

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

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1. Project Background

Situated in the remote, north-east corner of Nepal, bordering Sikkim (India) and Tibet Autonomous Region (China), Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) is characterized by great variations in elevation, climate, landscape, habitat, vegetation, and cultural diversity. Phyto-geographically, it forms the meeting ground of the Indo-Malaysian (S.E. Asian) and Oriental (E. Asian) floras. KCA was declared as a “Gift to the Earth” by WWF in 1997.

In 1998, WWF initiated the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) to conserve its rich biodiversity and promote community-based management of natural resources. About 1500 species of flowering plants have been documented thus far in KCA (Shrestha and Ghimire 1996), including over 150 species of non-timber forest products (Shrestha and Ghimire 1996; Sherpa 2001, Oli and Nepal 2003). Non-Timber Forests Products (NTFPs) play an important role in supporting the livelihood of about 5000 people living in the four Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Lelep, Tapethok, Yamphudin, and Walangchung Gola. Despite their importance as a source of valuable income, food, medicine, building materials and fuel, NTFPs are threatened by over-harvesting for trade. This is due to:

- a) inadequate local knowledge on the ecology and vulnerability to over-harvesting and sustainable yields of highly-traded NTFPs;
- b) lack of involvement of local communities in natural resource management; and
- c) insufficient opportunities for local value addition.

Recent studies conducted by WWF Nepal in KCA clearly demonstrate the need to strengthen community management of NTFPs and links between conservation and livelihoods. This project is based on the premise that conservation and sustainable use of NTFPs and enhancement of livelihoods in KCA can be achieved if:

- a) communities take on increased responsibility for management of forest resources;
- b) ecological monitoring and sustainable harvesting practices are developed and followed;
- c) communities have greater access to and understanding of the market system;
- d) sustainable enterprises bring local benefits especially to poorer households; and
- e) local and scientific knowledge underpins appropriate management systems.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

The overall purpose of the project is to develop community capacity to manage NTFPs for sustainable production and plant conservation in KCA (Annex 1: Logframe). The outputs include the following:

Output 1: 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in KCA practice community-based management of NTFP:

Indicator 1: By 2007, 26 CFUGs develop NTFP action plans while 16 CFUGs implement their action plans

Indicator 2: By 2006, capacity of KCA institutions enhanced for sustainable NTFP management

Output 2: Local livelihoods in KCA enhanced through sustainable utilisation of NTFPs

Indicator 1: By 2008, 26 CFUGs practice sustainable harvesting for wild collection of NTFPs for subsistence and trade

Indicator 2: By 2008, NTFP enterprise established and viable (pilot site)

Indicator 3: By 2007, access increased for poor/disadvantaged groups to NTFP based livelihood opportunities

Output 3: Community-based monitoring system of key NTFP species in place

Indicator 1: By 2007, NTFP database developed

Indicator 2: By 2007, ethno-botanical knowledge documented

Indicator 3: By 2007, monitoring system and sustainable harvesting guidelines of key NTFP species established

No outputs have been modified over the last year. However, based on the progress made so far, it can be concluded that the proposed outputs were ambitious for 3 years as this project includes intensive field research for forest inventory at the outset of the project and using research findings for developing NTFP management plans. The project implementation was much delayed due to the armed Maoist insurgency and the forest inventory took longer than assumed in the proposal because of the difficult terrain and huge area of the forest. The tragic helicopter accident in September 2006 did affect the project to a great extent.

The project has initiated a consultation regarding improving monitoring indicators (making them Specific, Measurable, Accurate, Realistic, Time bound); in-house discussions are ongoing and the outcomes will be presented in the next half-yearly report. The baseline information is already in place and hence project impacts will be measured using the improved indicators.

4. Progress

With the primary goal of conserving the biodiversity of Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) through community participation, KCAP has emphasized on capacity building local communities to manage their natural resources. In line with this objective, KCA communities, especially the KCA Management Council (KCAMC) and its affiliated institutions, have been supported in institutional and organizational development; the Management Plan prepared by KCAMC has been endorsed by the government and the KCA Management Regulation is under the process of endorsement. Likewise, the business plan, including the financial and administrative guidelines, have been drafted. In September 2006, the government of Nepal handed over the management responsibility of KCA to KCAMC, thus setting up the premise for the innovative concept of community managed protected area. Since revenue generation is crucial for the financial sustainability of the KCAMC, the DARWIN project has supported the sustainable management of NTFPs by communities for conservation and sustainable livelihoods. In the first year of implementation, WWF Nepal drew up a work plan for the period July 2005 to June 2006 (based upon WWF's annual planning cycle). However, due to the Maoist insurgency that affected rural areas of Nepal, including the KCA, the field-based activities could not be implemented till October 2005; the insecure field operating environment prevented any field-based research activity and community consultations. Hence, the full-fledged implementation of the DARWIN project happened only later in 2006. In the early half of the reporting period, field-based research activities (inventories, establishment of permanent plots) and preparatory activities for enterprise development such as institutionalization and capacity building were carried out. And in the later half of the reporting period, the focus was on

exploration of potential NTFP species for sustainable commercialization and piloting of NTFP enterprises.

Last year, WWF Nepal went through very tragic moments and suffered a huge loss; the helicopter crash in Ghunsa took away the lives of national and international conservation leaders. It was an irreparable loss to WWF Nepal and the KCA communities too as the then Chairperson of the KCAMC, Mr. Dawa Sherpa lost his life. In spite of this, WWF Nepal moved ahead and continued its efforts for bringing conservation outputs under the new leaderships of Anil Manandhar and Dr. Ghana S. Gurung.

The following section contains a summary of progress from full project initiation in April 2006 until March 2007.

Output 1: 26 community forest user groups (CFUGs) in KCA practice community-based management of NTFP:

1.1 Project inception and planning workshop

After the first inception and planning meeting in Taplejung in October 2005 in the district headquarters, a similar inception meeting and planning workshop was organized in Lelep VDC (where the KCAP's main office was established after the armed Maoists conflict ended in April 2006) on 30 August 2006, during which key species of NTFPs and NTFPs-based enterprises for sustainable management, utilization and income generation in the KCA were identified. The meeting was facilitated by the researcher team (Dr. Suresh K. Ghimire and Bal Krishna Nepal) and had participation of communities from all project sites; hence this exercise provided broader and more detailed information on NTFP species and their values in KCA. Those identified NTFPs and NTFPs-based enterprises are provided below.

The communities further prioritized the NTFPs based on their commercial values and perceived benefits (medicinal values- health benefits). These prioritized species are *Daphne volua*, *Edgeworthia gardneri* and *Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora*. These were further researched for resource availability, quantification and sustainable harvesting technology.

