



Darwin Initiative Project Final Report



Institutionalising Participatory Integrated Forest Management in Nepal: *Reconciling Biodiversity Management with Local Livelihoods*



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1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference No.	11-021
Project title	'Institutionalising Participatory Integrated Forest Management in Nepal – Reconciling Biodiversity Management with Local Livelihoods' <i>(formerly: Institutionalising Participatory Forest Biodiversity Management in Nepal)</i>
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2. Project Background/Rationale

- Describe the location and circumstances of the project

The Government of Nepal (HMGN) has made significant initial progress in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, through forming a network of protected areas covering almost 18% of the country. The National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1997) states '*the goal is to integrate biodiversity conservation with socio-economic development*'. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) is also an internationally recognized leader in implementing Community Forestry – handing responsibility for forest management across the middle hills in particular to local rural communities (over 14,000 Community Forest User Groups or CFUGs have been formed managing over 20% of Nepal's forest land under the heaviest biotic pressure). In the recent Nepal Biodiversity Action Plan the Community Forestry programme is cited as a major success in reversing forest habitat degradation, through communities efforts at regulated extraction and systematic planting and assisted natural regeneration.

- What was the problem that the project aimed to address?

Despite the widely recognised achievements of CFUGs in regenerating the middle hills forest habitats, beyond rhetorical endorsement there had been no concerted policy programme to promote biodiversity management in Community Forests (CFs) and through CFUGs at the time of the start of this project. Other policy initiatives (for instance seeking to introduce 'biodiversity corridors' outside of protected areas) even indicated a denial of CFUG's positive biodiversity impacts and threatened a de-legitimation of their management role. At the time of

this project's inception therefore CFUG members and their national representatives felt excluded from the biodiversity management process (Shrestha, NK: 2001), and indeed fearful of it in terms of threatening their hard-gained rights. Therefore achieving a consensus on the appropriate positive role for CFUGS, and ensuring their capacity to adopt a role became expedient. This demanded the development and piloting of inclusive, participatory and equitable modes of biodiversity management planning. Both senior figures in the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and in Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) agreed to be involved in and actively support this policy-oriented action research project.

- Who identified the need for this project and what evidence is there for a demand for this work and a commitment from the local partner?

The need for project was identified through multi-stakeholder discussions facilitated by Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski, Dr. Om Prakash Dev, in conjunction with senior Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation personnel (particularly Dr. Damodar Parajuli) and the executive committee members of the Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). In these meetings all agreed consensus-building policy process oriented work in this area to be essential. Evidence of demand later emerged in print, in Nepal's 'National Biodiversity Strategy' (2002) and draft 'Biodiversity Action Plan' (2003)

3. Project Summary

- What were the purpose and objectives (or outputs) of the project? Please include the project logical framework as an appendix if this formed part of the original project proposal/schedule and report against it. If the logframe has been changed in the meantime, please indicate against which version you are reporting and include it with your report.

The **project's purpose** has been:

'Biodiversity Action Planning processes in Nepal at District and Community Forest User Groups levels are institutionalised, ensuring the protection of biodiversity and its equitable and sustainable utilisation.'

The primary **project outputs** have been:

1. *Field tools for local Participatory Biodiversity Assessment, and Action Planning (BA/BAP) process developed*
2. *Biodiversity Assessment and Action Planning (BA/BAP) implemented and documented in at least 12 FUGs.*
3. *District-level Biodiversity Action Planning (DBAP) process implemented in at least 3 Districts*

These have not changed during the lifetime of the project

(The logframe is appended.)

- Were the original objectives or operational plan modified during the project period? If significant changes were made, for what reason, and when were they approved by the Darwin Secretariat?

These have not changed

- Which of the Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) best describe the project? Summaries of the most relevant Articles to Darwin Projects are presented in Appendix I.

The project has sought to promote the implementation of forest biodiversity management in forest habitats adjacent to settlements and outside of Nepal's protected area system, through mobilising local CFUGs and by developing appropriate processes, and adapting policy guidelines, rules and regulations to achieve this. It therefore fits within a number of CBD Articles. In order of relevance (most relevant first):

8. In-situ Conservation

In particular: In-situ conservation outside protected areas (Art. 8c): promote protection of habitats; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and local knowledge on biological resources, and their management and use..

10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity

In particular: Integrating conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions;

7. Identification and Monitoring

In particular: Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities that have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.

11. Incentive Measures

In particular: by facilitating:

- 1) local processes of identifying enterprise opportunities linked to biodiversity resources, especially non-timber forest products processing and trade and ecotourism development, and
- 2) raising sense of ownership of forest biodiversity and raising status of biodiversity management performance of community

13. Public Education and Awareness

Particularly through promoting understanding of the importance of conservation of biological diversity for local livelihoods.

- Briefly discuss how successful the project was in terms of meeting its objectives. What objectives were not or only partly achieved, and have there been significant additional accomplishments?

We would judge it as being generally very successful.

Prior to this project biodiversity protection in Nepal was primarily equated with protected areas, leading to negative emotional associations on the part of local forest users and their representatives. This project has focussed on the challenges of improving management of biodiversity outside of protected areas in a way that has built consensus in how to resolve them. It has demonstrated that incorporating biodiversity issues into local forest management planning can empower rural communities and serve their interests, rather than disempower them. It has provided a model for local communities to take the responsibility for managing biodiversity in an integrated manner.

The objectives / outputs have all been fulfilled, as has the purpose, in the project districts and

CFUGs. Senior personnel in *both* the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and FECOFUN have stated that they would now like this model to be scaled up across Nepal – which we take as the ultimate endorsement of our project work, as this is a rare case of these more commonly oppositional groups achieving consensus.

We couldn't say that the project is an absolute success, because we have not been able to achieve a full nationwide institutionalisation of these processes yet. Three years is not long enough to see the project activities come to fruition, particularly in overcoming ingrained orientation of government staff, and the budget level has meant that we had to focus attention only on 10% of the total Districts in the country. We do feel though that this trend towards institutionalising these processes has now been set in motion, through their acceptance by senior Ministry personnel, and through adoption by CFUGs and district level personnel. Additionally, the Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan is incorporating much of the project learning directly into its syllabus and teaching, leading to a longer term change in the training of foresters away from timber production to multi-objective forest management.

Probably the biggest constraint to greater success has been the prevailing *Maobadi* conflict which has impeded a more intensive level of local-level process interaction, particularly across clusters of local CFUGs. If there had been no conflict we are certain we could have gone far beyond our original planned level of outputs, in terms of institutionalising the process. Nevertheless, this constraint has not stopped the work from achieving its main outputs and purpose.

4. Scientific, Training, and Technical Assessment

- Please provide a full account of the project's research, training, and/or technical work.

The project has aimed to integrate forest biodiversity protection, management and equitable utilisation into existing forest resource use practices at local level. To achieve this aim the project has focussed on developing planning methodologies which are both technically rigorous and also 'user-friendly' to local rural people in Nepal, many of whom have very limited formal educational background. We have focussed on piloting new methods, and facilitated the capacity development of CFUGs and District stakeholders in order to implement them across several districts in Nepal.

Project team:

In order to fulfil these needs an eclectic research team was formed, involving representatives from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation on deputation (Mr Shankar Dahal) , personnel from FECOFUN on deputation (Hari Dhungana), a senior forestry lecturer from the Institute of Forestry (Prof. IC Dutta) and a coordinator from DFID Livelihood and Forest Programme (Om Prakash Dev). Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski has led the project from the Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia. Prof. Piers Blaikie was also involved in the initial stages as policy advisor, although his role was reduced as the fieldwork became the main focus of the project. Dr. Sabita Thapa from the Biology Dept. Kathmandu University was also involved in the first year but left the project due to a change in personal circumstances.

