Darwin Initiative Main: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	*DIR26S2/1017*
Project title	Community-based integrated catchment management to conserve the Upper Chindwin River
Country(ies)	Myanmar
Lead Organisation	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
Project partner(s)	Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI), UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), Naga Social Network Organization (NSNO)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£369,912.00
Start/end dates of project	01/10/2020 – 31/03/2025
Project Leader name	Thanapon Piman
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.sei.org/projects/community-based-water-management-chindwin/ https://www.sumernet.org/story/empowering-communities-in-the-upper-chindwin-basin-of-myanmar-through-hands-on-training-on-watershed-and-wetlands-conservation-a
Report author(s) and date	Ridhi Saluja (SEI), Than Htway Lin (SEI), Win Maung (MEI) and Thanapon Piman (SEI); June 5, 2025

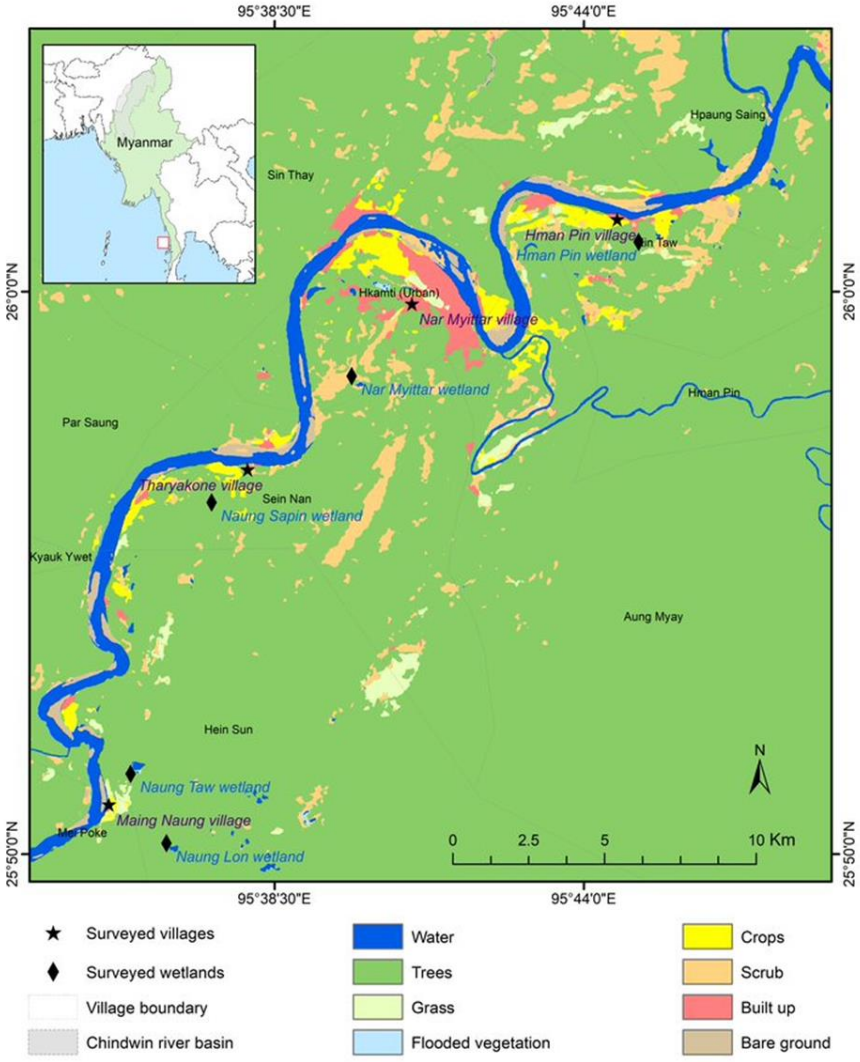
1 Project Summary

Based on over six years of SEI's research in the area, ecosystems within the Upper Chindwin River are rapidly degrading due to mining, deforestation, and agriculture as well as the impacts of climate change. Most people in the study area are poor and communities are mainly subsistence based and depend on ecosystems to maintain livelihoods. The health and wellbeing of these communities and ecosystems are intrinsically interlinked.

To restore ecosystems and support livelihoods, it is critical to involve communities in ecosystem restoration. The main aim of the project is to implement a set of tailored land and water management practices for wetland conservation in Upper Chindwin River, Myanmar, to protect and restore the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and secure sustainable livelihoods for villagers in the vicinity of the project area.

The project has implemented community wetland conservation practices using knowledge from assessments of baseline conditions. Community conservation practices that benefit biodiversity as well as communities such as pig farming and groundnut cultivation were explored and integrated into community action plans to reduce threats and pressure on wetlands ecosystem.

Conservation successes at the community level were released through project webpage (https://www.sei.org/projects/community-based-water-management-chindwin/#overview) and communications products. Additionally, assessment findings were disseminated with community leaders, Village Working Committee (VWC) and community to promote the adoption of sustainable practices for long-term and widespread utilization of wetlands and resources. The community-led conservation is currently being planned and will be implemented by the communities themselves in the five wetlands. Conservation successes at the community level will be scaled up to link with policy makers at national and subnational levels to promote community-based catchment management and find solutions for longer term wetland and ecosystem protections.



2 Project Partnerships

Our British partners, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), as well as our Myanmar partner, MEI, have all contributed to project planning and decision-making. In addition to planning, project partners have overseen project activities. Partners were consulted bimonthly and helped design and implement activities that were feasible given Myanmar's current political situation. Furthermore, the Embassy of Sweden and Australia issued directives that restricted the field implementation of project activities from January to March 2024. In December 2023, WWT requested that the project lead reallocate WWT funds to local Myanmar partners, namely MEI and NSNO, to support their local travel and implementation of on-the-ground activities wherever possible, as WWT partners continued to face travel restrictions to the study area.

The inability to conduct fieldwork and organize training workshops in the study area due to security concerns remained one of the most pressing challenges to project implementation. Despite the difficult and challenging political situation in Myanmar, consortium partners were able to adapt to local conditions and implement planned activities. Considering these challenges, a change request was submitted to BCF in February 2024 to extend the period of project implementation till March 2025, which was approved on March 15, 2024.

Continued discussions with Project partners helped in prioritizing and exploring potential strategies for implementing project activities. Our local partners, Naga Social Network (NSNO), and National partner, Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI), were instrumental in obtaining required permissions from government departments to support and provide safe space for conducting fieldwork in the study area, as well as ensuring the safety and security of the project staff and field team. SEI project staff in Myanmar and local CSOs maintained constant communication to ensure the interests of local communities are well considered in the project implementation.

The partnership with NSNO has led to notable achievements in community capacity-building and wetland conservation. In May-June 2024, NSNO successfully conducted community training on wetland biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in four priority villages. Additionally, the team facilitated capacity-building training on small-scale pig production in Nar Myittar village in June 2024, strengthening local livelihoods alongside conservation efforts. A key milestone was the training of NSNO members in biodiversity and water quality data collection, which they effectively applied during monitoring surveys across five wetlands in November-December 2024. The team further played a pivotal role in guiding communities in data collection and regularly engaged with selected pig farmers, in collaboration with Village Working Committee (VWC) members, to monitor progress and provide ongoing support.

Despite encountering challenges, including logistical difficulties and community engagement barriers, the partnership ensured the successful implementation of training, surveys, and conservation activities. The NSNO team leveraged its deep local knowledge and strong relationships with the VWC and village leaders to navigate these challenges. Their close coordination helped maintain community participation and adapt activities to the region’s unstable conditions, prioritizing safety while ensuring project continuity.

A major strength of the partnership was its collaborative and locally driven approach. The VWC, alongside selected farmers, actively contributed to knowledge-sharing on pig production, with additional technical support from the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary (DLBV) of Hkamti township. This collaboration ensured the integration of conservation and livelihood support, reinforcing the project’s sustainability. The virtual refresher training conducted by MEI experts in October 2024 on citizen science approaches further empowered NSNO members and the community members to take ownership of wetland and biodiversity conservation efforts.

The partnerships built through this project have also fostered long-term collaboration beyond its immediate scope. For instance, joint project proposals with UKCEH were developed for REDDA grants in Sri Lanka and the 2024 Darwin Call. Additionally, to sustain local engagement, a CEPF project concept was co-developed with MEI and NSNO in September 2022, laying the foundation for continued conservation efforts in the region.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output-1: Baseline assessment of physical conditions, ecosystem services, key biodiversity hotspots and habitats, and existing practices of livelihood on water and land management, informing an endorsed habitat restoration plan and CAPs development.

With support from project partners, a manual was developed to conduct rapid village assessments with the objective of creating a scalable ecosystem services (ES) assessment framework, grounded in the principles of the RAWES toolkit. This manual was applied across ten villages, enabling a rapid assessment of key endangered and livelihood species, a review of ecological habitat requirements, and the development of detailed ES, land use, and habitat maps.

In parallel, another manual was created to guide comprehensive socio-economic, livelihoods, ES, and biodiversity assessments. This was used to conduct in-depth surveys at five priority wetlands and four dependent villages, culminating in a detailed report that will soon be published on the project website. Assessments of key floral and faunal species were also carried out at the five priority wetlands, based on which optimal ecological requirements were identified and preliminary conservation zones delineated. Land use and wetland habitat sketches were prepared for all ten villages, while more detailed habitat maps for the five wetlands are set to be validated during the upcoming field visit by the local CSO partner.