List of important NTFPs (revised from Ghimire and Nepal, 2007)

SN	Botanical Name	Nepali name	Principal Use/s	Distribution (m.)
1	<i>Acotinum bisma</i>	Bisma	Antidote	3500-4800
2	<i>Arundinaria maling</i>	Malingo	Basketry	2500-3000
3	<i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i>	Panch Aunle	Aphrodisiac	3500-4200
4	<i>Daphne volua</i>	Lokhta	Nepali Paper	2000-3100
5	<i>Edgeworthia gardneri</i>	Argeli	Nepali Paper	2400-3500
6	<i>Hippophae tibetana</i>	Bhuinchuk	Juice	3800-4500
7	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Dhupi	Essential oil, Perfume	3500-4500
8	<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>	Jatamansi	Essential oil, Diuretic	3200-5000
9	<i>Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora</i>	Kutki	Tonic, antihelminthic, antiperiodic, antipyretic, laxative	4000-4800
10	<i>Rheum australe</i>	Padamchal	Dyeing	3200-4200
11	<i>Rhododendron anthopogon</i>	Sunpati	Essential oil, High value perfume	3400-4900
12	<i>Saussurea tridactyla</i>	Maikopila		4500-4800
13	<i>Swertia chirayita</i>	Chirayito	Anti-malarial, Stomach-ache	1500-2500

Potential NTFPs enterprises identified in KCA

SN	NTFPs (Species / common name)	NTFP based enterprises	Sites /Sector/VDC
	Food processing		
1	<i>Mahonia nepaulensis</i> - Jamanimandro/Daru Haldi/Chutro	Bark harvesting and processing enterprises	Yamphudin
2	<i>Hippophae tibetana</i> Bhuinchuk (Seabuckthorn)	Juice enterprise	Ghunsa/Yangma
3	<i>Choerospondias axillaris</i> Lapsi (Hog-plum)	Lapsi pickle and candy enterprise	Tapethok
4	Mayal (taxonomic name yet to be identified)	Candy/juice/jam	Yamphudin
	Handicrafts		
5	Malingo/Bans/Nigala	Bamboo processing and handicraft enterprises	Yamphudin, Lelep
6	<i>Daphne volua</i>	Nepali hand made paper	Hellok, Tapethok
7	<i>Edgeworthia gardneri</i> Argeli	Japanese paper money (the yen)	Yamphudin, Lelep, Tapethok
8	<i>Nettle fibre</i>	Cloth weaving	Lelep
	Essential oil		
9	<i>Swertia chirayita</i> Chirayito	Harvesting, processing (powder) and packaging enterprises	Tapethok
10	<i>Zanthoxylum armatum</i> Siltimur / Timur	Harvesting and processing (fruits or powder enterprises)	Yamphudin
11	<i>Rhododendron anthopogon</i> Dhup / Sunpati, Bhairungpati	Essential oil enterprise	W. Gola and Ghunsa, Gyabla
12	<i>Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora</i> Kutki	Harvesting, processing (cutlets/fine pieces) & packaging enterprises	Ghunsa/Gola
	Others		
13	<i>Rhododendron anthopogon</i>	Sinke dhup (incense sticks)	Gola, Ghunsa

1.2 Capacity building for sustainable management of NTFPs

1.2.1 NTFP management training on sustainable harvesting methods and monitoring

In January 2007, the project conducted a 3-days training on NTFP sustainable harvesting methods and monitoring for the conservation community forest user groups. Various aspects of forest management, plant and wildlife conservation, sustainable NTFPs management and utilization, account and record keeping, etc. was provided to the participants. Altogether 18 participants attended the training program.

1.2.2 Community exchanges to successful NTFP projects

The project had planned to take communities to the lowland Terai area to see how community managed NTFP projects were managed there. However this activity was postponed due to strikes and blockades in the Terai which affected all road transportation.

1.3 NTFP inventory and action plan development as part of CFUG operational plan

During the reporting period, three NTFP action plans of three Conservation Community Forests (CCF) namely Dobate, Lawajin and Dorangyabo-Phalekbas CCFs of Lelep VDC were prepared and handed

over to communities. These plans focused on the sustainable use of *Daphne volua* and *Daphne papyracea*. The inventory of three CFUGs of Tapethok VDC (Namfuwa, Nigijam Phulbari and Patale) was conducted by the local youths who were trained last year by the researcher team. This information will be used in preparing the action plans.

A total of 20 community forests were handed over in KCA in which three CCFs already have NTFP action plans in place for implementation. Forest transfers are very time-consuming as this involves an intensive forest inventory and write-up of the operational plans with the support of the conservation area staff (rangers). In the case of KCA, the difficult terrain and harsh conditions of some of the forest sites have delayed the forest handovers.

In addition to this, the project performance was also affected by the armed Maoist insurgency and the most horribly tragic accident which temporarily brought project implementation to a standstill.

Output 2: Local livelihoods in KCA enhanced through sustainable utilisation of NTFPs

2.1 Feasibility study for NTFP Enterprise

The project carried out an economic feasibility study and a cost-benefit analysis of some of the potential NTFP based enterprises in KCA. The NTFP species were selected based on the research findings and the recommendations. The study analyzed the economic aspects of enterprise particularly its marketing aspects (demand, trend, place, price, product) and made recommendations for enterprise establishment.

Among these, the project is supporting three enterprises, as prioritised by the communities: **Essential oil** (Sunpate- *Rhododendron anthopogon*) in Ghunsa VDC, **Lokta paper** (*Daphne volua*) in Tapethok VDC and **Argeli** (*Edgeworthia gardneri*) from Yamphudin VDC. Community consultations have been initiated in Wolangchung Gola for incense stick making enterprise from Sunpati-*Rhododendron anthopogon*.

2.2 Cooperative operation training

During the reporting period, a total of 5 co-operatives were formed and their members were oriented on the concepts of cooperative management techniques. A total of 156 community members participated in the orientation. The co-operatives identified some potential local products for commercialization. These were- Potato chips, incense stick, juice production, Nepali handmade paper, woollen carpet production, small shops, small hotels and tea houses and varieties of products from milk and lapsi. The participants were also oriented on micro-credit system and the loan scheme of the NTFP revolving fund.

