

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	28-016
Project title	From National Contest to National Network: Friends of Felids
Country/ies	Costa Rica
Lead Partner	University of Costa Rica
Project partner(s)	Gente y Fauna, Soul Communications, SPECIES, DINADECO
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 244,330.00
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Reporting period and number	April 2022 – March 2023, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Ronit Amit
Project website/blog/social media	Website: http://amigosdefelinos.com/concurso Social Media: @amigosdefelinos, @genteyfauna
Report author(s) and date	Ronit Amit, Natalia Valverde-Zúñiga & Anthony Giordano, 30th Apr 2023

1. Project summary

Many rural communities that are adjacent to areas with high value for biodiversity conservation and tourism, rarely benefit directly. For some, proximity to wild predators imposes costs on the local people beyond the inherent value wildlife has for functioning ecosystems. There exists, therefore, a disparity of local costs-benefits of wildlife conservation unattended by the general Society which often prevents a lasting conservation impact. As a response, in 2021 our team facilitated the creation of the civil Association Amigos de Felinos (AMFE or Friends of Felids) that protects and monitors jaguars and pumas and uses camera-trap images as inspiration for products and services that fund families and the conservation effort. This market incentive is designed to decrease retaliation killing of jaguars and pumas in Costa Rica, specifically in “conflict hotspot” communities, adding value by means of an eco-label Friends of Felids representing Community-based Wildlife Management. Three pilot communities in northern Costa Rica model the coexistence scheme where part of the members conform a local wildlife monitoring team and other members are the local entrepreneurship team, linking conservation efforts to actual local benefits; the University of Costa Rica functions as a scientific advisor and facilitates collaborations and funding.

Given the challenge to escalate the impact to promote human-wildlife coexistence on a national level, this project aims for the expansion of Friends of Felids as a network of communities marketing wildlife friendly production to earn benefits from surveillance of jaguar's and puma's interactions with people. As the method of expansion, we proposed a contest to publicly showcase how attractive it is "to make your busyness roar" by competing for assistance in the affiliation into a national network of Friends of Felids. The contest urges society to recognize the role of local communities in conservation, and motivates local people to assess, maybe for the first time, how wildlife is managed and who has responsibilities about it in their back yard.

The contest invites community groups to enter a process of self-assessment of the local importance for felid species, the potential for entrepreneurship, local governance, threats to felids and the good coexistence practices. A call-center and field inspections support technical and motivationally the participants, promoting inclusion and equity principles. To win, communities will be selected by a panel of experts according to their potential for a local development that positively impacts wild felid conservation. All participants receive public recognition and feedback, winners receive as prizes photo-trapping equipment and training to protect wildlife, a monetary investment for entrepreneurship, and guidance on the use of the Friends of Felids label on products and services to be distinguished nationally and internationally (market opportunities).

Two contest iterations allow us to test the communication and technical design, adapting the second contest where necessary. The research behind this project accounts for the ecology of human-wildlife interactions as well as for the social and psychological components of wildlife acceptability (decrease risk perceptions and increase benefit perceptions), we expect to evidence how Friends of Felids reframe the human-wildlife relationship.



Figure 1. Location of participant communities. Color codes: Friends of Felids pilot communities (purple), 2022 Contest communities: applicant non-finalists (pink), finalists (teal), category 1 winner (green), and category 2 winner (red). Costa Rican national borders showed as yellow lines, and inner province borders as white lines. Source: Google Earth Pro 2023.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

Formal partners for the project vary in their engagement level. At the core are the CIBET (Center for research of Tropical Biodiversity and Ecology at the University of Costa Rica, UCR), Gente y Fauna and the Amigos de Felinos Association (AMFE), which are tightly committed and interact permanently for most multi-faceted decision-making, including other projects and opportunities. Gente y Fauna, conformed by volunteers, serves as an autonomous organization for support in cases CIBET is restricted or slow. AMFE's directive board and members recur to Gente y Fauna constantly for advice about their operations and initiatives. AMFE is still too dependent, and there are many social factors delaying autonomy; for the 2022-2023 period we provided funds and facilitation for participatory local decision-making that advanced in certain cases, but still proved that capacities need to be strengthened for administration and general project management. AMFE has failed in the administration of funds and local personnel (see section 3.1). This challenge is to be attended by CIBET soon, facilitating further local skills. All this related to the pilot communities, while Las Brisas (winner of the 2022 contest) is under incorporation to the governance structure of AMFE.