The findings from the baseline assessments in 2022 have been disseminated through a peer-reviewed article and are also available on the project website. Furthermore, biodiversity and water quality assessment reports are informing ongoing monitoring activities. Wetland maps, including conservation zones developed with the support of MEI and NSNO, have been validated and formally endorsed by the Village Working Committees. ***(Annex 1.1 – Rapid Village Assessment Report; Annex 1.2- Baseline assessment report on wetlands and livelihood survey; Annex 1.3 -Peer-reviewed article titled Assessment of community dependence and perception of wetlands; and Annex 1.4-Baseline Survey Manual)***

Output-2: Community Action Plans (CAPs) focusing on integrated water-land ecosystem measures developed for and implemented in four priority villages.

As part of the 2022 baseline assessment, Village Working Committees (VWCs) were established in four priority villages to spearhead Community Action Plans (CAPs) focused on integrated water and land ecosystem management. These structures were further strengthened in 2024, expanding their role to address community-identified livelihood needs—particularly the management of a pig farming initiative. To support monitoring and enhance local ownership, community-led monitoring teams were also formed and have since worked alongside VWCs to lead conservation, restoration, and livelihood interventions. Their responsibilities have included indigenous species replantation, pig farming oversight, co-organizing awareness and training programs with project partners (NSNO and MEI) and facilitating participatory data collection to inform project decisions. From July to December 2024, VWCs led the transparent selection of pig farmers, disbursed funds, and coordinated biodiversity, ecosystem services, and water quality assessments across five wetlands. CAPs were co-developed with VWCs through village consultations held between February 2023 and June 2024, resulting in detailed plans for conservation, monitoring, and livelihood support. The first CAP was implemented in Nar Myitter village, while the remaining three (Tharyarkone, Hman Pin, and Maing Naung) were finalized after clarifying roles, responsibilities, and livelihood options.

Capacity-building efforts were central to the project. Between 2023 and 2024, a series of in-person and virtual Training of Trainers (TOTs) equipped community representatives and NSNO staff with knowledge on wetland biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable livelihoods, and fisheries. Community-level trainings followed, with notable female participation. A township-level wetland conservation training and a fishery awareness workshop further strengthened local

knowledge. In early June 2024, a pig farming training in Nar Myitter village reached 19 participants (12 women), providing hands-on guidance and materials in Burmese. Monitoring capacity was enhanced through a refresher training in October 2024, focusing on biodiversity mapping, GPS-based data collection, and water quality analysis. Subsequent surveys conducted from November to December gathered ecological data using rigorous sampling methods. Conservation signage and replantation activities were completed in two villages, though security concerns prevented implementation in others. Seed funding was provided to 19 pig farmers in June 2024, aiming to diversify livelihoods and reduce wetland pressures. Continuous virtual consultations, facilitated by NSNO, ensured timely support and adaptive management. Despite political instability preventing a full review workshop, the project maintained strong engagement through regular check-ins and village meetings, ensuring CAP implementation stayed on course and communities remained active in project implementation and monitoring.

(Annex 2.1 – List of VWC in four priority villages; Annex 2.2 – List of monitoring team members at four priority villages; Annex 2.2.1- CAP Hman Pin; Annex 2.2.2 – CAP Maing Naung; Annex 2.2.3- CAP Nam Myittar; Annex 2.2.4 – CAP Tharyarkone; Annex 2.3.1 – Training report Wetland conservation; Annex 2.3.2 – Training on systematic and small-scale pig-production in Nar Myittar; Annex 2.3.3- report on fisheries activities awareness training; Annex 2.3.4- Evaluation report on fisheries training effectiveness; Annex 2.4 – CAP Implementation guidelines for sustainable livelihoods in Nar Myittar_English;* Annex 2.4.1 – Rules and Regulations for VWC and pig farmers_Englishversion; *Annex 2.5 - Short report of CAP implementation in Nar Myitter_Eng_31st July 2024)

Output-3: Optimal ecological conditions agreed for endangered and key livelihood species and habitat restoration plan completed and shared.

The indicator on hydrological and climate assessment, habitat restoration, and community-based conservation has been successfully achieved through an integrated and participatory approach. Led by UKCEH, a comprehensive hydrological and climate assessment was carried out across five key wetlands, analyzing parameters such as discharge, water level, rainfall, and evaporation. The findings revealed that the hydrological wet season typically spans from May to December, while the rainfall-based climatological wet season starts slightly earlier, from April to November, highlighting a lag between rainfall and water system response. Evaporation was observed to peak during the dry season and decrease during the wet season. Seasonal fluctuations in open water surface area were also noted, with maximum expansion occurring between July and December. Utilizing remote sensing techniques, high-resolution Sentinel-2 imagery and the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) were employed to map water presence and variability, supplemented by historical data from 2015–2016 to understand past flooding and humidity patterns. Notably, heavy flooding in July 2024 in Hkamti Township underscored the importance of sustained monitoring and climate vulnerability assessments.

Conservation zones around the five wetlands were delineated based on baseline assessments and community consultations in late 2023. These zones, described in the 2023–2024 Annual Report, form the foundation for long-term habitat protection and were incorporated into Community Action Plans (CAPs). Collaborative planning and capacity building with Village Working Committees (VWCs) and community members in Nar Myitter, Tharyarkone, Hman Pin, and Maing Naung ensured that habitat restoration strategies were aligned with local conservation priorities.

From November to December 2024, a participatory monitoring survey using a citizen science approach was conducted by NSNO with the involvement of VWC and community teams. The survey recorded an increase in sightings of threatened fish, bird, reptile, and mammal species—suggesting early positive impacts of conservation efforts. Although no threatened plant species were identified, indigenous plantings around Nar Myitter and Maing Naung were thriving. The survival and growth of these species, such as *Acacia mangium*, Ironwood, and *Shorea robusta*, are being actively maintained by local teams. A reduction in total nitrogen levels was recorded,

and water quality data collected during the dry season reflected seasonal variations compared to baseline values from the dry season in 2022.

Community engagement was central to the success of this project. Over 85% of the local community members participated in awareness campaigns, trainings, and conservation activities. Awareness signage was installed around five key wetlands, while over 300 indigenous tree seedlings were planted across Nar Myitter and Maing Naung villages over the project period. Community involvement in monitoring, replanting, and awareness raising not only improved local knowledge but fostered ownership and stewardship. Illegal logging and fishing during breeding seasons were actively discouraged by community members. Capacity-building efforts designed and delivered by SEI, MEI, and NSNO focused on training communities in wetland restoration, biodiversity monitoring, and sustainable livelihood activities. Despite political instability that limited large gatherings, regular virtual consultations ensured continuous support, technical guidance, and adaptive management. As a result, well-structured CAP implementation, conservation zone maintenance, and citizen science-led monitoring are expected to continue post-project, promoting long-term ecological resilience and community-driven wetland stewardship.

(Annex 3.1- Annex_3.1_Report of Upper Chindwin hydrological assessment of wetlands_UKCEH; Annex_3.2_Report on CAP implementation in four villages; Annex_3.3_Meeting notes on community engagements with VWC and pig farmers of Nar Myittar village; Annex 3.3.1_Reports of CAP in four villages; Annex_3.3.2_Preliminary report of monitoring survey in five wetlands_NSNO; Annex 3.4_Performance monitoring and evaluation report_MEI; Annex 3.5_Community engagement statistics in awareness, training and activity implementation)

Output-4: Recommendations published for upscaling CAP and conservation measures to other villages with Upper Chindwin Basin KBAs

This project output has been successfully achieved, with a range of knowledge products, capacity-building initiatives, and outreach efforts that demonstrate strong potential for replication and scaling. A key milestone in this achievement is the policy brief, that presents practical, community-driven recommendations for locally inclusive wetland conservation in Myanmar. It highlights major threats to wetlands, gaps in governance, and best practices for wetland users, offering policy and programmatic guidance to scale conservation and restoration actions across the Upper Chindwin Basin. The brief emphasizes co-management models, participatory decision-making, and sustainable resource use as pathways to improve wetland governance and biodiversity outcomes. The recommendations are grounded in field evidence generated through the project's multi-year engagement in four priority villages and five associated wetlands. (https://www.sei.org/publications/promoting-locally-inclusive-wetlands-conservation-myanmar/ ; doi : https://doi.org/10.51414/sei2025.028).

In March 2024, four Community Action Plans (CAPs) were finalized and validated with community and stakeholder input. These CAPs form the basis of an integrated land and water management approach that is now being promoted for replication. Conservation activities implemented under the CAPs include replantation of indigenous species, installation of awareness signage, establishment of conservation zones, and the creation of local wetland management rules. An impact story was developed based on the CAP implementation process, capturing how community-led planning and monitoring contributed to wetland protection and biodiversity restoration.

The project also produced a series of publications and multimedia outputs to support scaling efforts. These include:

- "Community co-management can help protect wetlands biodiversity in the Chindwin River Basin" (SEI, May 2022) https://www.sei.org/perspectives/community-comanagement-protect-wetlands-biodiversity-chindwin-river-basin/
- "Assessment of community dependence and perceptions of wetlands in the Upper Chindwin Basin" (SEI, October 2023) https://www.sei.org/publications/community-dependence-perceptions-wetlands-chindwin-basin/

- Local stewardship in Myanmar (Darwin Initiative, January 2024) https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/news/2024/01/15/local-stewardship-in-myanmar/
- "Empowering communities in the Upper Chindwin Basin of Myanmar on wetlands conservation" (SUMERNET, February 2024) https://www.sumernet.org/story/empowering-communities-in-the-upper-chindwin-basin-of-myanmar-through-hands-on-training-on-watershed-and-wetlands-conservation-a

Training series conducted in collaboration with MEI focused on watershed and wetland conservation strategies, sustainable fisheries, and community-based monitoring practices. These sessions—documented through videos (Watershed training, Fisheries training)—supported knowledge transfer and skills development among community members and local CSO partners. (https://youtu.be/4rFkkMyZOJo; https://youtu.be/Mn7TsA0RzJA)

The project's webpage was launched in 2023 to share project updates with wider community and was regularly updated with last update in December 2024 to provide access to all key outputs, including fact sheets, training materials, awareness reports, and CAP updates. The project page can be accessed at: https://www.sei.org/projects/community-based-water-management-chindwin/

Together, the policy brief, CAPs, technical outputs, and training efforts offer a practical and scalable model for conservation in other villages within the Upper Chindwin Basin. These resources are being shared with partners and decision-makers to guide future wetland conservation and restoration initiatives in Myanmar and beyond.