The project has involved a range of scientific, training and technical aspects.

Research:

- (a) The development, piloting and adaptation of local and district-level FBAP processes and tools
- (b) action research on six specific aspects of participatory forest biodiversity management., also involving PhD training to two research team members,

Training:

- (c) training to field team members by staff from ODG and Institute of Forestry (Tribhuvan University, Nepal)
- (d) hands-on training and facilitation on forest biodiversity action planning (FBAP) in 15 CFUG and their members
- (e) hands-on training and facilitation on forest biodiversity action planning (FBAP) at district/cluster level in 4 districts,
- (f) learning group meetings at district and national level,
- (g) Awareness raising and Capacity building through networking local CFUG clusters and facilitating Learning group meetings for stakeholders at district and national level
- (h) PhD training to two research team members

The details follow, separated between ‘research’ and ‘training’ although through co-learning participatory action-research the distinction is somewhat blurred.

- **Research** - this should include details of staff, methodology, findings and the extent to which research findings have been subject to peer review.

Research has been focussed in two approaches: on the one hand the development of local planning tools, and on the other focal research on issues related to local biodiversity management.

This project has sought to promote ‘co-learning’ processes with the different and often adversarial stakeholders at national, district and field level. For this reason inclusive Participatory Action Research methods have been employed, emphasising process learning to involve all participants, particularly at local and district levels.

(a) The development, piloting and adaptation of local and district-level FBAP processes and tools

This issue involves a complex challenge at the interface between technical and social issues: how can local community forest management groups, of highly variable capacity and composition, take responsibility for managing the biodiversity aspects within the wider context of their livelihood-oriented forest management. This is challenging for a wide range of reasons, nevertheless we found that communities were interested and enthusiastic to work with us to plan for forest biodiversity management, and thereby we were able to develop standardised tools and processes at both local and district level. Through an iterative process these have been tested and further developed.

All the team members have been involved in developing these tools. Different aspects of them have been subject to review in different fora, at village and district level, as well as through presentation of papers at National workshops, and publication of peer reviewed journal articles.

(b) action research on six specific aspects of participatory forest biodiversity management.

Following project inception and initial piloting of FBAP approach, the action research component of the project was divided into six research strands, on which further learning was seen as essential for the evolution of the FBAP process. Team members of the project were allocated responsibility to lead specific strands according to their expertise and interests, with backstopping from the project coordinator.

In the context of detailed research on two of these 'strands' PhD training was provided to 2 project team members – at University of East Anglia School of Development Studies and was timed to complement project field activities.

1. Forest Biodiversity monitoring and management –in relation to Community Forestry.

Mr. Hari Dhungana has led this aspect of the research. We have not sought to develop exhaustive and stringent enumeration mechanisms in test sites for a scientific audience, but rather simple rule-of thumb methods which CFUG members can use to identify and monitor the biodiversity in their forests. We have treated this as the initial steps in a longer term process , and so wished to ensure a minimal basic level of monitoring could first be established. We therefore examined the perceived trade off between user-friendliness and labour demand, and sought to identify simple methods which were nevertheless adequately rigorous.. The effect of raising awareness of the need of biodiversity protection through the monitoring process was found to be as *important* as the data generation in terms of improving biodiversity protection.

For protection of biodiversity we started from the principle that monitoring must have ongoing value to the community themselves, or it would not be sustained. We have therefore sought to identify incentives for local people to manage their local forests to protect biodiversity, and these we believed came down to either cultural identification with forest biodiversity as 'their' biodiversity – something to be proud of, or the utilitarian issue of livelihood opportunities and potentials.

We began from using a bio-diversity register approach (after Gadgil *et al.*) to facilitate identification of all the species in the forest identifiable to the local people. We quickly developed very extensive lists. Key knowledge-holders became identified, and their knowledge appeared to gain status in the village. We then discussed the possible uses of these species. Next trends in availability were discussed, and lastly management provisions were identified.

Following activities carried out:

- (i) Participatory inventory and resource assessment of community forests with consideration of all timber and non-timber species (and include wildlife if FUGs are willing to do that)

- (j) community criteria and indicators for biodiversity assessment Identified
- (k) FUGs supported to develop a practical format for summary documentation of biodiversity in their CFs
- (l) Facilitated FUG procedures to properly link biodiversity condition to address FUG's management objectives- as necessary revise operational plans/constitutions
- (m) Through discussions with FUGs, procedure and frequency of further assessment of biodiversity agreed

Process documentation was then followed. Advantages, complications, time required and other details were written up for presentation to wider audiences and

This process clearly raised awareness of the link between forest habitat loss, forest product over extraction, and reduced availability of forest products for livelihood use. In one village the comments were as elementary as: *'if we didn't trample the understorey when we cut fuelwood we would have much more useful plants available.'*

2. Forest Resource Assessment tools and practices—in relation to Community Forestry

This research strand, led by Prof. IC Dutta has focussed on reforming official forest management planning processes. The main challenge here has been to evolve forest department working practices away from their historic orientation toward timber production. The transformation to practices appropriate for community-based forest management, as has been practiced in Nepal over the last 20 years, has been incomplete, and yet we are compounding the demand for change by trying to incorporate a third management objective - biodiversity protection into an 'integrated' planning process in village adjacent forests.

The Forest Department bases any forest management plan on a prior forest inventory. This is different from a 'biodiversity register' as it involves enumeration of plants as well as listing their presence. However the normal working practices emphasise inventory of tree species only, and therefore management of non tree species diversity have been marginalised. This lacuna is a reflection of the fundamental anti-biodiversity orientation of conventional silvicultural practices. Which, across South Asia, have led to the conversion of biodiverse natural forests into uniform timber producing tree stands.

We have been developing an alternative approach project after review of existing methods used by service providers, founded on a shift from 'expert tree inventory' to 'participatory forest resource assessment'. The later incorporates assessment of non-tree species (ie shrubs and herbs), involves local capacity wherever possible to reduce the burden on the back-logged Forest Department staff, and uses 'rule of thumb' assessment methods where suitable to avoid excessive labour input, whilst maintaining rigorous enumeration principles.

The methodology for developing the new assessment method encompassed:

- literature review led the foundation for major part of the analysis, to gather alternative options from different practices around the world.
- qualitative interview with different stakeholders, such as officials of Department of Forest, DFOs, Rangers and FUG members to understand the current problems and needs.
- , development of assessment method and piloting

- field verification in Kaski and Sarlahi and collective experience of the team members from 15 CFs of PIFM districts - Sankhuwasabha, Myagdi, and Kaski (piloting) in mid-hills, Sarlahi in Tarai and Dang in inner-Tarai.

In all 15 CFUGs, forest inventory and forest resource assessments were done. District Forest Office staff and staff members of service providers were trained in the new method of forest inventory that includes inventory of NTFPs., particularly medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP). The recommended process and method for inventory of NTFPs can be applied to hills and also to Tarai areas with slight modification in plot size and sampling design. The method strongly emphasizes local people's participation right from reconnaissance to final analysis of survey data, and its consequent use in making decisions regarding forest management.

The recommended process uses a clear basis for stratification of forest, and recommends a sampling intensity of at least 0.1%, plot size preferably square/rectangle, although circular plots can be used with great caution, otherwise any error is magnified in the final result. The method uses transect or trails as guiding lines, the transect is laid first taking at least 1Km-transect in 5 sq.km. area of forest, and then the plots are laid on either side of the line,.

This method also addresses the assessment of productivity of different products like bark, leaves fruits etc.

These findings have been published in an article in 'Forestry' the leading forestry journal of Nepal.

We have presented our recommendations to the head of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation., in order to get these rules changed, and had our recommendations accepted. Since this issue is highly contentious it may be some time before the rules are changed..