The second layer of partners is the communications team, which composition has changed from the original plan due to the exit of the communicator Michelle Soto (a big loss in coordination). The agency Soul Communications leads the general creative process from a publicity perspective, however, their role is limited to production of multi-media pieces, while implementation requires a campaign manager, social network manager, assistants, volunteers and a press manager, this last role assumed by Patricia Blanco at the Office for Communications (ODI) at the UCR. Most personnel is involved one for short periods according to the timeline. Soul is involved in planning and production, not so much in monitoring and evaluation, although they are briefed about key findings to redirect messaging and customize products as needed. The partnership with Soul has presented challenges for production to synchronize with the calendar for the contest, and for setting explicit expectations aiming for a better flow of the campaign; these have caused delays. The partnership with Patricia from ODI has improved our reach due to the experience in public relations, media and press. The hiring of Cristina de San Román as short-term campaign manager and Tapir Communications as social network manager was very productive and focused in the busiest period before the awarding ceremony of the first contest. The role of assistants (3 advanced social sciences students: Ingrid Mora, Jonnathan Vallejos and Marco González) was key for attending the call-center, collecting and processing data and early analytical steps. International fellow students also assist in diverse tasks, for 2022 we hosted Alex Wyles from Bangor University, Irene Villegas from Spain, and Melissa Pacheco from UNAM-Mexico. Volunteers complete the team with a myriad of tasks for logistics, data collection and data analysis.

The National Directorship for Community Development (DINADECO) had a more relevant role for the first contest about reaching all community associations around the country with the open invitation to participate, than for the second contest that is now closed by invitation only. DINADECO supported dissemination in their social media accounts ([Facebook](#) e IG) and database of more than 2000 community associations, and they held with us an informative [Webinar](#) on the contest and the application process. They are not much involved with planning, monitoring or evaluation.

The partnership with S.P.E.C.I.E.S. had several administrative challenges for the type of hiring of services and the requirements by FundaciónUCR (our financial administrator at UCR). After several administrative delays (almost all 2022), we renegotiated the role of S.P.E.C.I.E.S. because the coordination initially was delegating several sustainability components that later proved not viable for an international partner (improving local capacities and controls for entrepreneurship and dealing with national marketing). The role was redefined to help construct a blueprint or framework for the sustainable sale of artisanal Friends of Felids products to socially minded U.S. consumers interested in supporting stakeholders that are committed to conservation outcomes. Moreover, we recognize this role as being key to achieving the overall Project Outcome, in particular to the reference to motivating local development associations and delivering direct benefits.

S.P.E.C.I.E.S. made several assumptions regarding the availability of the core partners in this project, and how we would work together on the ground when we first visited. This unfortunately

delayed our ability to conduct our first site visit by a few months, despite our best efforts. We recognize that our colleagues at Gente y Fauna have to support themselves in diverse ways, such as by teaching at UCR, and contracting with other partners. As such, SPECIES should have discussed with other project staff and principals much earlier their schedules and availability, as their ability to accompany during visits to communities that was critical to better understanding those community's needs, priorities, and capacities.

We suggest that although diverse partnerships can represent a project's greatest strength, it is important for partners to have more conversations and ask more questions earlier in the process, so as to preclude the consequences of incorrect assumptions. Ultimately however, SPECIES believe the delays incurred are minor, and will ultimately not have much bearing on the substance of our activities.

Other stakeholder involvement includes a panel of 21 national and international experts in wildlife conservation and policy to evaluate contest finalists and select winners. Almost every person we invited to the panel accepted, and their feedback was valuable to improve the project for the second contest. The list includes: Daniela Araya and Daniel Corrales of Panthera, Esteban Brenes, Jorge Rojas and Sofía Pastor of CRWildlife, Juan José Jiménez of SINAC, Diego Gómez of ProCat, Esther Pomareda and Virginia Pelayo of Las Pumas, Adolfo Artavia of CRxS, Jose Daniel Ramirez of Oncilla Conservation, Shirley Ramírez of MINAE, Raquel Bone, José Soto and Luis Fonseca independents, Carmen Roldán of FONAFIFO, Daniela Solano of Fundación Saimiri, Rebeca Escobar WWF-Guatemala, Jenny Glickman of IESA-CSIC, Javier Carazo of SMBC and Mauro Luquerini of Alianza Gato Andino.

Other more indirect collaborations on operations, logistics and advice include: the School of Sociology at UCR, the University of Chiriquí-Panama, personnel of SINAC-Ministry of the Environment at the Barbilla National Park Caño Negro Mixed National Wildlife Refuge, and Huetar Norte and Guanacaste Conservation Area, the Universidad Austral de Chile, the University of Florida with its Tropical Conservation and Development Program, Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, Panthera-Cosra Rica, UACFel-SINAC, Las Pumas Rescue Center, CRWildlife and the Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group at IUCN.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities of the first contest were managed in the time planned, intense and productive. For the implementation components (recruitment and capacity building, photo-trapping and production) there were several delays. The marketing component got behind the schedule, while data analysis advances slower than we planned to.