(Annex_4.1_Policybrief_locally-inclusive-wetlands-myanmar-sei2025-028;Annex_4.3.1_Darwin project factsheet_MM; Annex_4.3.2_Darwin project factsheet_Eng)

3.2 Outcome

Outcome statement: ***The KBA in Upper Chindwin basin is providing improved and more secure habitats for endangered species and better livelihood pathways through enhanced ecosystem services for the local people.***

Outcome summary

The project successfully achieved its outcome **by strengthening the ecological integrity of five priority wetlands and enhancing community livelihoods through sustainable ecosystem service management.** Five conservation zones were identified and formally demarcated within these wetlands to protect key endangered species and maintain their critical habitats. These zones contribute directly to the long-term health and resilience of the wetland ecosystems and the services they provide to local communities.

To monitor wetland ecosystem health, water quality assessments were conducted at three sampling points in each wetland during the 2024 monitoring survey. **The results, reviewed against international benchmarks and Norwegian expert guidance, revealed that critical parameters such as nitrate (0.1–1.3 mg/L), phosphate (0.01–0.17 mg/L), total nitrogen (mostly <2 mg/L, with a maximum of 8 mg/L at one site), and total phosphorus (0.12–2.12 mg/L) were all within acceptable limits**. These findings indicate that the wetland water quality remains conducive to biodiversity conservation, with no immediate adverse impacts on species or habitats.

In support of integrated land and water management, the project implemented sustainable livelihood initiatives that directly benefited local communities. A **key intervention was the introduction of sustainable pig farming practices, which led to a 38% average increase in household income, demonstrating the economic value of aligning conservation with community wellbeing.** This income improvement underscores the viability of ecosystem-based livelihoods and the benefits of conservation-linked development.

Fishery data collected during the monitoring period also reflected progress. **The mean Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) increased by 7.27% between the 2022 baseline and the 2024 monitoring survey.** While this is below the project's target of 20%, it still signals a positive trend

and the early effects of habitat recovery and regulated fishing practices. The moderate increase also highlights the need for continued capacity building and stronger community-led conservation efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and greater gains in fish productivity.

Overall, the project has laid a solid foundation for continued improvements in biodiversity protection and ecosystem service delivery in the Upper Chindwin Basin KBA. The integration of habitat conservation with community livelihoods has demonstrated both ecological and socioeconomic benefits, reinforcing the importance of scaling these efforts across the broader landscape.

Outcome indicator 0.1: At least five conservation zones in priority wetlands are identified and demarcated for key endangered wetlands species.

Comment: Conservation zones have been identified in the selected wetland sites, and GIS maps highlighting these areas have been prepared in the year of 2023-2024. These maps have been used to enhance community awareness and to promote the sustainable practices applying in wetland resources extraction while activating effective local rules and regulations in four selected villages, to release more public outreach on the project website page.

Outcome indicator 0.2: Levels of fertiliser related determinants (e.g., Total Nitrogen, Ammonium Nitrite, and Total Phosphorus) kept within international standards and suggested by Norwegian Expert as a result of adoption of conservation practices by 2024.

Comment: - Water quality assessments conducted in 2024 across five wetlands confirmed that fertiliser-related parameters remained within international standards and thresholds recommended by Norwegian experts, demonstrating the success of conservation practices adopted under the project. Nitrate levels ranged from <0.1 to 1.3 mg/L, phosphate from 0.01 to 0.17 mg/L, and total nitrogen was mostly below 2 mg/L, with a single outlier (8 mg/L) at Naung Sa Pin's centre point. Total phosphorus ranged from 0.12 to 2.12 mg/L. These values fall within acceptable ecological limits, indicating no adverse effects on wetland biodiversity or habitat quality. The results reflect effective nutrient management through community-led conservation and sustainable land-use practices, contributing to the improved health of wetland ecosystems in the Upper Chindwin Basin.

Outcome indicator 0.3: At least 20% increase in income by 2024 for those adopting conservation and alternate livelihood practices (30 adopting the fish farming and 60 adopting other conservation practices) in selected 4 villages for CAP implementation.

Comment: In June 2024, pig farming was introduced as a sustainable livelihood option under the community-led conservation framework. Among participating households that adopted conservation practices and alternative livelihoods, the initiative led to a **38% average increase in income**. Farmers who have sold their pigs successfully repaid the **original loan amount of 316,000 MMK**, along with a **2% interest (6,320 MMK)** to the VWC, which manages the revolving livelihood fund. Several farmers are still raising pigs that have yet to reach maturity; their outcomes will be monitored by the VWC. Building on this success, the VWC is preparing to launch a second round of livelihood support, including farmer selection, loan disbursement, health management (vaccination and disinfection), progress monitoring, and marketing. The VWC will continue to oversee the fund, ensuring sustainability and transparency in future income-generating activities.

Outcome indicator 0.4: Mean catch per unit effort increases by 20 % by 2024 from a sample of 20 local fisherman within 4 selected villages included in CAP communities.; catch will be monitored by communities.

Comment: Between the 2022 baseline and the 2024 monitoring survey, the mean Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) in the four priority villages increased by 7.27%, reflecting initial progress in sustainable fishery practices and habitat restoration. While the increase is below the targeted 20%, it signals a positive trend and highlights the early benefits of community-based conservation efforts.

Several contextual challenges—such as seasonal flooding and drought, limited access to suitable soil types for water retention, constraints in technical capacity, and broader economic and political instability—impacted the full potential of rice-fish farming systems. Despite these constraints, communities have demonstrated resilience and growing interest in sustainable

fishing practices. With continued investment in capacity building, access to appropriate technologies, and support for adaptive wetland management, there is strong potential to further enhance fishery productivity through community-led conservation and integrated land and water use practices.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

The project continuously monitored risks and assumptions, particularly those related to the complex political and security context in Myanmar. Located in the conflict-prone Sagaing Region, the project area faced growing instability due to ongoing clashes between military and ethnic armed groups. Assumptions regarding field access, community engagement, and local capacity had to be regularly reassessed and adapted.

From December 2021 to September 2023, the project team was not able to travel to the field often and directly implement key activities, including trainings, awareness programs, wetland restoration, and field surveys. During this time, capacity-building efforts focused on the local CSO partner NSNO and Village Working Committees (VWCs), preparing them for future leadership in implementation. In 2024, escalating conflict led to higher restrictions of even national and local travel in the region. The General Administration Department (GAD) did not grant permission for field visits due to security risks. As a contingent strategy, the project team shifted to a locally led implementation model, with NSNO taking full responsibility for field activities under guidance of SEI and MEI. International partner, UKCEH, continued to support remotely via regular online consultations and scientific discussions.

Despite challenges such as unreliable electricity and internet connectivity, NSNO adapted by using printed materials and coordinating data and photo sharing from areas with better network access. During the July 2024 flood in Hkamti, the VWC effectively relocated piglets to higher ground, demonstrating preparedness and strong local capacity. The enforcement of a conscription law in May 2024 affected the participation of middle-aged men, particularly in villages like Hman Pin. However, this created an opportunity for greater female participation in community-led monitoring and conservation efforts, contributing to more inclusive engagement.

The project also monitored economic risks, including high inflation and limited access to capital for sustainable livelihoods. The first round of pig farming support in July 2024 led to a 7.27% increase in household income—a promising result given the short implementation time. The VWC-managed revolving fund model will allow for continued support and scale-up, with additional rounds planned after project closure, expected to further increase household incomes and expand beneficiary coverage. The project throughout the implementation period regularly assessed and responded to changing assumptions through flexible planning, strong local partnerships, and a shift to local leadership and implementation, ensuring continued delivery of key outcomes in a challenging and unpredictable context.

3.4 Impact

The project has contributed significantly to enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem services, and community resilience in the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) of the Upper Chindwin Basin through community-led land and water ecosystem management and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

Replantation efforts using indigenous hardwood species have restored degraded wetland habitats across five sites, increasing habitat availability for native species and indirectly supporting biodiversity recovery. These efforts, conducted in collaboration with the Forest Department in Hkamti and community leaders, strengthened local ownership and ecological stewardship. The increased understanding among community members of the benefits of conservation and restoration has contributed to reduced habitat degradation and stronger support for protective measures.

Awareness activities, including the installation of signage boards in three wetland areas, helped disseminate key messages on wetland conservation, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. As a result, local communities have adopted more sustainable practices, such as restricting fishing

during breeding seasons, reducing illegal logging, and limiting the commercial extraction of forest products.

Through extensive capacity-building activities conducted at both township and village levels in 2023 and 2024, the project improved knowledge on sustainable wetland use and strengthened the role of Village Working Committees (VWCs) in leading informal education and enforcement of conservation norms. The livelihood component of the project, particularly the introduction of sustainable pig farming, led to a 38% increase in average household income for participating farmers. The success of this intervention demonstrates its potential to contribute to poverty reduction and improved living standards. The demand for continued support and expansion to new farmers indicates strong potential for scaling and broader impact on local livelihoods.