Prof. Dutta was also able to complete some previous research relating to NTFP management relevant to this project aims, and publish it in 2 books during this project, with project support.

3. Community level Forest Biodiversity-based enterprise development.

This strand, led by Mr. Hari Dhungana, has focussed on the challenges of achieving sustainable utilisation of forest biodiversity, in order to provide the incentive for habitat protection and improve equity in benefit sharing from forest biodiversity.

Currently although the utilisation of tress is regulated many non-timber forest products are effectively 'open access', leading to unregulated over-extraction. Additoinally, CFUGs are administrative institutions and are not able to manage enterprise activities themselves. Therefore this strand has explored cooperative institutions as a possible institutional mechanism for enterprise development.

- A catalogue of the NTFPs presently utilised and marketed by user groups and having potential for enterprise development at local level or for export developed. Has been developed
- Market chain analysis / product flow timeline has been performed, tracing the market interactions at each stage of production from harvest/extraction through intermediate and final processing, through final market consumption to illustrate market interactions

- and potential explored.
- Detail market information for 10 important NTFPs currently utilised or marketed by forest user groups has been collated
 - The process-oriented research mode explored market niches for various NTFPs, including their local production and processing, and these were incorporated into local forest biodiversity action plans
 - FUG networking for equitable NTFP marketing. To initiate viable and equitable trade on non-timber forest products, and linking to sustainable management and extraction at local level, FUGs having similar product ranges (especially Chiraito *Swertia chirayita*, Lokta *Daphne* sps) were brought together to plan for options with which they coordinate not only the sustainable management, extraction and value addition, but improve their bargaining capacity with market actors.

A paper on this research are were presented at the National Community Forest Workshop in 2004

4. Equitable sharing of benefits in community forestry.

Led by Mr. Hari Dhungana, who has been working on his PhD in the area of equity in benefit sharing from forest biodiversity utilisation. The primary issue here has been to explore how to ensure local people, and particularly the poorest can receive a fair return for forest products they have managed.

This strand developed technical methods and trained service providers (District Forest office, FECOFUN, and NGOs) to facilitate benefit sharing within CFUGs. Trained and equipped CFUGs with tools to assert claims over CF benefits and to share benefits equitably. This included following elements:

- How to identify needs and expectations of different social groups within an FUG?
- Making a choice of local use and marketing of forest products
- Exploring strengths and opportunities of greater collective benefits from local resources and of value addition
- Asserting FUG rights over forest products use, distribution and marketing
- Determining a locally negotiated basis of benefits distribution within FUG
- Negotiating benefits/prices with other actors/stakeholders

Methodology

- Identify of needs and expectations of different social groups within an FUG, prioritisation of species for domestic use and trade and then making a choice of local use and marketing of forest products
- Developing negotiation skill in FUGs and with the facilitation of district forest office staff. Negotiation skill development focused on benefits within FUG and prices with other actors/stakeholders

Findings are being written up in to a PhD thesis, and it is anticipated that at least two spin-off articles to internationally peer reviewed journals will be produced.

Hari Dhungana also gave a detailed interview on *Radio Sagarmatha*, South Asia's first community radio, highlighting equity and social justice issues within community forestry

5. Integration of local knowledge in CFUG management planning and action

Led by Mr. Shankar Dahal, who has been working on his PhD in this area. The focal issue is how local knowledge in forest biodiversity and its management can be incorporated into formal forest management practices.

Local knowledge has mainly pertained to utilisation of forest products, and particularly medicinal plants. There are also some insights into forest product management which are important to incorporate ...

Participatory tools such as semi-structured interview, discussion and observation were applied. This research was conducted in two sites within Sankhuwasabha district, namely Khandbari Municipality–10, 11 and Tamaphok VDC. Field research has been conducted mainly in Sankhuwasabha district, particularly with local herbalists.

LK exists in the field of management of natural resources (especially the medicinal plants) in rural communities, and is important to the resource-poor people in most rural communities. Local knowledgeable persons such as *Baidya*, herbalists and healers have been practising the knowledge and skills by using herbal medicines to treat people and livestock in most of the rural communities for centuries. These local herbalists are capable to deal with serious health cases, like hepatitis, dog and snake bites and other diseases.

However, there are various reasons for the erosion of local knowledge, skills and practices their knowledge and practices are not fully recognised by the Forest Department in terms of forest management and use practice (particularly understory preservation). Additionally the younger generation appears to have a lower level of interest in learning this knowledge than previous generations. As a result, local knowledge, skills and practices are eroding from the community on the one hand and the associated medicinal plant species are also depleting from rural communities on the other.

The main reasons include lack of recognition, research, development, documentation, training and extension, and sharing of local knowledge in the communities. The existing government policy, plan and programmes also do not address the issues related to local knowledge, skills and practices associated with local medical practices and medicinal plants. There is lack of integration of local knowledge, skills and practices into ongoing management of natural resources. However, there is high potential for integrating local knowledge, experience and best practices into resource management and use. This knowledge can be integrated into ongoing community-based resource management such as community forest management operational planning through identification, recognition, sharing, promoting local knowledge and mobilising knowledge holders in the community.

- More than 80 per cent of the people have local knowledge on the 'use' and about 20 percent people have knowledge on 'management' of medicinal plants.
- More than 50 per cent of the people in communities depend on local medical practices.
- Highly demanding medicinal plant species are rapidly degrading due to erosion of local knowledge, over-exploitation, mismanagement and loss of habitat. Some of these species are

Lothsalla (Taxus baccata), Chiraito (Swertia chirayita), Nirmasi (Delphinium denudatum), Panchaule (Dactylorhiza hatagirea), Jatamasi (Nardostachys grandiflora) and Thulo-okhati (Astible rivularis). However, some initiatives are being taken by local communities, as well

Factors Affecting Use of Local Knowledge

The present study identified different contributory factors which affected the 'existence' of local knowledge in the research sites. The occupations and needs of the people, education/ awareness level, exposure to modern facilities, cultural/religious factors, and support from service providers, economy, transportation facilities, social values, beliefs and norms and in-migration are the major contributory factors responsible for the existence of local knowledge, skills and practices (Figure 2 and 3).

The hindering factors responsible for the loss of local knowledge were not reciprocal to the contributory factors, but there seemed an inverse relation. Here, occupation and the need of the people had no hindering effect (0 per cent expression) in the existence of local knowledge, skills and practice. The out-migration of knowledgeable people from the community and lack of sharing of local knowledge are the major hindering factors responsible for the loss of local knowledge in the community

The ways of integrating LK into the management of MPs in community forestry

There are different ways of promoting local knowledge, skills and practices, which are useful to the people; among them one way is to integrate into the existing community resource management practices such as community forestry. There is need of collective actions from the governmental, non-governmental (NGOs), international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), academic institutions, community forest user groups, local community-based organisations (CBOs) and private firms to promote local knowledge, skills and best practices including conservation of associated medicinal plant species.

It is suggested that local knowledgeable persons like *Baidya*, healers and herbalists in the community be recognised and involved in the management of medicinal plants in a more sustainable and equitable manner by using their knowledge, skills and practices. It will be useful if local resource persons are used in the identification, training and preparation of operational plan and mobilisation of local resources. This will contribute significantly to promote local knowledge to manage valuable local resources in a more sustainable and equitable manner.

6. Improving Forest Management: Institutions for Forest Biodiversity Management.

This research strand has been led by Dr. Om Prakash Dev. It has involved assessment of how CFUG institutions can develop and use their institutional capacity in order to adapt to the FBAP process and manage the range of issues discussed above.

In all 15 District Forest Office staff, FECOFUN and NGO personnel were training in FBAP tool and how to link FBAP tool with district BAP process.