2.3 Value addition training

Nine entrepreneurs from Ghunsa and Taplejung were provided with training on value addition and enterprise development of *Hippophae tibetana* juice. They were oriented on techniques of collection, processing, bottling, labelling and branding. A private entrepreneur company- Alternative Herbal Products (AHP) Private Limited supported this initiative. Similarly 38 members of the Mothers groups of Lelep and Tapethok VDCs and three members of local NGOs participated in training on candy and pickle making from lapsi *Choerospondias axillaries* (see photos) conducted by a private entrepreneur company called the WEAN (Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal). The trainees were thrilled to know about the usage of the lapsi (hog-plum) which were not usually consumed by locals. The Mehadibung Mothers Group and Satyalung Mother Group have also shown interest to take up this candy making enterprise. The WEAN and AHP will give support in marketing the product and have committed to a buy-back guarantee. WWF have had a long standing and successful relationship with both WEAN an AHP in supporting NTFP development and marketing in other mountain areas as well as the Terai.



Women participants of Lapsi enterprise development training – peeling the Lapsi fruits

Two local women, one each from Tapethok and Yamphudin VDC were provided with a 12-day training in allo (nettle fibre) weaving techniques in Kathmandu, organized by the WEAN. Allo weaving is an age-old tradition in KCA, for their own use, and this training supported adding value to their local product so it could be marketed more widely.



Pickle manufactured from Lapsi fruits in training program

Similarly, 20 local farmers/collectors were trained on *Swertia chirayita* production. Using bio-friendly transplantation technology in which the seedlings are grown and transplanted to the field rather like in rice growing. This is a far more ecologically sustainable system in comparison to the normal slash and burn technique. Transplanting also tends to use fewer seeds. A complete report on chirayito cultivation (especially highlighting on the benefits of this bio-friendly technique and communities' perception/views on this technique) will be shared in the next reporting.

2.4 Support for pilot NTFP based micro-enterprise

a. Juice production from *Hippophae tibetana* or Seabuckthorn juice:

Based on the recommendations from the research and the cost-benefit analysis the project supported piloting two NTFP based micro-enterprises managed by local communities. The first one is seabuckthorn juice production which is being produced by the *Ghunsa Seabuckthorn Production Group* with financial support of the project and technical and market linkage support from the AHP. The juice is marketed as the **Vita Seabuckthorn juice** at Taplejung, in neighbouring districts of eastern Nepal and in Kathmandu as well.

b. Essential Oil:

The second pilot promotes essential oil; for which two NTFP species namely *Rhododendron anthopogon* and *Juniperus indica* have been explored in Ghunsa. The Juniper oil (*Juniperus indica*) and Anthopogon oil (*Rhododendron anthopogon*) have high demand in local and international markets and thus many local cooperatives and private companies are extracting these two essential oils in different parts of Nepal. The Juniper oil is used in perfume and also in making Gin while the Anthopogon oil is praised for its pleasant aroma and used in making high value perfume. To extract the oils a stem distillation unit of 1000 litre capacity is being installed in Ghunsa. Recognising the pressure on forest resources for fuel, the cast (leaf remains after extracting the essential oil) will be used as an alternative source of fuel since it still contains some amount of volatile oil. This can be also used again in making incense sticks. In addition, a 35 KW micro hydro plant will be completed in Ghunsa within the next one and a half years and this will help in minimizing pressure on forest.

Some of the major highlights of this community-managed initiative are that this is led by *Ghunsa Conservation Community Forest User Groups (GCCFUG)* under which a committee has formed to handle the project. A technician will be hired to supervise the distillation process. The raw material collection will be done by the GCCFUG and it will pay the royalty to Government. About 10-15% of the profit will be kept in the committee for the maintenance of the processing unit. The remaining profit will be distributed among the members. Local people have shown interest in oil extraction from other species such as *Artemisia indica* and *Gaultheria fragrantissima*.

c. Nepali Handmade Paper Enterprise / Bark Enterprise:

The project conducted consultations regarding the potential for establishing a Nepali hand made paper enterprise in Tapethok VDC and Yamphudin VDC. The communities showed keen interest and preparatory activities were initiated. In Yamphudin VDC the enterprise will start from May 2007. A discussion meeting was also conducted with a private company named KANPOU Nepal for the promotion of *Edgeworthia gardneri*; the bark of which is used for making Japanese paper currency (the Yen). KANPOU Nepal has offered to support the project by providing training on processing and production and marketing the products abroad.

2.5 Market/price information systems

The project has been supporting the Taplejung Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) to establish market price information of NTFP at Taplejung. The TCCI has been providing support to traders, buyers, collectors and farmers of Yamphudin, Lelep and Tapethok VDCs by disseminating relevant market and trade information.

2.6 Support for market linkages

In order to sustain NTFP business, the project consulted with the private sector for possible collaboration for capital investment, technology transfer as well as for marketing linkages. Some of these private companies are Herbs Production and Processing Company Limited (HPPCL), Siddhartha Herbal Industry, Forest Products P. Ltd., KANPOU Nepal, Himalayan Biotrade and WEAN. These companies will be supporting the marketing of products at national and international level.

Output 3: Community-based monitoring system of key NTFP species in place

3.1 Participatory research on status of high value NTFPs and ethnobotanical knowledge

A participatory research and training programme on ecological monitoring of NTFPs was conducted by the researcher team with the active participation of communities. The local communities especially local resource persons (7 youths) were actively involved in the field based research/survey activities. The research has resulted in the development of a NTFP inventory and community based monitoring indicators and the development of a management system of some potential NTFP species such as *Edgeworthia gardneri* and *Swertia chirayita*. Furthermore the research highlighted the need for long-term monitoring (scientific and community) and additional research on high value NTFPs in collaboration with local resource users. Research identified the potential of *Zanthoxylum armatum* for essential oil production from leaf and seeds in both local and domestic market and so cuttings of the plant are being raised in the nurseries in Yamphudin and Lelep to look at feasibility.



Participatory cost-benefit analysis of NTFP enterprises

3.2 Establishment and monitoring of NTFPs permanent plots

Addressing the need for long-term monitoring and research into high value NTFPs, a total of 35 permanent plots have been established for 5 species: *Daphne volua*, *Daphne papyracea*, *Swertia chirayita*, *Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora* and *Saussurea topkegolensis* in different locations in different VDCs in KCA (please refer to Annex 2 for details).



NTFPs research and inventory works in KCA

3.3 Establishment of NTFP database

Information collection and compilation work is ongoing and a consolidated database on NTFP species will be established by next year.