A community-led wetland monitoring program, launched in November–December 2024, introduced a citizen science approach to biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring, laying the groundwork for long-term community engagement in wetland stewardship. In addition, the establishment of conservation zones and the activation of locally developed wetland rules and regulations have helped mitigate threats such as overexploitation, while strengthening resource governance at the community level.

Finally, due to conscription-related labour shortages, mining and logging activities in the area have temporarily paused, inadvertently reducing environmental pressures. This presents a potential window of opportunity to also further strengthen local conservation measures and improve water quality in the coming years. Together, these results demonstrate the project's positive and lasting impact on both ecosystem health and community wellbeing.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Due to the ongoing political instability in Myanmar and the resulting restrictions on travel and formal engagement with government institutions, the project was unable to influence national policy processes directly. However, through a strategic shift in focus, the project successfully aligned its community-level actions with the objectives of key international agreements, thereby contributing meaningfully to their implementation.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Myanmar (2015–2020)

The project supported NBSAP targets by enabling community participation in the establishment and management of conservation zones within five priority wetlands. By building the capacity of local institutions like Village Working Committees (VWCs), and conducting biodiversity assessments and habitat mapping, the project addressed NBSAP priorities related to inclusive conservation and documentation of ecologically significant species and habitats.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Aligned with Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2016–2024, the project addressed drivers of wetland degradation by promoting community-led management and restoring wetland ecosystems. The use of Rapid Village Assessments and the development of locally owned Community Action Plans (CAPs) enabled communities to engage in conservation efforts, incorporating sustainable practices and governance structures rooted in local knowledge.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Myanmar's Sixth National Report to the CBD highlights challenges such as undervaluation of biodiversity, limited safeguards, and weak community involvement. The project helped bridge these gaps by equipping communities with practical skills in wetland conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and ecosystem monitoring. Introduction of sustainable livelihoods such as pig farming further reduced dependency on wetlands and strengthened community stewardship.

Additionally, the project fostered informal partnerships between communities and local forest departments, facilitating replantation of indigenous species and the adoption of wetland rules and regulations. While policy-level engagement was not feasible under current conditions, these local actions reflect and reinforce the spirit and intent of global biodiversity and wetland conservation frameworks. In summary, despite implementation challenges, the project made substantial contributions to international agreements through community-led action, building a strong foundation for future policy engagement when the political context allows.

4.2 Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project supported poverty reduction by enhancing community capacity, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and reducing dependence on wetland resources in four priority villages.

Through targeted trainings, awareness programs, and community consultations, the project enhanced local knowledge of wetland conservation, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. As a result, communities adopted more sustainable practices, prioritized conservation, and began to recognize the long-term value of protecting wildlife and ecosystems evidenced by increased sightings of threatened species during monitoring surveys.

Small-scale fish farming training, including practical demonstrations to produce pickled and salted fish, improved food security and reduced household expenses. Households applied this knowledge for home consumption, positively impacting food safety and nutrition.

The enforcement of local wetland rules helped regulate resource use. Communities began avoiding fishing during breeding seasons and discontinued illegal practices, supported by alternative income options.

A pig farming initiative launched in June 2024 led to a **38% increase in household income** and created income opportunities for women (79% of participants), significantly contributing to poverty alleviation. Profits generated allowed farmers to repay loans with a 2% interest, which is reinvested into village development and education through a community-managed **revolving fund** ensuring the sustainability and scalability of livelihood support across future cycles beyond projects timeline.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please complete the table below for information on the involvement of women in your project's governance and provide an assessment of where you think your project sits on the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) scale provided below. The scale goes from less ambitious to more ambitious moving top to bottom. As a reminder, all BCFs projects should be aiming for a GESI Sensitive approach at a minimum.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	40%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	0

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

The project was implemented with a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive approach, ensuring that women, youth, ethnic minorities, and marginalized groups had equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from all project activities. This was also considered when the Village Working Committees (VWCs) were established across selected villages ensuring inclusion and providing a platform and voice to these groups to share their experiences, opinions and suggestions.

Women played an increasingly active role across the project's components—including conservation, restoration, capacity building, and livelihood support. By the later stages of implementation, women's participation reached 50.39%, reflecting the project's emphasis on inclusive engagement and equitable access to opportunities. This growth demonstrates that women's contributions were not only encouraged but also recognized as essential to the success and sustainability of conservation efforts.

Women-led households were prioritized in the pig farming livelihood support initiative, enhancing their income security and socio-economic resilience. Their active involvement in wetland restoration and community-based conservation also empowered them as local environmental stewards, strengthening their leadership roles within the community.

Looking ahead, future community-led conservation assessments and monitoring surveys are expected to involve even greater participation from women, further embedding gender inclusion in local environmental governance.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

The project actively sought to transfer knowledge to researchers and practitioners and, where possible, policymakers, to support practical conservation efforts. Key project findings were published in a peer-reviewed journal, making the results accessible to researchers, development agencies, and practitioners interested in wetland conservation and community-based management. A policy brief, developed from the project's implementation experience, offers clear and actionable recommendations for policymakers and conservation practitioners designing similar interventions in ecologically sensitive areas.

The project also contributed to regional knowledge exchange. During the Wetland Health and Vitality Training in Cambodia, project results—including achievements, lessons learned, and challenges—were shared with wetland professionals from across the Mekong region. This

engagement, facilitated by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), opened up opportunities for collaboration and learning with practitioners in and beyond Myanmar.

At the national level, the Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) played a key role in knowledge dissemination. Project insights were shared through presentations and informal exchanges with local, national, and international networks including the Water Portal, German Alumni Association, DELFT University of Technology (Netherlands), Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI), Myanmar Forest Association (MFA), and Community Development Association (CDA).

Project insights were shared at the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Annual Meeting 2024 in Taiwan by the project co-lead from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). This engagement provided an opportunity to present the project's findings to a broader network of wetland professionals and helped initiate new conversations and potential collaborations for future work in the region.

4.5 Capacity building

Yes, several staff members from in-country partners saw notable advancements in their professional development and visibility at national and regional levels as a result of their engagement in project activities.

A female Project Coordinator based in Myanmar participated in both online and in-person components of the Wetland Health and Vitality Foundation Course for the Indo-Burma Region, organized by the Wetland Learning Hub, WWT. The online course ran from 7 October 2024 to 17 January 2025, followed by an in-person regional training held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 20–24 January 2025, with participation from 15 wetland professionals (7 women, 8 men) across Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar. Through this experience, the coordinator strengthened her skills in wetland management, presentation, and facilitation, and gained confidence to deliver Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions within her community—enhancing her role in regional wetland conservation efforts.

Additionally, leadership and technical staff from the Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) benefited from multiple international training opportunities in the water and ecosystem sectors. In 2022, MEI team members completed a five-month online training on water management organized by Delft Institute for Water Education, Netherlands. In 2022, the MEI Chairman contributed weekly lectures to civil society and young scientists through online course, strengthening his national profile in environmental education. He also undertook a virtual Tailor-Made Training on river health engineering (8 hours per week, 23 January – 9 February 2023) organized by Delft University of Technology, Netherlands and later joined a three-day physical training course on integrated ecosystem service assessment in Taiwan in May 2023.

These experiences have not only enhanced the technical capacity of partner staff but also raised their professional standing within national and regional conservation networks. The inclusion of women, such as the Project Coordinator, in regional capacity-building opportunities reflects the project's commitment to gender equality and inclusive professional development.

Monitoring and evaluation

The project was implemented under highly constrained conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the military coup in Myanmar, both of which significantly impacted mobility, community engagement, and field data collection. In response, the project team swiftly adapted by shifting most activities to online platforms and implemented a flexible, safety-first approach. Continuous monitoring of the on-ground security situation, supported by close collaboration with in-country partners, enabled the team to make informed, context-sensitive decisions.

Periodic consultations with international partners (WWT and UKCEH) helped shape the design of trainings, field surveys, and capacity-building activities, ensuring they remained aligned with project outcomes despite the unstable and high-pressure environment. Also, when needed the changes in the log frame were made with approval from Darwin Initiative.

A structured Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework guided implementation across all outputs, facilitating continuous learning, partner coordination, and timely course correction. Regular communication and scheduled online partner meetings served as key mechanisms for tracking progress and sharing insights.

In 2024–2025, quarterly monitoring meetings provided a platform for project partners to report on implementation, review monthly targets, and identify emerging challenges. These sessions also facilitated internal reporting and feedback loops that informed timely and practical adaptations.

Key indicators—such as survival rates of saplings, the effectiveness of awareness signage, community participation, and adoption of sustainable wetland practices—were closely monitored. The implementation and community uptake of local wetland rules and regulations were also assessed to track behavioural change and compliance.

For biodiversity and water quality monitoring, NSNO led field activities as other partners and local project staff were not allowed to travel to project villages, while MEI and SEI supported with data analysis and final reporting. This collaboration strengthened the scientific rigor of reporting and built local capacity for community-led monitoring, a model that will continue beyond the project.

On the livelihood front, VWCs monitored piglet health, production progress, and marketing outcomes, with regular reporting and course correction in coordination with local partners and SEI project staff. Environmental monitoring—such as enclosure cleanliness and disease prevention—was also integrated into the livelihood component to ensure sustainability.

A key success was linking livelihood support to conservation commitments. Communities agreed to practice wetland-friendly livelihoods, including regulated pig farming, in exchange for income opportunities—leading to reduced grazing pressure, illegal logging, and overfishing.

Overall, the M&E system enabled real-time feedback, adaptive decision-making, and partner coordination, helping the project stay on course and achieve meaningful outcomes despite unprecedented challenges.

5 Lessons learnt

A key lesson from this project was the importance of strong, trust-based relationships with local CSO partners and communities, especially under challenging political and security conditions. As access for the international and MEI experts became restricted, local partners played a vital role in continuing implementation on the ground. Regular coordination meetings were critical to maintain communication, track progress, and adapt strategies as needed.