Methodology

Review of existing literature helped to understand the state of knowledge of the institutional issues associated with CFUGs and biodiversity management. The research methods employed here in the PIFM research project were under Participatory Action Research (PAR) mode and data was obtained through a combination of methods and tools like CFUGs institutional analysis, exploration and development of best practices across different CFUGs, together with local and district level stakeholders. Interactive dialogue at hamlet, focus groups, interest groups, CFUGs' committee, VDC and district level service providers and stakeholders were conducted throughout the period for three years.

In the first year, field methods for facilitating local participatory integrated forest management action planning were tested in 3 FUGs and refined, and extended to other FUGs and districts. In the second year progress was consolidated through follow-up visits to the CFUGs for further action planning process, and extended further to 11 more CFUGs. In the light of FUG level action plans and achievements, the District-level integrated forest management action planning process then focussed on institutionalising support for CFUG. In the third year, integrated forest management achievements and policy conclusions were presented at the national-level.

For each of these research strands there have been a number of outputs:

- (a) strand paper with an extended discussion on issues, state of knowledge, existing practices/experiences, policies, and key recommendation,
- (b) briefing paper
- (c) strand booklet in local language (Nepali), and
- (d) poster.

Additional outputs from this research:

A summary paper has been published in *Journal Hamro Ban Sampada*.

An article in the national broadsheet *SpaceTime Daily* highlighted the relevance of the biodiversity agenda within the popular community forestry programme in Nepal.

c) Training to field team members by staff from ODG and Institute of Forestry (Tribhuvan University, Nepal)

A range of different methods of forest biodiversity assessment, forest resource assessment and biodiversity monitoring have been conveyed to the team and to village partners, by Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski and Prof. IC Dutta. Although planned as training, in fact this has been much more in the nature of 'co-learning,' as theoretical principles and techniques have been adapted to local situations, conditions and problems.

d) Hands-on training and facilitation to members in 15 FUGs for integrated biodiversity management planning and implementation

This included the following key components of the FBAP process:

- Participatory monitoring and assessment of the biodiversity resources: especially with respect to species availability, abundance, trends, local uses, potential trade uses,
- NTFP- identification with respect to their local use and trade potentials, facilitation of training as well as discussions (for planning) on cultivation, harvesting (including timing, methods) and marketing ;
- Awareness raising and facilitation for equitable trade practices on forest products:
- Assessment of the specific needs of diverse groups, occupations within the FUGs, and devising equitable benefit distribution schemes: more inclusive basis for negotiating and settling different needs, aspirations of the
- Process of identifying traditional healers and knowledge holders, and incorporating their knowledge and insights with respect to holistic management planning
- Institutional improvement: reflections on the existing institutional status and identification of constraints and opportunities.
- Formalisation of local FBAP plans and also amendment of the community forest operational plans and FUG constitution, as required under community forestry statutes in Nepal

e) Hands-On Training And Facilitation On Forest Biodiversity Action Planning (FBAP) At District/Cluster Level In 4 Districts

Co-learning processes were initiated in 4 districts, where training was imparted in the context of learning groups, and subsequently action-planning processes were facilitated. These involved a range of activities (detailed in the FBAP Toolkit publication) including:

- Identifying areas within the district/cluster for conservation and management priorities,
- reviewing ongoing management and support activities, and
- developing action plans for implementation (and facilitation) by key stakeholders, mainly the FUGs, District Forestry offices, conservation organisations, and FECOFUN.

f) Learning group meetings at District and National levels:

Learning groups were formed at the national and district levels, one at national level and one each in the four districts, and the meetings were held three times every year at national level, and two times every year in the districts. The learning group process was very supportive to enhance stakeholder ownership of the project, helped coordination of field facilitation and action research through joint planning. This process served as a mechanism to reviewing and scrutinizing of project work by key stakeholder groups.

Informal learning groups were formed in the first year of the project, consisting of members from government agencies, bilateral forestry projects, conservation organisations, members of NGOs and civil society bodies, and university faculty members and the members of the research team- at the national level- to periodically review and reflect on the field level issues and experiences. These helped coordination of field work and cross-fertilisation of learning

across the project and group members/organisations.

The learning and experience of the action research, FBAP facilitation in 15 FUGs, district planning facilitation in 4 districts, and the series of learning group meetings coalesced into the presentation in the final sharing workshop in Kathmandu. Participated by a wide range of audience from among the government, conservation organisations, university faculty members, bilateral forestry projects, NGOs and civil society bodies the workshop broadly endorsed the policy gaps and field level implementation aberrations as highlighted by the project team, and appreciated the key policy pointers that emerged with the implementation of this project.

The learning group process comprised a unique component of the research activity of the project, which enabled the team to disseminate its experiences and intermediate learning on a periodic basis, and equally provided an opportunity to feed in those of other stakeholders into the project's agenda.

The process aimed at bringing project learnings among policy making community such that the project work proactively supports reforms in biodiversity and community forestry policies, and in the design of programmes. The policies understood in this context include those that are not necessarily identified as such, but are incorporated into stakeholder-specific programmes and projects based on inputs of the findings of the project.

g) Awareness raising and capacity building through networking local CFUG clusters and facilitating Learning group meetings for stakeholders at district and national level

National level, district level and field level awareness raising integration of biodiversity management in Community Forestry.

h) PhD training to two research team members

PhD academic training at School of Development Studies, UEA, Norwich: Two Research Students, one each from the government agency (Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation-MoFSC) and a leading civil society body in the forestry sector in Nepal- the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) were selected, based on recommendations of the respective organisations and their individual commitment and competence to undertake serious research. Both have been upgraded to PhD status at the School of Development and are finalising their theses for submission.

5. Project Impacts

- [What evidence is there that project achievements have led to the accomplishment of the project purpose? Has achievement of objectives/outputs resulted in other, unexpected impacts?](#)

Participatory integrated forest biodiversity action planning process institutionalised in villages and districts, and process and tools accepted at national level for take-up.

The purpose of the project has been accomplished through facilitation of forest biodiversity action planning at local levels in 15 FUGs, district/cluster level planning in 4 districts,

effective dissemination mechanism successfully employed through learning groups, publications, media publicity, and website.

The direct impact has been changes in awareness and forest biodiversity management practices. Across our village sites formal forest management plans (Operational Plans) have been or are in the process of being revised to reflect pro-biodiversity and sustainable extraction management provisions.

A further direct impact has been the change in orientation in the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, and the Department of Forests, leading to a recognition for revising working practices and a gradual uptake of the various elements of the processes developed by this project.

There have been a few unexpected, 'spin-off' impacts from our interventions. The bilateral forestry Livelihoods and Forestry Programme which is working in three districts of our project, as well as the 'Biodiversity Sector Support Programme' in Sarlahi district have adopted many aspects of our project at District level, particularly through promotion of medicinal herb and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) cultivation, management and marketing. Among the FUGs we have been working with an unexpected impact has been that they have been increasingly assertive and vocal to demand services from the district 'service providers, particularly the District Forest Office staff.

- To what extent has the project achieved its purpose, i.e. how has it helped the host country to meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention (CBD), or what indication is there that it is likely to do so in the future? Information should be provided on plans, actions or policies by the host institution and government resulting directly from the project that building on new skills and research findings.

The project helped Nepal in two key ways:

First, it introduced a process with which biodiversity agenda moved beyond national CBD focal points and conservation organisations. This was achieved through integrating biodiversity considerations into the successful and popular Community Forestry programme of Nepal, with a shift from timber management focus to integrated management of the resources for diverse livelihoods benefits and environmental services.

Second, the FBAP facilitation across focus 15 FUGs, provided with an institutional basis and incentive mechanisms that promote sustainable management and utilisation of the resources for both improved livelihoods capacity and social equity in benefits distribution and this institutional basis has 'leveraged' wider institutional change through their horizontal integration with neighbouring CFUGs in 'clusters', and at district levels.