3.4 Development of monitoring and sustainable harvesting guidelines /Publication

The sustainable harvesting guidelines for some selected species of NTFP *Daphne volua*, *Swertia chirayita*, *Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora*, *Edgeworthia gardneri* and *Nardostachys grandiflora* have been prepared in draft. This will be reviewed and published as booklets by June 2007. This guideline differs from others because it is developed on the basis of scientific and participatory research findings. It shows, pictorially, the different life cycle stages of the plant which can be used to judge the best time for harvesting. About 7 years ago, WWF Nepal conducted a similar kind of research on medicinal and aromatic plants found in Dolpa in north western part of Nepal and has developed sustainable harvesting guideline of some selected species. WWF Nepal plans to publish a consolidated book on sustainable harvesting guidelines for NTFP and medicinal and aromatic plant species found in Dolpa and KCA. Hence the harvesting guidelines will have added value in terms of their scope and utility.

3.5 Promote project profile in national and local media

The project supported an NGO – the Ecological Society of Nepal - in organizing an information sharing workshop; the theme of the workshop was to disseminate information on NTFP initiatives in Nepal. On behalf of WWF Nepal, the researcher team participated in the workshop and made a presentation on the important NTFP species of KCA and WWF Nepal's other project site- Shey-Phoksundo National Park and Buffer zone in Dolpa. The presentation also highlighted the findings and lesson learning from the NTFP projects conducted by WWF Nepal.

3.6 Annual review and planning workshop

Periodic monitoring field visits by the project as well as by the consulting research team for review and planning were conducted. The monitoring team has looked into programmatic and financial aspects of the project and provided some valuable feedback including from the WWF Nepal livelihoods specialist who has made a very comprehensive assessment on the impacts of KCAP on KCA communities. The participatory assessment highlighted the communities' perceived benefits and recommended interventions for some potential NTFP based enterprises (*please refer to Annex 3*). Similarly, the team of visitors from WWF UK provided valuable feedbacks on the ongoing activities including NTFP based activities in KCA. Such feedbacks and inputs have been very useful in checking the project's progress against the proposed targets and maintaining focus towards the project objectives. In March 2007, a review and planning meeting was held in KCA at which the work plan of the second year was finalized.

Despite a very sensitive and confusing political situation in the post-conflict period, the project was able to carry out intensive field based participatory research activities for a NTFP inventory in different areas of KCA and the development of community-based monitoring and management system of some potential NTFP species. Based on these findings detailed management plans/NTFP action-plans of three conservation community forests (Dobate, Lawajin and Dorangyabo-Phalekbas) have been developed. The establishment of community-managed enterprises on essential oils, Nepali hand made paper (lokta) and seabuckthorn juice is another significant achievement made last year. The project was also able to collaborate and develop linkages with the private sector and organizations working in the sector of NTFP promotion. This particular initiative will lead to better coordination and sustained project benefits to communities.

In the post-conflict scenario, the biggest challenge faced by the project was to re-invigorate the community based organizations, especially Mothers groups, and mobilize them in the project work. In the context of political confusion and a significant loss of physical and material assets from the communities, it was a difficult task to re-build confidence of the people and motivate them in the project work. Activity wise the major problem faced was in conducting the forest inventory in KCA due to conflict over land ownership and inadequate information on the boundary lines of the community and private forest land. Due to this and also due to the delayed project implementation, the given target of preparing 16 NTFPs action plans could not be achieved in the first year and still is not possible to accomplish during the project period unless the land demarcation process happens quickly. The project has facilitated the necessary consultation process for completing the land use survey and to clarify boundary lines.

There has not been any significant change in the design of the project except in the implementation. At the height of the insurgency and adverse field operating environment the KCAP adopted a modified implementation modality by which the project activities were carried out through community based organizations and local NGOs. This was very effective in achieving the given targets despite a very challenging field situation.

However, after completing the first year of field implementation it became clear that the targets (such as 16 NTFP action-plans for 16 community forests) set in the proposal were too ambitious considering the time and resource constraints. In addition, the development of NTFP action plans is based on the availability of high-value NTFP/focus species in the community forest area. During the consultations, communities selected a number of NTFP species for sustainable harvesting and business development. They were determined based on three criteria:

1. Market value at national and international levels,
2. Supportive in promoting the local-economy and

3. Species that provide health benefits based on indigenous knowledge (ethno-medicine such as herbal medicine).

Some conservation community forest areas showed very limited/scarce availability of such focus species during the forest inventory and therefore the NTFP action plan was not prepared for them. Hence the variations in the targets of NTFP action plan preparation. These have been amended in the revised workplan attached. So far only three have been developed and by March 2008, five more will be prepared.

Present a timetable (workplan) for the next reporting period.

S N	Activities	Where	By when
1	Booklet preparation-draft		May, 07
	<i>Draft booklet in English</i>		
	<i>Translation into Nepali</i>		
2	Sensitization training/NTFP monitoring		April-May 2007
	<i>Sensitization training (field training)</i>	Phungling/Lelep	
	<i>Permanent plot establishment & training to local people on monitoring, coordination with local team for inventory in Tapethok</i>	Tapethok, Hellok	
3	Action plan of Namphuwa CCF, Tapethok		April/May, 07
4	Household survey of Chirayito, Tapethok		May, 07
5	Inventory/monitoring in Ghunsa & monitoring of permanent plots in Wolangchung gola & Lelep		June/July, 07
	<i>Training local community on NTFP monitoring, Gola/Ghunsa</i>	Partially completed	
6	Action plan of Patale CCF, Tapethok		July/August, 07
7	Implementation of action plan at the field level/NTFP monitoring/training		August/Sept, 07
	<i>Implementation of action plan at the field level/coordination with field team</i>	Lelep, Tapethok	
	<i>Sensitization training at field level</i>	Lelep, Tapethok, Gola, Ghunsa	
	<i>Training local community on impact assessment & monitoring</i>	Lelep, Tapethok, Gola, Ghunsa	
	<i>Biometric and computation training</i>	Lelep, Tapethok, Gola, Ghunsa	
8	Action plan of Nigijung CCF, Tapethok		October, 07
9	Action plan of Tiptala CCF, W. Gola		October/Nov, 07
10	Final monitoring for the year		Nov 2007
	<i>Monitoring of chirayito, lokta, argeli</i>	Lelep, Tapethok, Gola, Ghunsa	
	<i>Verification of data and resource map</i>	Lelep, Tapethok, Gola, Ghunsa	
	<i>Sharing results with local community and discussion</i>	Lelep, Tapethok, Gola, Ghunsa	
11	Final production of harvesting guidelines & monitoring system		December, 07
12	Exposure visits/tour to communities focusing on essential oil, incense sticks, Nepali hand made paper production		April end, May, June 1st week 2007
13	Product development and Marketing with suppliers in Taplejung and Kathmandu		3rd week of June 2007

