with regards to HWC reduction by creating HWCx positions, organizing HWC-themed meetings, and producing participatory HWC maps.
1.2 Review HWC mitigation projects in Nepal and identify the effectiveness of mitigation tools trialled to inform HWC best practices guidelines for South Asia.
1.3 Map the existing network of Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) and facilitate the CBAPUs to put HWC reduction at their core.
1.4 Strengthen HWCx champion groups within the project sites to deliver their allocated responsibilities and for scaling up the work in other parts of the country
1.5 Pilot network of GSM-enabled cameras for conflict species (elephant) surveillance in ShNP as an early warning system for communities near agricultural and village areas.
1.6 Strengthen access to existing government quick relief mechanism for compensation for livestock loss
1.7 Support HWCx champions to conduct awareness programmes linked to behaviour change and safety drills for communities and schools.
1.8 Test and if appropriate scale-up insurance mechanism for mitigating HWC (primarily focused on tiger, elephant, rhino, and leopard).

2.1 Assess the existing mechanism of livelihood support at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level through workshops on value chain promotion for livelihood commodities/services **2.2 Consultation workshops to identify and establish market needs for key products/services from the project sites and strengthen market access and valuation.** **2.3 Replicate community banking (establish new and strengthen existing ones), with by-laws covering conservation and subsidy scaled for households with different levels of marginalisation** **2.4 Enhance community resilience by replicating agricultural practices especially that have been shown to reduce HWC in the project sites.** **2.5 Replicate animal husbandry practices for better livestock health and rearing, introduce means of sustainable fodder and productivity reducing dependency on natural resources in PAs.** **2.6 Strengthen existing ecotourism ventures in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta through investments in skill development.** **2.7 Connect HWCx champions (under Output 1) with skill development trainings.** **2.8 Conduct pre and post project surveys of the beneficiaries to assess and evaluate changes.**
3.1 Build on the existing knowledge base of HWC in the landscape by participatory consultations for co-developing locally appropriate mitigation methods for the project sites. **3.2 Support BZUCs through HWCx champions under Output 1 to implement HWCx plan using proven proactive HWC reduction measures.** **3.3 Arrange exchange visits to past ZSL sites (PAs) to enable best practice adoption for HWC reduction, assessing take-up rate of methods 1-2 years later.** **3.4 Produce awareness-raising materials and outlets to spread HWC mitigation and biodiversity conservation messages to the larger public using channels identified under Output 1.** **3.5 Pre and post project social and field surveys in the participating communities to ascertain reduction in HWC and measure changes in perception to HWC.**
4.1 Relevant stakeholders are engaged through workshops and meetings to identify gaps and opportunities to link with current mitigation strategies for the negative impacts of linear infrastructure **4.2 Assessment of impact on wildlife of current and proposed linear infrastructures in the three national parks.** **4.3 Priority wildlife crossing sites identified by scoping visits to Shuklaphanta NP and Bardia NP are strengthened.** **4.4 Produce best practices recommendations for ShNP, BNP and BaNP based on the project learning for mitigating the impact of linear infrastructure on wildlife.** **4.5 Strengthen wildlife response team led by Bardia NP, with two representatives from satellite sites (ShNP and BaNP).** **4.6 Strengthen existing post rescue structures in the three parks through meeting the parks' infrastructural and equipment needs.** **4.7 Support linking the wildlife response team with HWCx champions (under Output 1) to promote participatory approach to safe rescue and handling of wildlife.** **4.8 Improve DNPWC's existing institutional capacity regarding post-rescue management of wildlife.**

4.9 Scale-up the use of in-country expertise to train and systematically manage other wildlife units such as mini zoos that are operated at the municipal and forest user group level in the country and on wildlife rescue and handling.
5.1 Stakeholders including PAs, NGOs, BZUC and CSOs are engaged to co-design approaches to improve wildlife habitat management. **5.2 Collaborate with PA authorities to better manage priority habitats identified within the three PAs.** **5.3 Strengthen PA's existing capacity to monitor key species (Tiger, Elephant, Browsing species) within the PAs.** **5.4 Build on existing PA infrastructure and equipment within the three parks to improve management effectiveness.** **5.5 Collaborate with stakeholders (PAs, conservation partners, universities) to promote studies towards strengthening the conservation effectiveness of each PA.** **5.6 Improve upon existing recommendations and policies to incorporate changes following the results of National Tiger Survey 2022.** **5.7 Understand the impact of project interventions on the retention of wildlife within protected areas to assess effectiveness of intervention** **5.8 Produce best practices document as future recommendation strategy for biodiversity conservation.**