In this way many provisions of Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy have been implemented.

- Please complete the table in Appendix I to show the contribution made by different components of the project to the measures for biodiversity conservation defined in the CBD Articles.

[See Appendix I]

- If there were training or capacity building elements to the project, to what extent has this improved local capacity to further biodiversity work in the host country and what is the evidence for this? Where possible, please provide information on what each student / trainee is now doing (or what they expect

to be doing in the longer term).

Mr. Hari Dhungana and Mr. Shankar Dahal were supported to undertake PhD training at the University of East Anglia, and, now nearing completion of their theses, have advanced understanding of the issues of social justice/equity and local knowledge, and have disseminated it back variously to the organisations they are representing (Ministry of Forests and Soil conservation, and Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal). Both these organisations have been able to benefit from this personnel capacity building.

- FECOFUN have recognised the importance of prioritisation of NTFP-related property rights and FUG networking for improving marketing capacity which emerged from the research, and are now promoting these issues at national and district levels.
- Within the Ministry, the biodiversity registration process has been supported through Mr Dahal's project involvement, and the particular issue of intellectual property rights related to local knowledge has become a focal area.
- Discuss the impact of the project in terms of collaboration to date between UK and local partner. What impact has the project made on local collaboration such as improved links between Governmental and civil society groups?

Improved working relationship between MoFSC and FECOFUN and improved consensus over demonstrated need for and benefit from measures for biodiversity management – due to PIFM / Nepal action research project.

- In terms of social impact, who has benefited from the project? Has the project had (or is likely to result in) an unexpected positive or negative impact on individuals or local communities? What are the indicators for this and how were they measured.

The following have benefited directly from the project:

- At local level; 15 CFUGs, and within them specifically forest dependent occupational groups and people with specific local knowledge regarding forest species.
- At District level; in 4 Districts a range of forest related stakeholders (particularly District Forest Office and District level FECOFUN, and 12 local NGOs involved in PFM activities. Additionally two NTFP marketing networks - Myagdi and Sankhuwasabha district have been facilitated.
- At National level; MoFSC and national level FECOFUN, by getting 2 PhD degree holders

6. Project Outputs

- Quantify all project outputs in the table in Appendix II using the coding and format of the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures.

[Please refer to Appendix II]

- Explain differences in actual outputs against those in the agreed schedule, i.e. what outputs were not achieved or only partly achieved? Were additional outputs achieved? Give details in the table in Appendix II.

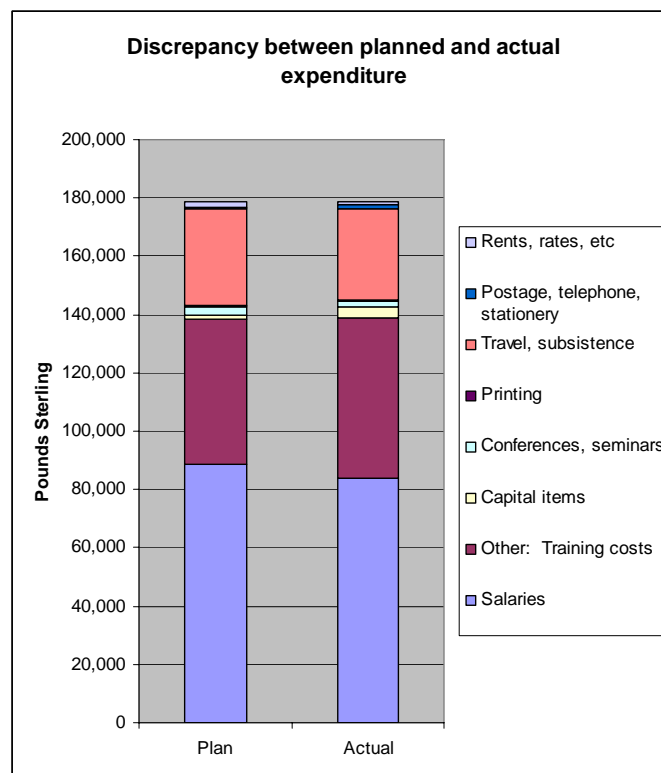
The main outputs were achieved according to initial plan

- Provide full details in Appendix III of all publications and material that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website database.
- How has information relating to project outputs and outcomes been disseminated, and who was/is the target audience? Will this continue or develop after project completion and, if so, who will be responsible and bear the cost of further information dissemination?

The various dissemination strategies, methods and activities have been discussed earlier. Briefly this was achieved through regular learning group meetings in the four districts and at national level in Kathmandu, presentation in national and district workshops, publication of papers and articles in journals, workshop proceedings, and national broadsheets, and interview on the national radio, and had both specific and general audience. The publications, some of which are still in press, will be disseminated post-project by the RDRC. RDRC is seeking funding leverage, to build on the experiences of this project and to scale them out, which is expected to provide further resources for further dissemination.

7. Project Expenditure

Project expenditure and reconciliation between plan and actual costs are shown in the table below, and summarised in the chart below



The major cost of the project (almost 50%) has been salaries – and this has only varied by 5%, thereby allowing an overspend in other smaller budget headings, particularly for additional laptop computer – which became an essential asset for fieldwork (agreed with Darwin), and the unforeseen additional expenses in PhD training. The need for extensive telephone discussions raided this budget head, although an insignificant amount in terms of the total

Annual Darwin Grant: 2002/3 39,526; 2003/4 £53,160; 2004/5 £62,808; 2005/6 £22,953 **Total £ 178,447**

EXPENDITURE DETAILS	2002/3			2003/4			2004/5			2005/6			Total			
	<i>Plan / Actual</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Discrepancy?</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Discrepancy?</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Discrepancy?</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Discrepancy?</i>	<i>Plan</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Discrepancy?</i>

8. Project Operation and Partnerships

- How many local partners worked on project activities and how does this differ from initial plans for partnerships? Who were the main partners and the most active partners, and what is their role in biodiversity issues? How were partners involved in project planning and implementation? Were plans modified significantly in response to local consultation?

The initial plan was of forming a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional team in order to develop consensual approaches to addressing the challenges of forest biodiversity management. Partners were seconded from FECOFUN, MoFSC and worked along with partners from the IoF and Kathmandu University. The lead Nepal team coordinator (Dr. Om Prakash Dev) has been working with the DFID-funded Livelihoods and Forestry Programme, but with staff changes within LFP it became difficult to agree a secondment from LFP as had been hoped and so moved over to this project, in anticipation of perhaps returning to LFP after project completion. This formed the core project team

Mid-way through the project there was a slight realignment. The team member from Kathmandu University (Dr. Sabita Thapa) left the team due to increased work commitments at KU, and her responsibilities were reallocated within the existing project team. Additionally a new NGO was formed in order to improve the institutional basis for managing the project (Resources Development and Research Centre, Nepal).

Overall this team arrangement has proved very successful in bringing together and promoting teamwork between diverse viewpoints and expertise, and has been praised by all involved, particularly by the primary target institution personnel: the MoFSC and DoF, the district line agency, CFUGs and FECOFUN members.

- During the project lifetime, what collaboration existed with similar projects (Darwin or other) elsewhere in the host country? Was there consultation with the host country Biodiversity Strategy (BS) Office?

We have interacted with the WCMC/KMTNC project in the UK and at Kathmandu level. However we have taken a very different, one could even say opposite approach based on our fundamental belief that biodiversity protection must be based on principles of inclusive social justice and equity, as reflected in the CBD.