14	Exploration on possibilities of private company's investment/involvement in community-managed NTFP business		July 2007
15	Action plan of Ghunsa CCF,		Jan-Feb 2008
16	Book on sustainable harvesting and management of NTFP		Feb, 08
17	NTFP database (ca. 100 species)		March, 08
18	Monitoring of different NTFP- final stage		March/April, 08
19	Documentation and dissemination of case studies/best practices		Feb, 08
20	Monitoring visits/auditing		Mar, 08
21	Media trips to KCA, radio program broadcasting		Jan -Feb 2008
22	Annual review/sharing workshop	District & national level	June 07 & March 08

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

As per the feedback on last year's annual report, the following actions were taken:

1. Revised the workplan for 3rd year
2. Consultations with the relevant units/persons (Planning and Monitoring Unit and Livelihood specialist) are ongoing to improve the monitoring indicators. The outcomes will be shared in July 2007.
3. Similarly the socio-economic survey and an evaluation study of KCAP have been initiated. The survey/study will determine the impacts of KCAP in improving the local livelihoods of KCA; the findings will be available for sharing by September 2007. The survey report will highlight the effects and impacts of the KCAP intervention in KCA on the community-based management of natural resource management (more precisely NTFP) and livelihoods improvement. As a part of the evaluation, a KCA baseline (for the year 2007) will compare the current socio-economic status of KCA communities and highlight the changes in their livelihoods status after the project intervention. This baseline will be available in September 2007 (although we have baseline information from 2003 it is not directly comparable because it lacks disaggregated data). The findings (both qualitative and quantitative information) will be shared in the next half yearly report.
4. In order to support the KCA communities to monitor changes and regulate sustainable utilization of natural resources a community monitoring protocol will be developed by September 2007 which will have a list of community-defined indicators to be used by communities themselves.
5. In order to ensure good governance and sustained benefits of the project to the NTFP users, three NTFP action plans have been prepared and handed over to the conservation community forest user groups. These action plans supplement the forest operation plan of each conservation community forest user group. Five more NTFP action plans will be prepared and handed over by March 2008. Besides this, the KCAP is implementing a new project on good governance on natural resource management called SAGUN (Strengthened Actions for Governance in Natural Resource Management) with the support of USAID and Ford Foundation. This project is focused on institutionalization of good governance practices at the grass roots level, hence the KCA communities will be supported in developing skills and knowledge on a rights-based approach and good governance practices. The good governance will be institutionalized in the operational plans of all community based organizations.
6. Revisions to the enterprise model: The "cooperative model" has been upgraded to a model that addresses the issues of sustainability that is socially inclusive and follows good governance practices making the participants/stakeholders of the enterprise more responsible and accountable to their communities. The enterprise management modality is participatory, accessible to all stakeholders and ensures that the participants are equitably benefited.

The following paragraphs illustrates the queries/concerns raised by the evaluation team:

Enterprise Operation Model:

The enterprise will be the property of either Conservation Area User Committee, the Mother group or the User groups but most probably one among the first two. The committee will hand over the operational responsibility to one or two persons, either on a salaried basis or on a contract basis. They will be responsible for the overall management, starting from establishment of the industry up to the market. In order to make the communities more responsible and to minimize the risk of failure, private entrepreneurs or local people will be motivated to invest their capital. The operating groups will also seek loan support from the KCAMC. Furthermore, encouragement on the investment of the Mother Group funds will encourage local buy-in. However, to attract such funding, at least one successful model has to be developed. After the success of any one project, a door will be opened for private/ multinational companies to invest in the ongoing or new projects. However, considerable amount of time will have to be given to attract such investments.

Involvement of Pro-poor:

This has always been the major issue of any community managed industry. To overcome this problem, a participatory well-being ranking done at the outset of the project will help in identifying poor, vulnerable, and marginalized people and developing the program accordingly to provide them optimum benefit in an equitable manner. The marginal and poorest people will be given priority in collection of raw materials. They will also be involved in the industry at a non-technical level. During the benefit sharing, profits will be distributed to all people involved in the industry. In order to enhance pro-poor participation in the project, the project is investigating the leasing of land to poor people for cultivation. The project is also looking for other options in consultation with other organizations involved in NTFP sector.

6. Partnerships

The support and collaboration between WWF UK and WWF Nepal has proven to be very fruitful in achieving conservation results. The synergy between the two has resulted in enhanced, effective and efficient implementation of both the WWF UK supported project and the NTFP project supported by the Darwin Initiative. The two projects are complementary and in joint planning have ensured the objectives are additive. They have thus helped WWF Nepal in harmonizing both the conservation and livelihoods needs of the KCA.

The national inception meeting as well as the local interaction sharing meetings and consultative workshops at Taplejung had provided an opportunity for collaboration with key organisations involved in biodiversity conservation as well as in community based management of the NTFP. Regarding the greater level of collaboration with similar projects involved in NTFP management, WWF Nepal has widened its scope of collaboration with private sector and governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the NTFP sector. The project has collaborated with a number of private companies (HPPCL, Forest biotrade, KANPOU Nepal) for NTFPs based product development and marketing purposes. For instance, for the product development and marketing of seabuckthorn juice, WWF Nepal has partnered with a company called Alternative Herbal Products (AHP) Private Limited, Nepal which has been providing support in developing the product from harvesting, juice extraction, processing, packaging to marketing at the national level. Similarly the project is consulting with a number of suppliers, manufactures and drug companies both nationally and internationally for the marketing of the NTFP products; Dabur Company, KANPOU, HPPCL are some of the them. This is a long-term partnership and indicates commitments from both local communities and the companies for economic sustainability of the KCA communities. In the coming year the project will be focusing on sourcing capital investment from the private sector and scaling up of the current work in KCA.

In order to develop a larger NTFP program in Nepal based on the concept of this project, WWF Nepal has conducted a series of consultation meetings with international communities interested in a NTFP based program including WWF Germany, Plant Life International, national organizations such as ICIMOD and IUCN, NGOs such as ESON, ANSAB, Forest Action, and Nepal government line agencies.

7. Impact and Sustainability

This is the second community based NTFP management project that WWF Nepal has implemented in the mountain area. The first one was the People and Plants Initiative project which was implemented in Dolpa in Shey-Phoksundo National Park and Buffer Zone in the north western part of Nepal about 9 years ago. This current programme incorporates the lessons learned and the best practices of the Dolpa

project such as a science-based approach and building on indigenous knowledge and community-management of resources. This project has consequently been appreciated at national level for its science-based approach and proven methodology of applied research. WWF Nepal has been involved in sharing its achievements and experiences to organizations and individuals who are involved in the NTFP sector, by organizing and participating in information sharing forums and workshops. These efforts have been instrumental in providing ample opportunities for partnering and collaborating.