OUPUT 1- It was successful to have a parallel flow for the communication campaign and technical elaboration of forms and guidelines. The strategy was based on motivating participants to overcome the "difficult" process and promote trust to request assistance from our call-center. When we launched the contest, many inquiries arrived, and we also were proactive to reach jaguar "conflict hotspots" from our database in consultation with experts. Launch of Contest was on April 29th, with the [webpage](#) and press releases shared to 242 media contacts and journalists from 11 main communication channels. Media coverage of the Contest included several online, radio and in-press publications: [El país](#), [Delfino](#), [The World News](#) (re-post from EIPais.cr), [UCR news portal](#), [La teja](#), [Interferencia](#) (min 10:40, from radio stations UCR), [La Nación](#), [Semanario](#), [Trece Noticias](#). Additional posts from allies: [Fundazoo](#), [DINADECO](#), [CR National Science Academy](#), [SINAC](#). The Contest call center was active 30 hours a week, from the launch of the Contest until the award event on September 29. The inquiries were received by phone calls, text messages, email, WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

The 17 applications received were assessed on compliance with requirements to select the 15 finalists that were sent to our expert jury panel for a first scoring round. With expert feedback we then performed inspections focused on the verification and potential improvements in human-felid coexistence that increases scores on wildlife governance. Inspections were fascinating, contexts were diverse and full of details related to conflict and coexistence with felids and other species. During fieldwork, we challenged participants to evidence their organizational capacities,

their good practices and their need for interventions in conservation and development. The 2-day inspection visits included a workshop focused on participatory improvement of the re-application form and a rapid socio-ecological assessment of the evidence on the evaluation criteria.

Each jury independently reviewed 2-3 applications, for 3-4 evaluations per application. Of 13 finalists who reapplied, 7 improved their scores. The results took the form of a ranking. Scoring of the 5 technical axes evaluated (ecological value, governance, entrepreneurship, threats, and good practices) worked to distinguish the two categories for the contest: “already Friends of Felids” exemplary communities scored higher and close to each other, while “want to be Friends of Felids” communities in need, scored low and not that tight. Recognition of this social and environmental contrast was relevant to communicate to the public. The communities that won were Caño Negro de Los Chiles as the exemplary community and Las Brisas of Siquirres as the community in need.

The Awarding Ceremony was held on September 29 at the Law Auditorium of the University and was open to the public. Logistics for the awarding ceremony were challenging but we took advantage of all the resources of the University of Costa Rica for transportation, infrastructure, artistic performance, and public relations. Delegations from most communities attended, and especial guests included the Rector of the University, Gustavo Gutiérrez-Espeleta; the Vice Minister of the Environment, Rafael Gutiérrez; and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Hon. Ben Lyster Binns. Our campaign on social networks focused on publicizing the event and the presentation of the finalist communities, so that they would feel recognition and pride. Still under sanitary restrictions (lifted a month or so later) in person, we brought 28 representatives of the winning communities and 11 of the pilot communities, while 12 representatives of the other 6 finalist communities attended on their own. We had 95 people in attendance in the auditorium and transmission was followed asynchronously by 38,776 people online. As a closing activity for the event, we facilitated a fair for the communities to display and sell their local products.

OUPUTS 2 and 3- In the meantime the contest was developing, the Association Amigos de Felinos (AMFE) based in the pilot communities (Dos Ríos, El Gavilán and Buenos Aires de Upala; north-western Costa Rica: 10°53'41.01"N, 85°20'33.28"W) was performing with good and no so good periods. Leadership by the directive board was in constant social struggles for the period due to members' vulnerability to sickness, insecurity, and financial subsistence. Directing AMFE is a commitment they want to do well, but the context makes them slow and hesitant; teamwork turns therefore difficult with other members demotivated. However, participants were present and expressing they wanted to continue, the monitoring team was making some surveillance rounds and the entrepreneurs were commercializing a little. Low activity changed in June when they held their first extraordinary Assembly to discuss and vote favourably on the cooperation agreement with FundaciónUCR to receive Darwin Initiative's funds (delayed due to administration procedures). With that agreement under further processing, AMFE begun hiring two local coordinators from July to March which gave impetus to the group; UCR and Gente y Fauna assisted in training and advice for them for the entire period. One downside still under revision, is that AMFE's financial management has been inadequate due to lack of experience by the treasurer of the Directive board, and inability to find adequate advice (hiring the right accountant). We are in a process of facilitation of correcting spending and reporting, but could not include this for the report. In parallel, we facilitated a donation from WWF-Guatemala and Airbnb with equipment and training for the monitoring team, camera trapping was reactivated with 17 camera stations placed again (previous cameras were unattended and failing at the beginning of the year). Active members for monitoring were 11-13 and for entrepreneurship were 22-24; 4 more members do not belong to working teams but to general support for a total of 37-41 members.