In times of civil turmoil in Nepal we felt it unethical to support or promote feudal-based models of exclusionary conservation approaches (i.e. via the King Mahendra Trust). These have themselves been contributing to civil unrest in the area to the extent that their 'protected areas' are used as bases for Maoist insurrectionary organisation and KMTNC offices are specifically targeted for bomb attacks due to resentment built up against them amongst the common rural people in areas where they have sought to 'protect' biodiversity through disempowerment and exclusion. Therefore we have distanced ourselves from field engagement with this project. Instead our project sought the approval of Maoist groups for our work in the areas we have been working, which has been granted.

- How many international partners participated in project activities? Provide names of main international partners.

The project has been managed by Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski at the Overseas Development

Group, University of East Anglia. Prof. Piers Blaikie has been involved in a limited capacity on advising on policy related issues, although as the project progressed it became clear that the need was more for field and district focus and so his involvement was reduced

- To your knowledge, have the local partnerships been active after the end of the Darwin Project and what is the level of their participation with the local biodiversity strategy process and other local Government activities? Is more community participation needed and is there a role for the private sector?

The Kathmandu-based team remain highly engaged in the forest biodiversity management process. Subsequent to the recent national level project completion workshop the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Kathmandu and FECOFUN, Central Secretariat, Kathmandu have both sought further support, which we hope to supply contingent on further funding. We have been delighted by the level of interest in this pioneering action oriented research project particularly by the senior staff at Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and the invitations for further work, and hope to maintain the momentum, particularly in relation to ‘scaling up’ this process and learning across more districts.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation, Lesson learning

- Please explain your strategy for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and give an outline of results. How does this **demonstrate** the value of the project? E.g. what baseline information was collected (e.g. scientific, social, economic), milestones in the project design, and indicators to identify your achievements (at purpose and goal level).

The district level learning groups meetings were used, along with as platforms for learning and dissemination, for periodic monitoring and evaluation of project performance, and were aggregated to the national level learning group meetings. Within-team self assessment was carried among the members of research team, mainly facilitated by the project coordinator, to see whether accomplishments tuned to the project purpose, and also to identify the mid-course corrections that were necessary.

The project was conceived of as process-oriented one, and a set of qualitative information was gathered, having taken into account the overall status of integrated biodiversity management planning and implementation at the FUG level. This also included the ways in which FUG experiences and actions were linked to wider social and spatial scales – in order to ascertain the scale of impact at these levels. The following formed the major aspects, comparison with which underpins the accomplishment of the project:

- FUG decision making practices:
- Linkage of biodiversity monitoring/assessment and local planning
- Nature of linkage of FUG with fellow FUGs, service providers
- Process of preparation of FUG constitution and CF operational plan
- The range of schemes of biodiversity management
- The practice of benefit sharing:
 - The extent of mobilisation of knowledge in FUG planning:

- Practice of NTFP promotion (cultivation, protection), local use and marketing

The process of monitoring and evaluation, leading up to the final sharing workshop held November 2005, the project team concluded that while the project was ambitious in a number of aspects, especially given the level of resources and personnel involved, it certainly brought in, piloted, scaled out and materialised an innovative approach to locally led, livelihoods-oriented conservation of biodiversity. The challenge, however, remains to wider scaling out and sustainably institutionalising it for more spontaneous adoption among larger number of FUGs and across conservation and development organisations and projects.

- [What were the main problems and what steps were taken to overcome them?](#)

Ongoing insurgency in the village areas and ensuing political uncertainty, civil unrest and erratic strikes and transportation blockades have particularly led to time overruns to the completion of the project. It increased travel time, cumulatively leading to overruns in publication outputs. However at the village and district level work, the scheme of collaboration has been particularly supportive as the project could benefit from social capital as already built upon civil society body as FECOFUN, and their linkages to the FUGs...

- [During the project period, has there been an internal or external evaluation of the work or are there any plans for this?](#)

No

- [What are the key lessons to be drawn from the experience of this project? We would welcome your comments on any broader lessons for Darwin Initiative as a programme or practical lessons that could be valuable to other projects, as we would like to present this information on a website page.](#)

This project has been a very valuable learning experience for all parties – for all the project team, for the national level stakeholders involved, and we believe for the local communities and their district support staff.

It has been extremely unfortunate that during this project a bitter civil war has been fought across the rural areas we have been working in. Nevertheless we believe we have been able to make great strides in piloting methods, processes and tools for reconciling forest biodiversity management with rural livelihoods in extremely poor and forest dependent communities.

We have found that an emphasis on field implementation has been a very valuable co-learning experience, leading to bridge-building between stakeholders who have often had abrasive relations, and have led us to clarify a number of challenges:

Improving Forest Management: Institutions for Forest Biodiversity Management.

- How to develop institutional capacity of local community forest user groups to take over responsibility of integrated forest biodiversity management planning?
- Forest Biodiversity Resource Assessment tools and practices– particularly in relation to

Community Forestry.

- How to develop/simplify tools and process for integrated forest biodiversity resources assessment to feed in to action planning?

Forest Biodiversity monitoring and management – particularly in relation to Community Forestry.

- How to integrate forest biodiversity monitoring in integrated forest resource management planning in Community Forestry?
- Community level Forest Biodiversity-based enterprise development.
- How to facilitate forest biodiversity management planning for viable and sustainable enterprise development enterprise to reconcile rural livelihoods?

Equitable sharing of benefits in community forestry

- How to facilitate more equitable and sustainable management of forest biodiversity benefiting poor people?

Integration of local knowledge in CFUG management planning and action

- How to integrate local knowledge, skill and best practices in integrated forest biodiversity management planning?

The overall learning of this project is that local community forest user groups (FUGs) do have the potential and capacity to develop and implement locally negotiated biodiversity management plans to maximise livelihoods improvement potentials. However, FUGs need to be supported not only in the facilitation of an elaborate social process, identified as forest biodiversity action planning (FBAP), and with such other supportive services and policies that allow for integration of local-level conservation and management of biodiversity to a wider spatial and social levels. In particular, conservation of biodiversity will be secured when a proven incentive basis remains in place, primarily through development of such forest product based enterprises, ecotourism which rely on maintenance and improvement of the resource base. Improved institutional basis at the local level, especially promoting inclusive decision making, based on acknowledgment of the needs and aspirations of all social/economic groups within the FUGs, and promotion of FUG networks for increased learning, coordination and bargaining power provide a basis for local biodiversity management that is supportive to livelihoods improvements.

10. Actions taken in response to annual report reviews (if applicable)

- Have you responded to issues raised in the reviews of your annual reports? Have you discussed the reviews with your collaborators? Briefly summarise what actions have been taken over the lifetime of the project as a result of recommendations from previous reviews (if applicable).

The second annual report emphasised the need for focusing on the District process – particularly to ensure the cultural change amongst service providers would allow CFUGs with FBAPs to receive ongoing encouragement and support. We responded to this by indeed focusing more resources at this level prior to moving up to the national level process. Although this meant less time was available in the 3rd year for the national process we felt this advice was very valuable to direct us to ensure the more robust institutionalisation of the FBAP at local and district level.

11. Darwin Identity

- What effort has the project made to publicise the Darwin Initiative, e.g. where did the project use the Darwin Initiative logo, promote Darwin funding opportunities or projects? Was there evidence that Darwin Fellows or Darwin Scholars/Students used these titles?

The Darwin Initiative logo has been used on all publications, project briefing papers and workshop banners. Acknowledgement has been made at all opportunities to acknowledge the Darwin support to the project, and where appropriate the objectives and scope of the Darwin Initiative discussed.

- What is the understanding of Darwin Identity in the host country? Who, within the host country, is likely to be familiar with the Darwin Initiative and what evidence is there to show that people are aware of this project and the aims of the Darwin Initiative?

We have found during this project that the Darwin Initiative is recognised as a funding body for specifically biodiversity / CBD related projects by senior personnel at national level in Nepal, and appears to carry high status.