WWF Nepal has been involved in policy advocacy work through helping develop the national NTFP policy of Nepal. Similarly, it supported KCA MC in advocating against the ban on Kutki harvesting. Kutki is one of most abundantly found NTFPs in KCA with a lot of potential for revenue generation as a tonic, a laxative and anti-worming. Hence KCAP advocated and lobbied with the government of Nepal and the restriction was lifted. This has opened avenues and opportunities for revenue generation to the KCA people. The project offices have also facilitated and supported in raising and advocating other issues and concerns relevant to harvesting and trade of NTFP.

In the light of WWF Nepal's involvement and experience in sustainable management of NTFPs and medicinal plants, WWF Germany has shown keen interest in implementing the ISSC-MAP (International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants) and conservation guidelines in KCA and Dolpa. In order to make this initiative a reality an international level strategic meeting workshop will be organized in May 2007, in Nepal.

The sustainability of the project has been inbuilt into the design of the project through the involvement of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) and its affiliated institutions. Local capacity development and their participation in project activities is a key approach that the project has adopted for sustainability. The involvement of diverse donors with different programmatic areas of interest and partners of different capacities- community based organizations (CBOs), and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and line agencies has been crucial in achieving the goal of KCAP and sustaining conservation outputs in KCA. The KCAP consists of projects that address different aspects of natural resource management. For instance, the USAID and Ford Foundation supported projects emphasize governance of natural resource management while WWF UK, MacArthur and Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association have focussed on the institutional development of the KCA Management Council, livelihoods improvement of KCA communities and the overall sustainability of the program.

In order to ensure livelihood benefits to the poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people, WWF Nepal has adopted a sustainable livelihoods approach based on frameworks developed by, amongst others, DFID. In addition, WWF Nepal has promoted an active forest management approach for managing community forest according to which the members of the community forest follow good governance practices in harvesting and sharing benefits in an equitable manner. The community monitoring protocol which will be ready for use by communities and KCAMC by September 2007 will help communities to monitor and evaluate their resources and manage KCA. A formal exit strategy is in the process of development and it has these elements incorporated, this will be finalized by June 2007.

8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

In comparison to last year's performance, this year almost all planned activities (of Year II) were implemented and the first year activities were also partially achieved. Some major targets that could not be achieved were the development of 26 NTFP action plans. Only three action plans were developed last year and which will be implemented in the 3rd year. The given target (26) has been found to be very ambitious in the existing project framework and project duration considering difficulties observed such as the difficult political environment, land rights issues and conflicts in forest boundary. In addition to this the action plans are prepared based on the availability of the prioritized NTFP species (as prioritized by communities at the outset of the project) in the given community forest areas. This is another limiting factor for achieving this target. Based on current progress in addition to the three action plans prepared this year, 5 more will be prepared by March 2007.

Another major problem is the timely achievement of the targets due to the delayed implementation of the initial phase of the project. In addition to this, even after the reinstatement of democracy, the country is in a confused state and the project has been facing problems in implementation and timely delivery. Due to strikes and blockades in March 2007 especially in the southern parts of Nepal (Terai), the community exchange visit or exposure visit could not be carried out. Similarly the NTFP database could not be

established this year as the forest inventory is not yet completed. The sustainable harvesting guideline is not yet published however the draft is prepared and will be finalized in the coming year.

Since the field research is a very time taking process, some of the activities such as application of the action-plans, documentation of best practices could not be fully achieved. The participatory research and the establishment of the ecological plots for monitoring key species had been initiated last year and will be continued in coming years. The enterprise development activity was originally intended as pilots, however based on research findings and communities' interest on this activity, more than one enterprise has been initiated successfully. Institutional and technical capacity building is ongoing as per the plan.

Dissemination activities have taken place in the form of sharing workshops, meetings at the field (1 event) and national level (1 event) and through print media (6 items) as well as electronic media (1 item). Stories collection and case studies were also carried out at different times during the reporting period. For the sharing of project experience and lessons, project technical reports (2 half-yearly, 1 annual, 4 quarterly) were produced and disseminated both at district and national levels. The project newsletter (3 volumes - 500 copies each) has been used as a means to disseminate information about the project to local stakeholders in KCA, district and national level.

The stakeholders, researchers and other people who are directly involved in this project shared their research findings and experiences which helped the project in developing a consolidated plan to move ahead. For instance, the project outputs were shared at a national conference held in Pokhara outside Kathmandu valley targeting forestry students and other people working in natural resource management and solicited their feedback on overall project design, especially on the research methodology and project implementation approach. The details of the feedback will be reported in the next reporting period. The training manuals were also prepared (1-chirayito, 1-harvesting guideline, 1-NTFP monitoring format) and also three NTFP action plans. Various project related information has been posted on the project's website for wider use. The publication and dissemination materials are published both in Nepali and English for wider use. The NTFP program is going to be a major program for WWF Nepal in the future hence such types of interactions and sharing will continue in future both at district and national levels.

Please expand and complete Table 1. **Quantify** project outputs over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures (see website for details) and give a brief description. Please list and report on appropriate Code Nos. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Guidance notes on Output Definitions, which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures. Only the summarised totals after the end of your project will be recorded on the Darwin project database from your final report (the totals below will help you to keep track on a yearly basis).

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

CODE No.	Descriptions	Achievements			
		YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	TOTAL
6	Training over one year				
6 A	Training of under one year				
	Technical trainings on natural resource management including forests, species and NTFPs	1 event , 45 persons	1 event, 3 days, 18 persons		
	Plot/NTFP monitoring, harvesting, management training	1 event, 7 days, 7 persons			
	Technical training/support to increase productivity of chirayito		1 event, 6 days, 20 local farmers & collectors		
	Cooperative operation training	1 event- 2 days, 26 persons	1 event, 156 persons (60-women & 96- men)		
	Value addition and Enterprise development training on:				
	seabuckthorn juice		1event, 5 days, 9 people		
	candy/pickle making from Hog-plum		1 event, 7 days 38 community members & 3 NGO staff		
	Allo (nettle fibre) weaving		1 event, 12 days, 2 women		
	Subsector training	1 event			
	Sustainable livelihoods approach training	1 event, 5 days, 35 persons			
	Pilot NTFP enterprises				
	Enterprise development training				
	Market/ price information systems				