Originally planned activities—such as replantation and awareness signage in all four wetlands—had to be adjusted due to security-related access restrictions in Hman Pin and Naung Sa Pin. This highlighted the need for flexible planning and risk-informed decision-making. The decision to initiate livelihood support in Nar Myitter village was based on its easier accessibility and better communication with local leaders, despite intermittent connectivity. This allowed for closer monitoring and timely issue resolution by NSNO and VWC members. VWC members documented progress and issues, supported by photos and records, ensuring accountability in the absence of direct oversight.

One key recommendation is to designate project-based local staff or engage experienced community members to lead activities in remote or high-risk areas. These individuals can be trained to manage implementation, collect data, and maintain engagement with local communities and external partners.

The project also emphasized the value of adaptive management, particularly in linking conservation with livelihoods. Aligning pig farming support with commitments to wetland protection helped reduce pressures on ecosystems while improving incomes.

In summary, the project’s success despite constrained conditions demonstrates the importance of local ownership, continuous M&E, and flexible, context-sensitive planning. These lessons are highly relevant for similar initiatives in complex settings and should inform future programming and funder guidance.

6 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

For those that have received feedback from Annual Reports, have you responded to all issues raised in the reviews of your Annual Reports? Please use this section as an opportunity to comment on any outstanding issues.

Have you discussed the reviews with your partners and other collaborators?

Comment 1: An exit strategy, perhaps with two potential scenarios – the continuation of the security challenges and the resolution of these challenges – would be useful

Response – An exit strategy was considered in light of the prevailing security challenges in the project area. Two scenarios were anticipated:

Continuation of Security Challenges: In response, the project implemented a strong contingency plan, adapting field assessments and project activities to ensure safety and flexibility. From 2024 onwards, due to increased restrictions on travel, efforts focused on empowering local partners, CSOs, and community members through online capacity building and trainings to enable them to continue wetland conservation and biodiversity management independently.

Resolution of Security Challenges: On the contrary, during periods of relative stability, the project had planned to carry out training sessions, awareness programs, and restoration activities in Hkamti township with the support and permission of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) and GAD.

These scenarios considerations helped build local ownership and laid a foundation for long-term sustainability despite uncertainty enabling a gradual, locally led transition for project sustainability.

Comment 2: A clearer explanation of the 36% variation in the Overhead costs would be helpful in the next AR.

Response – The overheads were inclusive of those charged by partners, both UKCEH and MEI, as well.

Comment 4: Ensure that staff and beneficiaries know their health, safety, and security responsibilities and rights.

Response – To be safe and secure of staff and beneficiaries, regular meetings were held to address concerns and updates, foster awareness and preparedness, accountability in health, safety and security factor. Additionally, safety plans, detailed actions and procedures were provided to ensure their awareness and preparedness in various situations. The plan outlined specific safety protocols, emergency contact numbers, evacuation routes and guidelines for reporting incidents and conflicts. The proactive approach was also to create a safe and secure environment for all beneficiaries.

Comment 5: As part of this, Safe Effective Development in Conflict (SEDC) training developed and used in Nepal during the conflict might also be valuable.

Response – Project didn't refer to the training guidance directly but it ensured precaution directives and information were shared to identify potential risks, develop collaborative solution and ensure that development efforts are both safe and least impactful, contributing more secure and safe working place.

7 Sustainability and Legacy

Despite operating under challenging conditions—including the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar's military coup, and widespread travel and communication restrictions—the project achieved strong foundations for long-term sustainability through a focus on local capacity building, institutional partnerships, and community-led implementation. At the national level, project staff and partners gained significant expertise.

Project Coordinator from Myanmar participated in regional training programs on wetland health, enhancing her skills in facilitation and technical knowledge sharing. These trainings strengthened her leadership role in community engagement and positioned her for broader responsibilities

within future wetland initiatives. She received a promotion to a regional role within SEI, reflecting the project's contribution to her professional development and recognition.

Similarly, experts from Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) expanded their knowledge, networks and expertise through international courses on water management and ecosystem services.

At the community level, livelihood support—particularly the pig farming initiative—resulted in an average 38% increase in household income, demonstrating the economic viability of conservation-linked livelihoods. The mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) was also increase by the 7.27 percent between 2022-24. Community members, especially women, took on leadership roles in monitoring, restoration, and resource management. The Village Working Committees (VWCs) and trained local partners continue to manage conservation zones, replantation, and data collection, ensuring continuity beyond the project period.

The project also offers important lessons for future efforts. In fragile contexts, flexible planning, decentralised implementation, and trusted local leadership are critical. When conditions improve, the project's model including revolving livelihood funds, community-led monitoring, and integration of biodiversity and livelihood goals can be scaled and adapted.

Policymakers and practitioners should prioritise community ownership and invest in local capacity to design effective, resilient conservation programs. This project demonstrated that, even under extreme constraints, empowered communities can drive change, sustain conservation outcomes, and lay the groundwork for long-term impact.

8 Darwin Initiative identity

Throughout the project's implementation, consistent efforts were made to acknowledge the financial support provided by the Darwin Initiative across all communication and knowledge products. All major outputs—including manuals, training materials, project factsheets, blogs, perspective pieces, articles, and reports—clearly recognized the Darwin Initiative's contribution.

The project website explicitly attributes the Darwin Initiative as the primary funding agency, ensuring visibility to all external audiences. Similarly, the peer-reviewed article produced under the project formally acknowledges this support, reinforcing transparency and donor recognition in academic and professional circles.

In addition, the training videos hosted on the SEI and Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET) website and Youtube channel prominently reference both the Darwin Initiative and key project partners, highlighting the collaborative nature of the initiative. The Darwin Initiative logo was consistently used across all printed and digital materials—such as presentations, reports, and outreach documents ensuring branding alignment and recognition of the funding agency throughout the project's lifecycle.

8 Risk Management

From May 2024 to January 2025, the project encountered several significant risks, particularly related to Myanmar's volatile political and security context. The enforcement of the conscription law created serious challenges in community engagement, as many individuals—particularly men and women within the conscription age range went into hiding. This affected participation in activities such as monitoring surveys. Additionally, casual arrests across the country led to delays in some field activities, although all planned tasks were completed within a few additional weeks.

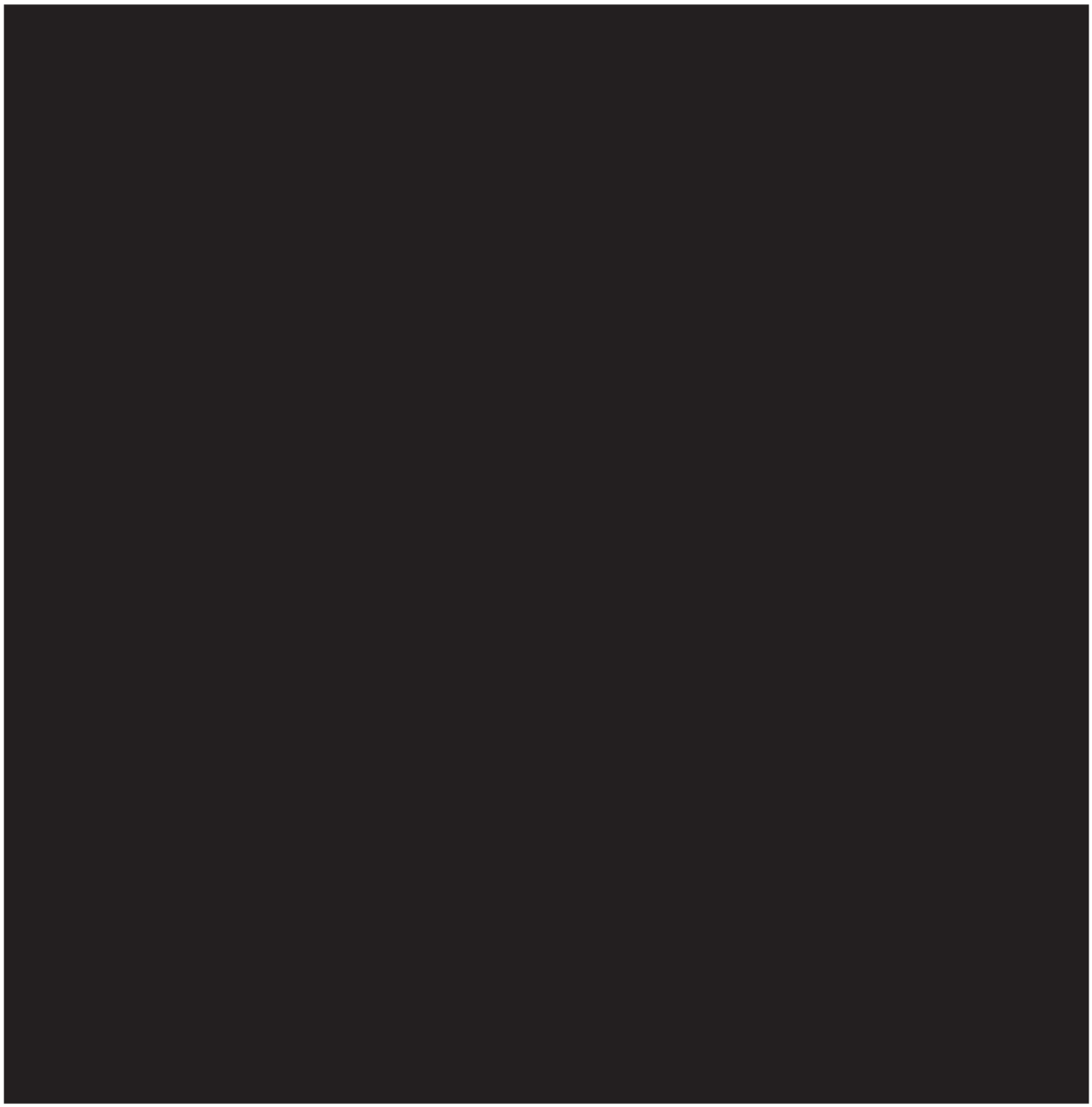
Travel restrictions imposed by local authorities, including the General Administration Department (GAD), prevented the SEI's local project and MEI staff from accessing the project sites. To address this, the project shifted implementation responsibilities to the local CSO partner, NSNO and trained community members, who led monitoring, restoration, and livelihood activities with ongoing technical support from SEI and MEI experts through remote online coordination.