- Considering the project in the context of biodiversity conservation in the host country, did it form part of a larger programme or was it recognised as a distinct project with a clear identity?

The project sought, and it seems from the more interests from local community forest user groups, district level stake holders and also from the attendees at the final workshop achieved, a distinct independent identity.

12. Leverage

- During the lifetime of the project, what additional funds were attracted to biodiversity work associated with the project, including additional investment by partners?

We found the funds from Darwin covered the core work of the project adequately.

- What efforts were made by UK project staff to strengthen the capacity of partners to secure further funds for similar work in the host country and were attempts made to capture funds from international donors?

Approaching the end of the project we have prepared some funding proposals together (including Darwin post-project funding, World Bank 'Development Marketplace'.) and we have attempted to coach the Kathmandu team to learn the requisite skills for developing successful project concepts and coherent proposal documents.

13. Sustainability and Legacy

- What project achievements are most likely to endure? What will happen to project staff and resources after the project ends? Are partners likely to keep in touch?

We anticipate that this project has initiated a wider process.

- Have the project's conclusions and outputs been widely applied? How could legacy have been improved?

The project conclusion and outputs been applied by the CFUGs, forestry-related stake holders at district, regional and national levels, FECOFUN members, faculty and researchers in the Institute of Forestry, NGOs involved in forest biodiversity and students. Policy related feed-back will be incorporated in national policy development by the MoFSC.

- Are additional funds being sought to continue aspects of the project (funds from where and for which aspects)?

As mentioned above our first line of approach has been the Darwin post project finding scheme. We also expect to search more widely in the near future.

14. Value for money

- Considering the costs and benefits of the project, how do you rate the project in terms of value for money and what evidence do you have to support these conclusions?

In view of the positive feedback at village, district and national levels to the innovative impacts generated by the energy and resources we have committed we believe the resources to have been well spent. We have stretched ourselves in many ways. All the project team members feel they have given much more than their 'pound of flesh' to this project! Extensive field activities for biodiversity conservation in the midst of a civil war, on a somewhat limited budget, really must represent some sort of good value for money!

Appendix I: Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	10	Develop national strategies that integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring	15	Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities that have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.
8. In-situ Conservation	40	Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
9. Ex-situ Conservation		Adopt ex-situ measures to conserve and research components of biological diversity, preferably in country of origin; facilitate recovery of threatened species; regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	25	Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures	10	Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training		Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).
13. Public Education and Awareness	10	Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.
14. Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts		Introduce EIAs of appropriate projects and allow public participation; take into account environmental consequences of policies; exchange information on impacts beyond State boundaries and work to reduce hazards; promote emergency responses to hazards; examine mechanisms for re-dress of international damage.
15. Access to Genetic Resources		Whilst governments control access to their genetic resources they should also facilitate access of environmentally sound uses on mutually agreed terms; scientific research based on a country's genetic resources should ensure sharing in a fair and equitable way of results and benefits.
16. Access to and Transfer of Technology		Countries shall ensure access to technologies relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under fair and most favourable terms to the source countries (subject to patents and intellectual property rights) and ensure the private sector facilitates such assess and joint development of technologies.
17. Exchange of Information		Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge
19. Bio-safety Protocol		Countries shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities and to ensure all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis, especially where they provide the genetic resources for such research.
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

Appendix II Outputs

Please quantify and briefly describe all project outputs using the coding and format of the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures.

Code	Total to date (reduce box)	Detail (←expand box)
Training Outputs		
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis	2 anticipated (theses nearing submission)
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained	2 anticipated (theses nearing submission)
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained	-
3	Number of other qualifications obtained	-
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	-
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	-
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)	-
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students	-
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification(i.e not categories 1-4 above)	-
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (i.e not categories 1-5 above)	32 various stakeholders at District level 155 local people at village level
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	23
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	6 A wide range (as detailed above): Booklets, manuals, leaflets, case studies & poster, toolkit: <i>[in Nepali]</i>
Research Outputs		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	24
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	Village – 15 District – 4
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	2
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals	1
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere	5

Code	Total to date (reduce box)	Detail (←expand box)
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country	-The initial plan was to put action plans on internet. However at village level it was found that CFUG wanted ownership of paper plans and so paper document system was adopted, with process documentation by project staff.
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country	
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)	
13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)	
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	3 Workshops were held every year where the learning group and other interested parties were involved The final National PIFM dissemination workshop was held in November 2005
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	Interim findings were presented at the National Community Forestry Workshop 2004
15a	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	2 -more were planned but in practice it proved unrealistic (in terms of staff capacity) to achieve higher level.
15b	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	2 -more were planned but in practice it proved unrealistic (in terms of staff capacity) to achieve higher level.
15c	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in UK	-more were planned but in practice it proved unrealistic (in terms of staff capacity) to achieve higher level.
15d	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in UK	-more were planned but in practice it proved unrealistic (in terms of staff capacity) to achieve higher level.
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the host country(s)	2
16b	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(s)	?
16c	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	-
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	1 national learning group 4 district level learning groups

Code	Total to date (reduce box)	Detail (←expand box)
17b	Number of dissemination networks enhanced or extended	NFA: 1
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	?
18b	Number of national TV programme/features in the UK	-
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	-
18d	Number of local TV programme features in the UK	-
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	1
19b	Number of national radio interviews/features in the UK	-
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	?
19d	Number of local radio interviews/features in the UK	-
Physical Outputs		
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	3 laptops and printers handed over to partners (£3300). This is greater than originally planned and reflects the delayed recognition in the project of the importance of laptops for field-based work
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	-
22	Number of permanent field plots established	15 at CFUG level (compared to plan for 12) 4 District level (compared to 3 in plan)
23	Value of additional resources raised for project	-

Appendix III: Publications

Provide full details of all publications and material that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website Publications Database that is currently being compiled.

Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report

Type * (journals, manual, CD)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Documentary CD	Mother Forest Rajendra Shrestha & Deepak Bajracharya (2006)	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, 36-Deurali Marg, New Baneshwor-34, Kathmandu,	NA
Manual	Manual of NTFP of Nepal Prof IC Dutta (2006)	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, Kathmandu,	NA
Manual	Classification of Non-Timber Forest Products IC Dutta (2006)	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, Kathmandu,	NA
Manual	Ethnic Uses of NTFPs of Nepal IC Dutta (2006)	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, Kathmandu	NA
Manual	NTFP identification, management and trade in Nepal H.P. Dhungana, (2006) [Nepali text]	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, Kathmandu	NA
Posters	Extension posters: 1 each for six research strands [Nepali text]	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, Kathmandu	NA
Booklets	Extension booklets: 1 each for six research strands	RDRC, Kathmandu	RDRC, Kathmandu	NA
Journal 'Forestry: Journal of Institute of Forestry'	"Inventory Guidelines for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs): A Critical Review" Dutta, IC & Paudel, BK (2005)	Institute of Forestry, Tribhuwan University, Pokhara	Institute of Forestry POB No: 43, Hariyokharka, Pokhara, NEPAL	\$5.00 (Whole Issue)
Report	"Community Forestry in Nepal Tarai: Status of Proposed Community Forests in the Tarai, Inner Tarai and Churia" Dhungana, H. & Bhattarai, B. (2005)	Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN), Kathmandu	FECOFUN POB No: 8219, Purano Baneshwar, Kathmandu www.fecofun.org	NA
Journal 'Journal of Forests and Livelihoods'	"Potentials and challenges of biodiversity management through community forestry" Dev, OP & Dahal, SP (2005) [Nepali text]	ForestAction, Kathmandu	ForestAction POB No: 12207 www.forestaction.org	NRs. 30 (whole issue)
Proceedings 'Proceedings of Fourth National Workshop on Community Forestry'	"Strengthening local capacity for non-timber forest product management and marketing: the need for policy reforms in community forestry in Nepal" Dhungana, H & Dahal, S (2004)	Community Forest Division, Department of Forests, Kathmandu	Community Forest Division, Department of Forests, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, NEPAL cfid@wlink.com.np	NA

Appendix IV: Darwin Contacts

To assist us with future evaluation work and feedback on your report, please provide contact details below.