Under the lead of Alejandra Araya, fulltime monitoring coordinator, young mother of two, unemployed dental assistant, camera trapping stations were reviewed monthly, data were processed and safeguarded, selected images were shared, interactions with wildlife were recorded properly on the database, predation events were quickly inspected and transmitted to the respective authorities of UACFel-SINAC (Ministry of Environment). A total of 3788 trap-nights were estimated for this period (a mean of 420 per month); 33 interactions were recorded including 13 sightings of felids and 16 predation events on dogs, poultry, goat and cattle (Annexes 12 and 15). Alejandra also helped voluntarily to many administrative tasks by request of the directive board, and her performance was outstanding.

The lead of María Dolores Mendoza, fulltime entrepreneurship coordinator, mother of two, housewife, failed in communications and mobilization with María devoting low effort to effectively approach the members to motivate production and sales as expected, she was also supposed to monitor Friends of Felid services which are the existing shops, lodges, tours, and dinners with whom agreements were made to exchange benefits (3 new services affiliated during the period). A rough estimation of earnings was 100 000 CRC for individual sales, 350 000 CRC in fairs and 350 000 CRC in wholesales. Investment in supplies, utilities and labor considers only 200 000 CRC from our project. Income to investment rate was then 4.00 CRC. María was reporting monthly that there were no advances, but the directive board was not evaluating her performance and redirecting her efforts. Our team had to intervene several times to guide and advance activities and accounting of responsibilities, but we were not able to replace the role of the board and María's reporting was inadequate (monthly reports not annexed but are available under request). María did focus on searching and transmitting invitations to meetings and trainings from diverse development institutions (INA, INDER, MAG, INAMU, UNED and more). She also entered a committee in Dos Ríos conformed to assess the opportunity to administer locally one entrance to the protected area, Sector San Cristobal, that is under current abandonment and can be restored for tourism purposes; however, discussions seem unproductive to date and the Guanacaste Conservation Area (ACG) may look for other management options.

Other activities at the pilot communities included talks to local high school students in collaboration with the program Costa Rica Silvestre of the Ministry of Environment and BioAlfa of the ACG, they hosted students of the course Research Methods of the School of Sociology of UCR with professor Sebastián Saborío, and a Conservation course of the University of Chiriquí-Panamá followed by the participation in the Jaguar Festival in Panamá; the contact in Panama was with professor Olga Samaniego facilitated by one Friends of Felids member that committed to that particular role, Mr. Carlos Calugo. On the other side, representatives of the pilot communities were very involved in the training sessions and follow up to Las Brisas and Caño Negro, they supported the content of the modules with their practical experience and facilitated negotiation for adapting the scheme to the local context, and helped to solve doubts motivating participation but also highlighting non-negotiable positions based on the principles of the Association, such as the requirement to report and act when threats to wildlife are detected, and that the use of the Friends of Felids label on products is a responsibility to guaranty consumers that wildlife is protected. Participation of the Directive board was extremely important for conflict management as we mention below.

Regarding implementation of the Friends of Felids at winning communities following the awarding, teaching-learning guides were produced with complementary educational materials and the methodology. Unexpectedly, elaboration of the final versions was concentrated in July to September due to lack of communication between the person in charge (field operative Lizeth Corella) and the coordinator Ronit; Liz could not advance adequately and delivered an extremely raw version of the guides and materials. Therefore, we hired Inés to urgently attend the task, with satisfactory results. Capacity building sessions, organized in 3 practical modules with homework, were held from September to November in Caño Negro, and up to March in Las Brisas. In Caño Negro participants showed a high level of involvement, committing to camera trapping and to promote good touristic practices; the monitoring team was taking shape with responsibilities assigned and cameras set in really good locations full of tracks (very soon a jaguar was recorded); the team of entrepreneurship was mostly represented by touristic services and no so much by producers, requiring contextual adaptations for the use of the label. At the end of the modules, we perceived some dissatisfaction, not with the training, but with particular characteristics of the scheme that we explain in section 9. In Las Brisas, the first module found resistance from participants and Inés had to deliver it twice to finally detect what the problem was: people were confused about their role and what to expect due to a previous failure by local representatives to have real participation in the process of the contest. After a conflict resolution process (see section 9), modules were completed with the monitoring team quickly advancing in coordination with the personnel of the Barbilla National Park, and the entrepreneurship team getting into the inspiration in felids for their existing skills. The design of the quantitative learning evaluation was not strong due to the need for our team (already overwhelmed) to follow completion and the limitations of participants due to technology, access to communications, illiteracy, and language. However, the learning environment was greatly amicable with people