Also, in August 2024, flood event adversely affected all four priority villages, including Nar Myitter, soon shortly after seed funding for pig farming was disbursed. In response, the project team

worked closely with VWC members and farmers to relocate piglets to safer areas and prevent losses. During floods, to manage the risk of livestock disease outbreaks, the project provided clear guidance on fencing cleanliness, vaccination, disinfection, and nutrition. Local veterinarians and VWC members led the implementation of these safety protocols. Lastly, frequent phone and internet disruptions posed communication challenges. In such cases, the project relied on local partners to conduct in-person pre-visits and deliver information to communities, ensuring continuity in planning and training.

Overall, the project demonstrated strong risk management by adapting implementation strategies, empowering local actors, and maintaining regular technical support despite limited physical access and a high-risk operating environment.

9 Safeguarding



10 Finance and administration

This section seeks information about the finances of your project **since your last Annual Report**.

Please amend the financial years in the tables to suit the reporting period and add/remove rows in the sub-tables if necessary. If you need to provide information for more than one Financial

Year (FYs), please copy the table below and amend the FYs as required. You should not mix reporting of different FYs. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

10.1 Project expenditure

Complete the expenditure table below, providing a breakdown of salaries, capital items and explanations of 'Other' costs. If the budget was changed since the project started, please clarify the main differences. **Explain in full** any significant variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the approved budget lines.

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				Compensated wit Operating costs
Overhead Costs				Also include the OH from UKCEH and ME
Travel and subsistence				Restrictions in fiel travel for national an international expert to project site
Operating Costs				Compensated wit consultancy costs
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	78,057	78,057		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Dr. Thanpon Piman,Project Leader & Ecosystem services expert	[redacted]
Dr. Ridhi Saluja(Water management expert)	
Ms. Chloe Pottinger-Glass, Socio-economic expert	
Ms. Papassara Kunjara Na Ayudhya, Head of Operations	
Dr. Satish Prasad, Wetlands and Remote Sensing Expert	
Ms. Unchulee Lualon, Project Coordinator	
Ms. Variya Plungwatana, Communications Officer, SEI	
Win Muang, Biodiversity expert MEI	
Dr. Cedric Laize, Ecohydrology specialist UKCEH	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
	[redacted]
TOTAL	[redacted]

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
	[redacted]
TOTAL	

10.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Please confirm the matched funds raised for this project – matched funding includes co-finance as well as in-kind contributions. This will include funds indicated at application stage as confirmed or unconfirmed, as well as additional funds raised during the project lifetime. Please include all funds relevant to running the project (in the first table) as well as funds mobilised for additional work after the project ends building on evidence, best practices and the project (in the second table).

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver th project	Total (£)
	[redacted]
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurrin outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices an the project	Total (£)
	[redacted]
TOTAL	

10.3 Value for Money

Despite the political instability and ongoing military conflict in Myanmar, the DARWIN Initiative project delivered tangible and lasting impact across five villages in the Upper Chindwin Basin. By promoting wetlands conservation alongside community-driven sustainable livelihood options, the project empowered local people to build resilience and increase incomes in extremely challenging circumstances.

Strategic investments in local capacity played a central role in ensuring long-term value. The project significantly strengthened the institutional and technical capacity of the local civil society organization (NSNO), enabling them to independently manage and replicate similar initiatives in the future. Similarly, Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) benefitted from hands-on collaboration with international experts, building skills in the application of cutting-edge tools and methodologies.

To maximize impact and ensure efficient use of funds, the project increased budget allocations to local partners through extended agreements. This not only led to greater community engagement, ownership and leadership in implementation and monitoring but also ensured that more resources were directed to the ground where they were most needed. The enhanced role of local actors in delivering project outcomes also contributes to longer-term sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

These targeted investments demonstrate strong value for money, as they built durable local capacity, delivered measurable community benefits, and established pathways for continued impact beyond the project's lifespan.

11 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Please use this section to provide any further comments that have not been covered elsewhere in this report. Issues that might be covered in this section include:

- Has the design of the project been enhanced over its lifetime, e.g. refining methods, or exit strategy?
- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered over the lifetime of the project and steps taken to overcome these if not already discussed elsewhere.
- Are there any issues you would like to raise with the Darwin Initiative? Please highlight anything sensitive as this can be redacted prior to this report being published.

NA

12 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project that you consider worth highlighting to the Biodiversity Challenge Funds 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. It may also include figures or case studies related to particular Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives such as support to conventions, agreements or treaties, biodiversity, poverty reduction or gender equality. We may use material from this section to promote the achievements of the Darwin Initiative and the knowledge generated by Darwin Initiative projects. This may include publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin Initiative promotional material, including the Biodiversity Challenge Funds' social media platforms, or on the Biodiversity Challenge Funds' or GOV.UK websites.* **Please limit text to 400 words.**

Please also include *at least* one engaging good quality image, video or graphic** that you consent to be used alongside the above text in Defra communications material. Please ensure that:

- you have left the above agreement clause to indicate your consent. Text without this will not be used
- any images or videos are sent as separate files and not embedded in the body of the report
- the file location and / or name of these files is clearly stated, and that the file name includes your project reference number
- you provide a short descriptive caption for each photograph, video or graphic, including the location (country) and photo or video credit
- you list any accounts that you would like tagged in online posts. This can include project pages, partners' pages or individuals' accounts for any of the following platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, X (Twitter), and/or Instagram
- please also ensure that any people in the images or videos you share have consented to having their photograph taken

* Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have other materials, besides content for Outstanding Achievements, that you would like us to share via our platforms. For example, if you have content that was created in the course of the project, such as explanatory videos or impact graphics for reports, these can also be used for promotional purposes.

** Projects that do not provide an image, video or graphic to accompany the text are less likely to have their texts selected for the purpose of publication. However, if you have no photos for reasons of sensitivity, then do please state that clearly and the Defra Comms team can work to create an alternative graphic.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	**File Name or File Location**	**Caption, country and credit**	**Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)**	**Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)**
graphics	https://www.sei.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/rgb-wetland-01-scaled.webp?modtime=	Wetland Factsheets	SEI Asia – Facebook and LinkedIn	Yes
Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mn7TsA0RzJA	Training on fish farming	SUMERNET YouTube Channel (SEI Asia)	Yes
Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rFkkMyZOJo	Training on wetlands conservation	SUMERNET YouTube Channel (SEI Asia)	Yes
Perspective piece	https://www.sei.org/perspectives/community-action-plans-wetland-management-chindwin-basin/	Community action plans improve wetland management in the upper Chindwin Basin in Myanmar	SEI Asia – Facebook and LinkedIn	Yes
Impact story	https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/news/2024/01/15/local-stewardship-in-myanmar/	Local stewardship in Myanmar	SEI Asia	Yes

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Progress and Achievements	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact KBAs in the Upper Chindwin Basin have enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem service value as a result of community-based integrated water-land ecosystem management and enhanced sustainable livelihood pathways for local people.	- The project successfully established a baseline for wetlands management and biodiversity conservation in the selected wetlands and dependent villages. - Community action plans to support these efforts were prepared and adopted by the village working committees for implementation. - Post implementation, the progress of activities and impacts of CAP have been monitored by the VWCs and Monitoring teams across selected villages. - Sustainable livelihood option, pig farming has been rolled out in Nar Myittar village to further reduce the pressure on ecosystems within the Upper Chindwin Basin. - Project has also built capacity of community members to engage in fish processing to further enhance their income	
Outcome *The KBA in Upper Chindwin basin is providing improved and more secure habitats for endangered species and better livelihood pathways through enhanced ecosystem services for the local people*		
Outcome indicator 0.1 At least five conservation zones in priority wetlands are identified and demarcated for key endangered wetlands species	- Conservation zones have been identified in the selected wetland sites, and GIS maps highlighting these areas have been prepared. - These maps are now being used to enhance community awareness and promote the sustainable use of wetland resources while designing effective local rules and regulations in four selected villages.	*Completed*
Outcome indicator 0.2 Levels of fertiliser related determinants (e.g., Total Nitrogen, Ammonium Nitrite, and Total Phosphorus) kept within international standards and suggested by Norwegian Expert as a result of adoption of conservation practices by 2024.	- The initial baseline assessment has shown that the impact of fertilizers on water quality is low, with nitrate and phosphate levels remaining within international standards. - Follow-up monitoring has indicated that conservation activities have supported in reducing the impact of fertilizers and other pollutants on the water quality parameters including TN, NH4, NO3 and TP	*Completed*