	Marketing linkage support				
7	Number of (different types- not volume- of material produced) training materials produced for use			1- Chirayito cultivation training manual, 1-format for inventory and monitoring of NTFP-used for training/orienting local youths	
8		NA			
9	No. of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies	0		Detailed inventory of conservation community forest (CCF) of two VDCs- Lelep and Wolanchungola completed while the detailed management plans are prepared for three CCFs ie. three NTFP Action plans for three Conservation Community Forests of Lelep and Wolanchung VDC (Dobate, Lawajin and Dorangyabo-Phalekbas)	
10	No. of individual field guides/manuals to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	0		Draft manuals for the harvesting guidelines of 6 NTFP species prepared (Kutki, Jatamansi, Maikopila, Lokta, Argeli, Chirayito)	
14 A	No of conferences/seminars/workshops organized	1 inception workshop in Kathmandu (national) - 40 participants and 1 in Taplejung- 42 participants		1- inception workshop/meeting in Lelep VDC (field level workshop), three representatives from each of 7 Conservation Area User committees participated- total no. 21participants	
14B	No of conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which findings of DARWIN project work shared			1- national workshop in Pokhara in which project researcher made presentation, 1-meeting organized by ICIMOD and participated by Project manager of KCAP	
15 A	National press releases			1- seabuckthorn juice, 2 articles in national paper, 1 - Yarchagumba	
15 B	Local press releases	1 in local press		1- seabuckthorn juice, 1- article, Mother groups involvement	

16 A	Newsletter	1 (4 articles on NTFP)	3 volumes- quarterly basis,		
16 B	Estimated circulation	All district level partner organizations, like-minded organizations at national level, WWF Nepal other projects	All district level partner organizations, like-minded organizations at national level, WWF Nepal other projects		
17A:	Dissemination network established	1- NTFP price information through the District Chamber of Commerce			
18 A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country		1- on seabuckthorn juice production		
19 A	National radio interviews/features				
20	Physical outputs- estimated value of physical assets to be handed over to host country	1 community based NTFP enterprise	1 essential oil processing unit installed in Ghunsa		
21	No. of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organizations established	6 community forest user groups with operation plans			
22	Permanent field plots	2	35 permanent plots had been established for 5 species- lokta (2 species- Daphne volua and Daphne papyracea), Chirayito (Swertia chirayita), Kutki (Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora) and maikopila (Saussurea topkegolensis)		
23	Value of resources raised from other sources	WWF UK/Nepal, community contribution	WWF UK/Nepal, MacArthur Foundation, USAID, Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association, community contribution		

Table 2: Publications

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Information booklets	* Understanding the Changes in Livelihoods Assets with Locals: A Case study from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Project, Nepal (Annex 3)	WWF Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal	www.livelihoods.org/organizationalink/WWF/WWFNEPAL , and www.wwfnepal.org/publication	
Articles	Saving Nature- “Prakriti Jogaudai”	Haka Haki, Magazine, Kathmandu, Nepal	Mr. Gopal Tiwari, tiwari_gopal@hotmail. com	

9. Project Expenditure

- Please expand and complete Table 3.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The individual and group monitoring schedule is planned on an annual basis by all relevant staff of this project (program officer, program development officer, livelihood specialist, monitoring and planning officer, financial and administration officer, communication staff, etc). Each individual staff based in Kathmandu has monitoring visit plan of at least 2 visits per fiscal year and under normal circumstances the visits are planned as joint team activities with a combination of staff from different units/departments/programs. A monitoring format has been developed to standardise the monitoring protocol and there is a developed format for writing monitoring reports too. The monitoring protocol was developed based on the project logframe, hence the indicators are used to determine the linkages among various levels of results. Usually the field projects and project staff conduct activity level monitoring while the program staffs from Kathmandu do the output and impact level monitoring. The information collected are analyzed at the collection site (by project staff and the program staff) and fed in to the central information and database system for analysis. At the program level in Kathmandu, all information is compiled, analyzed and consolidated for wider use, sharing and lesson learning purpose.

During the reporting period the monitoring was done by program as well as by project staff. WWF staff based in Kathmandu made several field visits to KCA during which the activities

and achievement indicators outlined in the annual work plan were monitored and reported against. Field level monitoring was carried out by the project staff, local resource persons and researchers on a regular basis and they reported progress against output indicators. The progress, achievements and impacts are assessed both by quantitative and qualitative methods such as perception surveys and perceived benefit analysis related to changes in quality of life such as access to infrastructure, access to services, access to policy institutions, fund mobilization, leadership development, access to education etc. In case of ecological monitoring of NTFP species, the community-defined indicators were used. Similarly wildlife monitoring is done by community based institutions such as snow leopard conservation committees and community based anti-poaching units.

Last year WWF UK's staff (Mr. Dominic White and Ms. Kate Studd) visited KCA, they provided an assessment on the progress in the context of the handing over of the KCA management responsibility to the KCA communities. The project logframe and the KCA management plan was the guiding document for measuring the achievements made so far in KCA. Their visit to the project site was an added benefit and their comments and feedbacks are valued as the external evaluation. One of the major concerns raised was related to the sustainability of the conservation outcomes in case of the project (DARWIN Initiative) phasing out in the coming year.

Similarly, the WWF Livelihoods Specialist, Mr. Tara Gynwali conducted a comprehensive assessment of impacts of KCAP on the livelihoods of KCA communities. He used various types of community defined indicators to measure the project's achievements and outputs against the project purpose. His findings have highlighted the demonstrated awareness and skills among the communities regarding the sustainable use of NTFP, not only improving local livelihoods but also for managing KCA through revenue generation. (*Please refer to reports - Annex 3*).

In order to institutionalize the monitoring and evaluation at the community level, the KCA communities especially the KCAMC members are involved in the monitoring. A capacity building/training program have been provided to them focusing on participatory monitoring and evaluation, report preparation, fund-raising skills etc. A study is being carried out in KCA to develop a community monitoring protocol with community defined indicators. The protocol is targeted at the KCAMC for monitoring all activities in KCA. It will be handed over to KCAMC by October 2007.

The key lesson learned is that there is a narrow margin between use and over-exploitation of NTFP, hence prior research study on resource quantification and harvesting and yield potential must guide the possible economic interventions. This is addressed by this project by involving all relevant stakeholders/people at all stages of the project implementation; through constant follow-ups and facilitating interactions among the various people involved in this project. Thus WWF Nepal has been successful in creating an enabling environment and facilitating all stakeholders, including people from academia, to share information and knowledge for better results and conservation outputs. The sharing and learning component will be continued as a major activity of this project in the next year. This particular initiative has also facilitated the development of a national level NTFP program which WWF Nepal is leading at present, in partnership with all leading organizations in Nepal and outside Nepal that are involved in NTFP work. In addition to this, WWF Nepal will be replicating some of the best practices and lesson learned from this project in its other project sites in the Sacred Himalayan Landscape and in the Northern Mountain landscape of Nepal.

OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)

■ **I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section**

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. The idea is to use this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including e.g.

publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

The Kangchenjunga project was initiated during a very turbulent political period however the dedication and commitment of the team resulted in commendable outputs. Community based enterprises were initiated which not only empowered and equipped local people with skills, knowledge and technology for sustainable management of NTFP but also provided a means of revenue generation. In this respect, this project has been instrumental in setting the stage for the KCA handover and sustaining conservation outputs in coming years.

One key success has been the sustainable commercialization of seabuckthorn. Known as Bhuinchuk this is one of the most commonly found non-timber forest products in KCA. The fruits are harvested for making juice and through this project, KCAP has supported local communities of Ghunsa for its sustainable commercialization. The Ghunsa Seabuckthorn group has undertaken this community managed micro-enterprise initiative with the technical support from a private company (AHP) which oversees the product development and marketing of the juice on national and international markets. WWF Nepal has provided financial and logistic support to the project especially for the installation of the processing unit.

The locally produced concentrated juice is sold to a local vendor where it is then processed, bottled, labelled and sold in local and national market as Vita Seabuckthorn Juice. Along the supply chain of juice production more than 30 people are directly benefited. A person can collect 5 to 10 litres of concentrated juice a day and sell at the rate of Nepal Rupees 80 per litre (which is over \$1) in the local market. Last year, sales of approximately \$1500 were realised in the KCA seabuckthorn sector. This enterprise also exemplifies a pro-poor approach- the poor people (as identified by the participatory well-being ranking) are given priority for collecting fruits and are also involved in non-technical work.

For WWF Nepal this has been the first such initiative in its mountain project sites in which the local NTFP products have been sustainably commercialized by the local communities in collaboration with private sector. A year ago seabuckthorn juice was available only in the Kangchenjunga area and some cities of eastern Nepal. Now the same product is value added and is marketed all over Nepal as a health drink. This project has proven that with the right support, local products can be marketed nationally and local communities can be the beneficiaries.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2006-March 2007	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose <i>(insert original project purpose statement)</i></p> <p>To develop community capacity to manage NTFPs for sustainable production and plant conservation in KCA</p>	<p><i>(insert original purpose level indicators)</i></p> <p>By 2007, 26 community forest user groups (CFUGs) have action plans for sustainable management and use of NTFPs</p> <p>By 2008, a community-based monitoring system and sustainable harvesting guidelines for key NTFP species established and tested</p> <p>By 2008, 26 community forest user groups in KCA are sustainably accessing NTFPs for livelihood</p>	<p><i>(report impacts and achievements resulting from the project against purpose indicators – if any)</i></p>	<p><i>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project & highlight key actions planning for next period)</i></p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p><i>(insert original outputs – one per line)</i></p>	<p><i>(insert original output level indicators)</i></p> <p>-By 2007, 26 CFUGs develop NTFP action plans while 16 CFUGs</p>	<p><i>(report completed activities and outcomes that contribute toward outputs and indicators)</i></p> <p>Project initiation workshop conducted</p>	<p><i>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project & highlight key actions planning for next period)</i></p> <p>Based on the participatory research in</p>

<p>26 community forest user groups (CFUGs) in KCA practice community-based management of NTFP</p>	<p>implement their action plans</p> <p>By 2006, capacity of KCA institutions enhanced for sustainable NTFP management</p>	<p>at village level</p> <p>NTFP inventories completed in all Conservation community forests (CCFs) of KCA with the participation of local youth,</p> <p>Three NTFP management plan (action plans) for three CFUGs</p> <p>Training on forest management</p>	<p>the first year, communities targeted some specific NTFP species for their promotion. This has been the guiding factor for selecting the CCFs and the number of NTFP action plans to be prepared next year ie. 5 only .</p> <p>Best practice needs replication, hence exposure visits to successful NTFP projects is planned in July 2007</p>
<p>Local livelihoods in KCA enhanced through sustainable utilisation of NTFPs</p>	<p>By 2008, 26 CFUGs practice sustainable harvesting for wild collection of NTFPs for subsistence and trade</p> <p>By 2008, NTFP enterprise established and viable (pilot site)</p> <p>By 2007, access increased for poor /disadvantaged groups to NTFP-based livelihood opportunities</p>	<p>Three CCFs initiated implementation of management/action plans</p> <p>Three NTFP based enterprise recommended from previous years sub-sector analysis (essential oils, hand made paper, paper for Japanese money-Yen), essential oil production and lokta paper production initiated</p> <p>Emphasis on Pro-poor initiatives such as providing opportunities to poor and disadvantaged people in harvesting and other non-technical work, access to fund for enterprise development</p>	<p>Technology transfer essential to capacitate NTFP users to meet increasing market demands, hence new technology (transplantation) of chirayito production will be adopted by communities</p> <p>Sustainability of the enterprise/NTFP business is essential hence project will look at the potential for collaboration and partnership with private companies for capital investment and market linkages of community managed enterprises</p> <p>The project exit strategy will be</p>

			<i>finalized by June 2007 which will address sustainability issues and by January 2008, phase-out activities will be initiated.</i>
<i>Community-based monitoring system of key NTFP species in place</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>-By 2007, NTFP database developed</i> <i>-By 2007, ethno-botanical knowledge documented</i> <i>-By 2007, monitoring system and sustainable harvesting guidelines of key NTFP species established</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>35 Permanent ecological plots have been established in various sites for monitoring key 5 traded species through participatory planning and involvement of local youth/members of community forests user groups.</i> <i>Community indicators for monitoring NTFPs being refined through community consultation</i> <i>Sustainable harvesting guideline drafted</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Finalizing community indicators</i> <i>Establishment of NTFP database</i> <i>Monitoring system and sustainable harvesting guidelines in January 2008</i> <i>Documentation and dissemination of lessons in February 2008</i> <i>Annual review and sharing in June 2007 and March 2008</i>

Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.

Annexes 2 and 3 attached separately:

Annex 2: Developing a Community-Based Monitoring System and Sustainable Harvesting Guidelines for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA), East Nepal

Annex 3: Understanding the Changes in Livelihoods Assets with Locals: A Case study from Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Project, Nepal