Project Title	Institutionalising Participatory Integrated Forest Management in Nepal: Reconciling Biodiversity Management with Local Livelihoods
Ref. No.	<i>11-020</i>
UK Leader Details	
Name	Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski
Role within Project	Project Leader
Address	Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ
Phone	
Fax	
Email	
Partner 1	
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Table 1: Project Logframe

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal</p> <p>To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention</p>		<p>Independently collected data and monitoring of biodiversity and of implementation of conservation initiatives</p>	
<p>Purpose</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Planning processes in Nepal at District and Forest User Groups levels are institutionalised, ensuring the protection of biodiversity and its equitable and sustainable utilisation.</p>	<p>Number of FUGs with Biodiversity Action Planning (BAP) process institutionalised, and FUG Operational Plans accommodating biodiversity issues. Number of Districts with Biodiversity Action Planning process institutionalised. Evidence of maintained or improved biodiversity in Community and National Forests</p>	<p>FUG's BAPs collated at district level annually.</p> <p>District' BAP's collated annually.</p> <p>Evidence of changes in biodiversity collected through biodiversity assessment exercises in 12 study sites.</p>	<p>Continued commitment of State and District governments and local people to biodiversity conservation as a priority.</p> <p>Independent data collection reliable</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>Field tools for local Participatory Biodiversity Assessment, and Action Planning (BA/BAP) process developed</p>	<p>Field tool documentation produced</p>	<p>Project progress reporting: field tools documented by month 3</p>	<p>FUGs and District Development Committees (DDCs) willing to co-operate with research project.</p>
<p>BA/BAP implemented and documented in at least 12 FUGs.</p>	<p>BACAP documentation for 12 FUGs produced, including biodiversity assessment data</p>	<p>Documentation of 4 local BAPs by month 12</p>	<p>Existing institutional arrangements provide a basis for more participatory and sustainable approaches to biodiversity management.</p>
<p>District-level Biodiversity Action Planning (DBAP) process implemented in at least 3 Districts</p>	<p>DBAP documentation produced for 3 Districts</p>	<p>Documentation of at least 3 district BAPs. by Month 24</p> <p>documentation of National BAP process changes in light of project by month 36</p>	<p>Innovations in management regimes and collaboration can be developed and implemented</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Field tools developed and piloted.</p> <p>BACAP process facilitated in at least 12 FUGs.</p> <p>District DBAP process facilitated in at least 3 districts.</p> <p>National BAP process regarding CF sensitised to local participation issues.</p>	<p>Budget summary</p> <p>Project milestones: 1:26</p>	<p>Project reports</p>	<p>Political instability does not prevent meetings and field work</p>

Table D

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE	
Date	KEY MILESTONES ('Key Activities')
2002-2003	
Oct	Inception planning meeting in Kathmandu with research team
Oct – April	2MPhil / PhD students to UEA Norwich
Oct-Jan	Review of existing literature and state of knowledge related to research objectives
Jan	Field Tools & Processes developed
Jan	Field training of team in participatory biodiversity assessment methods takes place
Jan	Piloting Biodiversity Assessment and Action Planning process in 1 FUG
Feb-Mar	Review & revision of process
2003-2004	
Apr-Jul	BAP process 'scaled-up' across 6 FUGs in 3 Districts in 3 Development Regions (including biod. assessment over 3 seasons with local facilitator)
Sept	Tools & method & 6FUGs process documented (to website)
Sept 03	Annual process reflection workshop & coming year planning
Nov	FUG Biodiversity Action plans reviewed in each existing site
Nov- May	BAP process 'scaled up' across 6 new FUGs in same 3 Districts for contrasting issues – e.g. same NTFPs in different Region)
Dec	Plan for District PBA & MAP
Jan	Pilot DPBA&MAP in 1 district
2004-2005	
April 04	Develop tools & Methods for District PBA&MAP
April-Jul	'Scale-up' District PBA&MAP across 3 district
August	District Tools & method, 3 District processes & 12 FUGs (6 new, 6 revised) documented (to website)
Sept 04	Annual process reflection workshop & coming year planning
Sept.	National learning group meeting takes place to discuss outcomes
Sept-Oct	Investigation of marketing opportunities for NTFPs and FUGs takes place
Oct 04	Revisit & review existing FUGs & Districts – Field Biodiversity assessment and action planning reviewed in the 12 FUGs & 3 Districts
Nov-Mar	Analysis of findings
2005-2006	
April-May	District level sharing workshops – sharing & handover process
May	Regional level sharing
May-Sept05	Final reports written Produce materials, books & articles: e.g. inventory manual, toolkit, posters, booklets
Sept 05	National/International Level review workshop takes place

Table C: PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Financial Yr.	Output ref. no.	Details
2002/2003		
Oct 03	8	Inception planning meeting in Kathmandu with research team OSB – 1 week in country
Oct 03	9	Future research programme reviewed & revised
Jan / Feb 03	4B	Research team 2 weeks training in biodiversity assessment
Jan / Feb 03	8	Team to pilot FUG Biodiversity Action Planning process OSB - 4 weeks in country
Mar 03		Review Paper of existing practices produced & circulated
Mar 03	12A	Web database for local and District Biodiversity Assessment and Action Plan data established
Mar 03	17a	Dissemination network established in Nepal via National 'learning group'
Mar 03	15A/B	3 local and 3 national press releases in Nepal
2003/2004		
May-July 03	8	OSB - 4-8 weeks in country supporting fieldwork & analysis
Sept. 03	9	Biodiversity assessed in 6 FUGs, 6 management plan documented
Sept 03	7 / 10	Tools & processes for participatory local Biod. Action Planning documented & circulated
Sept. 03	14A	National Workshop held
Mar 04	15A/B	3 local and 3 national press releases in Nepal
Mar 04	15C/D	1 National and 1 local press release in UK
Mar 04	19A	1 National radio feature on Nepali Community Forestry show
2004/2005		
Sept. 04	14A	National Workshop held
Sept-Mar 03	8	OSB - 4-8 weeks in country supporting fieldwork & analysis
Mar 05	9	6 further local FUG level BA/BAPs produced, 3 District level BA/BAPs produced
-“-	7 / 10	Tools manual for participatory BA/BAP produced at local and District level in English and Nepali
-“-	7	Bulletins, posters and leaflets summarising tools & processes produced at local and District level in English and Nepali
-“-	15A/B	3 local and 3 national press releases in Nepal
-“-	15C/D	1 National and 1 local press release in UK
-“-	19A	1 National radio feature on Nepali Community Forestry show
2005-2006		
April - Oct 05	8	OSB - 4-8 weeks in country supporting fieldwork, analysis & presentation of findings
Sept05	14A	Final National Policy Seminar workshop, 3 district workshops
-“-	22	12 FUGs & 3 districts will have Bio. Assessment process established in their forests
-“-	1A	2 MPhil / PhD theses to be submitted
-“-	1B	2 MPhil / PhD qualifications for Nepali team members attained
-“-	14B	At least 3 international conferences attended where findings presented
-“-	15A/B	3 local and 3 national press releases in Nepal
-“-	15C/D	1 National and 1 local press release in UK
-“-	19A	1 National radio feature on Nepali Community Forestry show
-“-	20	£800 laptop computer handed over to partners, & Rs.80,000 desktop computer & printer