Outcome Indicator 0.3 At least 20% increase in income by 2024 for those adopting conservation and alternate livelihood practices (30 adopting the fish farming and 60 adopting other conservation practices) in selected 4 villages for CAP implementation	- Pig farming was supported as an alternative livelihood strategy in Nar Myittar village benefitting 19 households which have reported an increase of 38% in their annual income (as monitored in March 2025). - This practice aims to benefit additional households in 2025 as a rotating fund managed by VWC has been established to ensure its sustenance and reduced adverse impacts on ecosystems with a focus on supporting women led households	Completed
Outcome Indicator 0.4 Mean catch per unit effort increases by 20 % by 2024 from a sample of 20 local fisherman within 4 selected villages included in CAP communities; catch will be monitored by communities	- To ensure sustainable fishing in the wetlands and enhance catch, we have established local rules and provided training to community members on sustainable fisheries practices. - These efforts are expected to lead to an increase in fish catch, demonstrating the effectiveness of our actions. - At the end of project, an increase 7.2% of it signals a positive trend and highlights the early benefits of community-based conservation efforts. - The need for continued capacity building and stronger community-led conservation efforts was identified to ensure long-term sustainability and greater gains in fish catch.	No further action
Output 1 *Baseline assessment of physical conditions, ecosystem services, key biodiversity hotspots and habitats, and existing practices of livelihood on water and land management, informing an endorsed habitat restoration plan and CAPs development.*		
Output indicator 1.1 Scalable local ecosystem services assessment framework developed using principles from the RAWES Toolkit and delivered at nine villages within Hkamti township by end of Y2,	This indicator has been achieved and framework was shared as ANNEX with the annual report of 2022-23	No further action
Output indicator 1.2, Local assessment of key endangered and livelihood species completed, and optimal ecological habitat requirements agreed by expert working group by Q1 of Y3.	This indicator has been achieved and framework was shared as ANNEX with the annual report of 2022-23	No further action
Output indicator 1.3 Detailed ecosystem services, land use, and habitat maps of five wetlands within Upper Chindwin Basin by end of Y2.	This indicator has been achieved and framework was shared as ANNEX with the annual report of 2022-23	No further action

Output indicator 1.4 Optimal habitat restoration plan, completed by the end of Y3 for four selected villages (including practices such as Prevention of habitat modification, community awareness educating on losses due to conversion, protection of fish nurseries)	- Habitat restoration activities have been included within the Community Action Plans developed for four selected villages and are attached as Annex with this report. - The CAP was implemented in the year 2024-25 at all selected villages with a specific focus on Nar Myittar with exceptional support from Village Working Committees and Local partner, NSNO.	No further action
Output 2. *Community Action Plans (CAP) focusing on integrated water-land ecosystem measures developed for and implemented in four priority villages.*		
Output indicator 2.1. Four village groups for developing CAP are formed, including village and household heads, elders who have local wisdom, women and youth groups. Four pilot villages to implement CAP are selected by Y2.	- This indicator has been achieved and framework was shared as ANNEX with the annual report of 2022-23	No further action
Output indicator 2.2. CAP co-developed with the village groups based on baseline assessment by the end of Y3	- CAP is developed for four selected villages. NSNO has shared these CAP with VWC at Nar Myittar and they have been revised based on the feedback from VWC. - NSNO shared the CAP at three other villages while seeking feedback from VWC and has setting up VWCs and monitoring groups at village level. - Feedback and reports on CAP implementation have been annexed with the final report.	No further action.
Output indicator 2.3 Trainings conducted for villagers on integrated land water management practices and alternate livelihood practices such as fish farming during Y3	- Training of Trainers (ToTs) on fish farming and wetlands conservation was conducted with the support of fisheries experts and the Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI). - Subsequently, these trainings were replicated for communities, particularly Village Working Committees (VWCs), across selected villages by colleagues from NSNO, who themselves had been trained under the ToTs (Article published in DARWIN Newsletter) - Training on sustainable management of pig farming for small farmers was also delivered in June 2024 with reports from the training attached as an annex	No further action
Output indicator 2.4 CAP implementation underway at four villages by the end of Y3	- CAP implementation has been initiated at Nar Myittar, where a plantation drive was conducted with support from ECD, signage boards has been placed near the	- No further action

	wetland highlighting wetland values and also detailing wetland rules; a training was conducted for Community members on wetlands conservation - Another training was conducted at selected villages focusing on biodiversity and water quality monitoring in November-December 2024. - Livelihood implementation strategy has been developed for Nar Myittar focusing on pig farming and groundnut cultivation. - Only pig farming was implemented in the month of June 2024 at Nar Myittar	
Output indicator 2.5 Conduct training for village committees to manage and monitor CAP implementation	- An online refresher TOT was organized for NSNO team members who then conducted trainings at village level and led the monitoring activities for CAP in the month of November 2024.	- No further action
Output Indicator 2.6 Organize and conduct a project review workshop with village committees and expert group at the beginning of Y4	- Due to political unrest and inability to receive permissions from GAD, a full project review workshop was not organized though village level discussions were led by NSNO engaging with both VWCs and monitoring committees to review the project implementation - Report of the same provided as Annex	- No further action
Output 3. *Optimal ecological conditions agreed for endangered and key livelihood species and habitat restoration plan completed and shared*		
Output indicator 3.1 Wetland hydrological and climate vulnerability assessments conducted for five selected wetlands by Q2 Y3	- UKCEH led a hydrological and climate vulnerability assessment for the Upper Chindwin basin and selected wetlands - The assessment report is attached as an annex to the final report	- No further action
Output indicator 3.2 Finalize wetland specific habitat restoration strategies and demarcate conservation zones in consultation with village communities by Y3	- These strategies have been incorporated within the Community Action Plans (CAPs) keeping in mind the current conditions and challenges in implementing two different plans. - Finalized conservation zone maps have been published on project website and were shared with the VWCs in local language - Developed local rules and regulations for sustainable use and management of identified wetlands	- No further action
Output indicator 3.3	- MEI, NSNO and SEI co-designed the monitoring plan including an engagement strategy with the VWCs and	- No further action

Community engagement strategy is developed and endorsed by village communities by the end of Y3	monitoring teams across selected villages (attached as Annex with the report)	
Output indicator 3.4 Evaluate the performance of habitat conservation activities and/or sustainable livelihood options adapted on wetland ecosystems from Q1-Q3 of Year 4	- Identified Activities were implemented in Nar Myittar village, Maing Naung and Wetlar wetland from 2023-2025. - Nar Myittar wetland has been focussed on for CAP implementation and capacity building training activities due easier access and fewer challenges in terms of teams and communities' security as compared to other villages selected within the study. - Monitoring the impact of these activities has been conducted in 2024 and performance report is provided as an annex.	- No further action
Output indicator 3.5 At least 75% (approx. 350 villagers) of local community are aware of the rules and regulations of the conservation zones by end of Y3.	- Over 85% (2300 community members from four selected villages out of a total population of 2677) with 50.39 % women of the local community members participated in awareness campaigns, trainings, and conservation activities.	- No further action
Output 4 *Recommendations published for upscaling CAP and conservation measures to other villages with Upper Chindwin Basin KBAs*		
Output Indicator 4.1 At least one policy brief published by Q1 of year 2024	- Since the focus of the project has shifted from engaging with government stakeholders to engaging and capacitating community. - The published Policy brief outlines key concerns, policy gaps and recommendations on how Myanmar's wetland conservation efforts can benefit from inclusion of community-led approaches, which have been proven to achieve more sustainable livelihood outcomes. - The policy brief can be accessed at **https://www.sei.org/publications/promoting-locally-inclusive-wetlands-conservation-myanmar/**	- No further action
Output Indicator 4.2 Impact story of the implemented CAP land and water conservation measures by the end of Y4.	- Key successes and learnings from the implementation of CAP across selected villages was synthesized and published on SEI website. - The story can be accessed at : **https://www.sei.org/perspectives/community-action-plans-wetland-management-chindwin-basin/**	- No further action

Output Indicator 4.3 A series of communication and outreach materials created to increase public awareness on biodiversity conservation in Y1-4	- Project factsheets published in two languages, Myanmar and English - Wetlands factsheets published in English and also shared with local communities in Myanmar language - Three blogs were published in projects lifetime and also an article in the DARWIN Newsletter. - Two training videos have been produced under the project and are available as open access products. - One peer-reviewed research article published based on the project findings.	- No further action
Output Indicator 4.4 Design and develop a webpage for DARWIN Initiative – Community-based integrated catchment management for conserving the Upper Chindwin River Basin with support from the partners hosted on SEI Asia's website	- Webpage has been designed and project related materials can be easily accessed by wider audience using the link provided below: https://www.sei.org/projects/community-based-water-management-chindwin/#overview	- No further action

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: KBAs in the Upper Chindwin Basin have enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem service value as a result of community-based integrated water-land ecosystem management and enhanced sustainable livelihood pathways for local people. .			
Outcome: The KBA in Upper Chindwin basin is providing improved and more secure habitats for endangered species and better livelihood pathways through enhanced ecosystem services for the local people	0.1 At least five conservation zones in priority wetlands are identified and demarcated for key endangered wetlands species 0.2 Levels of fertiliser related determinants (e.g., Total Nitrogen, Ammonium Nitrite, and Total Phosphorus) kept within international standards and suggested by Norwegian Expert as a result of adoption of conservation practices by 2024. 0.3 At least 20% increase in income by 2024 for those adopting conservation and alternate livelihood practices (30 adopting the fish farming and 60 adopting other conservation practices) in selected 4 villages for CAP implementation 0.4 Mean catch per unit effort increases by 20 % by 2024 from a sample of 20 local fisherman within 4 selected villages included in CAP communities.; catch will be monitored by communities	0.1 Baseline assessment and progress reports from start, mid-project and end of project. Expert working group to define suitable habitat for selected key livelihood and endangered species. 0.2 Water quality assessments conducted in the beginning and end of CAP implementation of project. 0.3 Attendance register to get actual number of people trained and responses from social /household surveys at start, mid-project and end of project. 0.4 Catch will be monitored by the communities. The project staff will oversee the monitoring results throughout the project.	The political situation within Myanmar remains stable and no further restrictions are imposed by government on INGOs. SEI and consortium partner relationship with Sagging regional government remains strong for buy in for the project. Local people interest remains strong during the project
Output 1 Baseline assessment of physical conditions, ecosystem services, key biodiversity hotspots and habitats, and existing practices of livelihood on water and land management, informing an endorsed habitat restoration plan and CAPs development.	1.1. Scalable local ecosystem services assessment framework developed using principles from the RAWES Toolkit and delivered at nine villages within Hkamti township by end of Y2, 1.2 Local assessment of key endangered and livelihood species completed, and optimal ecological habitat requirements agreed by expert working group by Q1 of Y3.	1.1 Survey questionnaire, methodological framework, and ecosystem service report (with raw anonymised data, disaggregated by gender, recorded on project database) 1.2 Species assessment report (included within the baseline survey report Annex XX) and write-up report from expert working group.	Local community members actively respond to the project survey and support assessments. The survey villages selected in consultation with the stakeholders are representative of the wider sample. The selected villages are easily accessible without any restrictions from the government

	1.3 Detailed ecosystem services, land use, and habitat maps of ten wetlands within Upper Chindwin Basin by end of Y2. 1.4 Optimal habitat restoration plan, completed by the end of Y3 for four selected villages. (including practices such as Prevention of habitat modification, community awareness educating on losses due to conversion, protection of fish nurseries)	1.3 Baseline assessment report and GIS based habitat maps of selected wetlands 1.4 Published plan developed by project partners and agreed by expert working group.	
Output 2 Community Action Plans (CAP) focusing on integrated water-land ecosystem measures developed for and implemented in four priority villages.	2.1 Four village groups for developing CAP are formed, including village and household heads, elders who have local wisdom, women and youth groups. Four pilot villages to implement CAP are selected by Y2. 2.2 CAP co-developed with the village groups based on baseline assessment by the end of Y3 2.3 Trainings conducted for villagers on integrated land water management practices and alternate livelihood practices such as fish farming during Y3 2.4 CAP implementation underway at four villages by the end of Y3 2.5 Conduct training for village committees to manage and monitor CAP implementation 2.6 Organize and conduct a project review workshop with village committees and expert group at the beginning of Y4	2.1 Submit donor reports as required with chapters on stakeholder engagement and training with annexes on participants, disaggregated by gender 2.2 CAP for four selected villages	Adequate representation of technical experts from different agencies in the CAP development process. Community actors continue to be supportive of the CAP process. International travel resumes to normal or at least the conditions remain conducive for travel of local partners
Output 3	3.1 Wetland hydrological and climate vulnerability assessments conducted for five selected wetlands by Q2 Y3	3.1 Workshop reports and signed agreements with the community groups.	Impacts from upstream can be adequately addressed at a local scale. The communities remain motivated to monitor the wetlands.

Optimal ecological conditions agreed for endangered and key livelihood species and habitat restoration plan completed and shared	3.2 Finalize wetland specific habitat restoration strategies and demarcate conservation zones in consultation with village communities by Y3 3.3 Community engagement strategy is developed and endorsed by village communities by the end of Y3 3.4. Evaluate the performance of the habitat restoration activities and/or sustainable livelihood options adapted on wetland ecosystems by Y4 3.5 At least 75% (approx. 350 villagers) of local community are aware of the rules and regulations of the conservation zones by end of Y3.	3.2 Signed maps and associated paperwork. 3.3 Photos and maps of restored areas featuring in project reports. Species specific catch data documented during the monitoring. 3.4 Strategy document for community engagement in habitat restoration planning 3.5 Attitudes and awareness survey at end of Y3.	Extreme climatic events impacts on wetlands can be adequately quantified
Output 4 Recommendations published for upscaling CAP and conservation measures to other villages with Upper Chindwin Basin KBAs	4.1 At least one policy brief prepared 4.2 Impact story of the implemented CAP land and water conservation measures by the end of Y4. 4.3 A series of communication and outreach materials created to increase public awareness on biodiversity conservation in Y1-4 4.4 Design and develop a webpage for DARWIN Initiative – Community-based integrated catchment management for conserving the Upper Chindwin River Basin with support from the partners hosted on SEI Asia's website	4.1 Policy briefs with recommendations developed on wetland conservation. 4.2 Impact story published on SEI and project partners website. 4.3 Project factsheets, photo stories and blogs in Myanmar and English. 4.4 Webpage with project data and supporting information, stories, factsheets, blogs, and reports launched on SEI Asia's website	Regional and national government representatives, and various government agencies continue to be supportive and are receptive to policy recommendations. Policy makers and practitioners are sufficiently interested and engaged to take part in the planned training course.
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1) Output 1 1.1 Desk study to collect relevant information in the project area from previous and existing works 1.2 Conduct GIS mapping to identify habitats, wetlands and potential nine target villages and key threats			

1.3 Organize implementation meeting to introduce the project, conduct stakeholder mapping including women and youth groups and pre-survey
1.4 Develop assessment and monitoring framework and survey questionnaire for the baseline survey based on RAWES Toolkit
1.5 Agree ToR for Biodiversity Assessment
1.6 Conduct baseline survey at selected four villages and monitoring programme at start and end of the project
1.7 Conduct Biodiversity Assessment
1.8 Analyze survey data and prepare the baseline report including detailed GIS maps
1.9 Expert working group workshop to agree optimal ecological habitat requirements and strategies and ideal locations of habitat restoration

Output 2
2.1 Formulate village groups from selected four villages for developing CAP based on stakeholder mapping(Act.1.3)
2.2 Co-develop CAP with the village groups based on baseline assessment (Act.1.6) through focus group consultations and get agreement from the village committees.
2.3 Conduct training for the farmers in the selected three pilot villages on integrated land-water management practices and alternate livelihood practices such as fish farming
2.4 Implement CAP at four pilot villages and monitor the implementation progress
2.5 Evaluate the performance of the CAP implementation
2.6 Conduct training for village committees to manage and monitor CAP implementation

Output 3
3.1 Conduct hydrological and climate vulnerability assessment at five selected villages to better inform habitat restoration strategies
3.2 Co-development of habitat restoration strategies/plan and wetland protection zones with expert group, and village committees
3.3 Finalize habitat restoration strategies/plan and wetland protection zones and demarcate zones
3.4 Implement prioritized habitat restoration in the selected areas and monitor the implementation progress
3.5 Design a community engagement strategy for four selected villages
3.6 Implement the community engagement strategy in four selected villages
3.7 Evaluate the performance of the habitat restoration implementation

Output 4
4.1 Conduct policy/plans review on environment conservation and livelihood development at township and distract levels to identify plans to be influence by this project
4.2 Prepare policy briefs and impact story at the end of the project
4.3 Prepare factsheet, photo story, shot film or blogs for publishing in local and international media for public awareness.
4.4 Design and develop a webpage for DARWIN Initiative – Community-based integrated catchment management for conserving the Upper Chindwin River Basin to share project results and outputs with the wider audience

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men	-	-	76	139	215	100
DI-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Women	-	-	63	161	194	100
DIA05	Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.	People	Number trained	-	-	5	4	9	5
DI-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New and in English	-	-	1	3	4	4
DI-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	New and in Burmese	-	-	1	3	4	4
DI-B05	Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations	Number	No. of Village working committees established	-	-	4	4	8	4
DI-C06	Number of downloads of new peer reviewed publications	Number	Accessed per year	-	-	2109	1587	3696	3500
DI-D16	Number of households reporting improved livelihoods.	Number	Income	-	-	-	19	19	40

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Assessment of Community Dependence and Perception of	Journal Article	Saluja, R.; Prasad, S.; Lwin, T.H.; Soe, H.H.; Pottinger-Glass, C.; Piman, T. (2023)	Female	Indian	Resources Journal, MDPI, Switzerland	https://www.mdpi.com/2079-9276/12/10/112

Title	**Type** (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	**Detail** (authors, year)	**Gender of Lead Author**	**Nationality of Lead Author**	**Publishers** (name, city)	**Available from** (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Wetlands in the Upper Chindwin Basin, Myanmar						
Local stewardship to conserve Upper Chindwin Basin of Myanmar	Newsletter article	Ridhi Saluja, Than Htway Linn, Thanapon Piman, and Win Maung	Female	Indian	Darwin Initiative	https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/news/2024/01/15/local-stewardship-in-myanmar
Empowering communities in the Upper Chindwin Basin of Myanmar on wetlands conservation	Blog post	Ridhi Saluja , Than Htway Lwin , Win Maung , Thanapon Piman	Female	Indian	SUMERNET (Sustainable Mekong Research Network)	https://www.sumernet.org/story/empowering-communities-in-the-upper-chindwin-basin-of-myanmar-through-hands-on-training-on-watershed-and-wetlands-conservation-a
Promoting locally inclusive wetlands conservation – experience from Myanmar	Policy Brief	Ridhi Saluja , Satish Prasad, Win Maung , Thanapon Piman	Female	Indian	Stockholm Environment Institute	https://www.sei.org/publications/promoting-locally-inclusive-wetlands-conservation-myanmar/
Community action plans improve wetland management in the upper Chindwin Basin in Myanmar	Impact Story	Than Htway Lwin, Ridhi Saluja, Thanapon Piman, Hein Htet Soe and Win Maung	Female	Myanmar	Stockholm Environment Institute	https://www.sei.org/perspectives/community-action-plans-wetland-management-chindwin-basin/

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. All supporting material should be submitted in a way that can be accessed and downloaded as one complete package.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, **do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?**	NA
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	