making big efforts to attend and focus on the activities, participation was high, even for very shy people. Next, the activities related to the follow up beyond the modules got challenging and time-consuming: meetings, constant communications, exchanges of information and more fieldwork. We refer to that progress in sections 3.2 and 3.3.

With respect to the marketing component of Output 3, for this reporting period many delays were related to administration issues while others were probably misunderstandings about delegating or sharing responsibilities. Gente y Fauna has been guiding Friends of Felids to be proactive and expected the local entrepreneurship coordinator to actually look for marketing opportunities, with a lack of positive and significant results to date. In the meantime, between the Fall of 2022, and March of 2023, S.P.E.C.I.E.S. engaged a number of potential retail and/or production distribution partners to promote the Amigos de Felinos community. Many of these partners already know S.P.E.C.I.E.S. through their leading efforts to develop innovative solutions to facilitating human-carnivore coexistence, including efforts to build a predator-friendly label and possibly, brand. S.P.E.C.I.E.S. has contacts with the SSA Group, Inc. through their VP of Conservation and Sustainability. Among the responsibilities of this company are to manage artisanal and other gift concessions across the United States for a large number of AZA zoos and aquariums, where items superficially similar to those produced by Amigos de Felinos are sold annually. Since 2021, after joining as a partner this project, we began preliminary discussions with the Group regarding their interest in exploring a potential partnership that would Amigos de Felinos goods to be sold at a few institutions they manage. Their VP of Conservation & Sustainability in particular become very interested in this idea and began circulating it more widely among the company executives. In 2021, these conversations eventually got S.P.E.C.I.E.S. an invitation to join the Conservation Commerce Group, a group which consists of zoos, individuals, and organizations looking to solve supply chain challenges around the import and sale of goods and products that contribute to conservation outcomes. We have since offered Amigos de Felinos as a good example of a partner for whom we'd like to scale socio-economic impact. We've now had several virtual and in-person official meetings now with SSA personnel (5-6), and they appear to be firmly interested and committed to the idea of selling "sustainable products". We are now helping them redefine "sustainable" to more specifically mean those products produced in harmony with wildlife or natural ecosystems, and/or with minimal net loss or negative impact to the natural world. In 2021, S.P.E.C.I.E.S. also began discussions with the Zoological Association of America (ZAA), and several of its member institutions, regarding the potential to sell conservation-minded goods at their retail gift stores. Later in 2022, these conversations specifically focused on the sale of Amigos de Felinos products, and interested parties were referred to the website to review some of them. In 2022, we began to discuss in greater detail the diversity of Amigos de Felinos products that would potentially be available, the stories of the communities they originate from such as Dos Rios, the social commitments they adhere to, and the capacity of communities to maintain some sort of regular or seasonal production. We have had at least four meetings with the ConsComm group leadership, and several additional meetings with other individual members of the group.

In March of 2023, S.P.E.C.I.E.S. as represented by Dr. Anthony J. Giordano, visited the pilot communities. This marked their first visit on the ground to Costa Rica as part of this Darwin-supported partnership. We interviewed and held extensive discussions with key members of the Friends of Felids initiative, in order to better understand the context and challenges of producing socially responsible goods for sale locally and internationally. This visit was key to increasing our own understanding of product diversity, particularly with respect to the product size/weight, product functionality/type, and how they might relate to potential interest among and demand from US vendors and consumers. We also learned about how skills and commitment to various tasks relevant to administration of the business, production of goods, marketing, etc., varied among community leadership. This was helpful for us to understand the outstanding needs of the community, as well as their current potential to meet retail demand should consumer purchases be high. This represents an important first step to testing the market to sell the goods in the US, and we have also already contacted parties that are potentially interested in selling these products. We also discussed how to potentially adapt certain products, or focus on fewer products, to increase sales in the United States. Most importantly, we were able to purchase a diversity of Amigos de Felinos goods, which moving forward, will be critical to pitching partners that might be interested in selling such products. Between late 2022- early 2023, S.P.E.C.I.E.S.

also researched other opportunities both inside and outside the larger zoo community, that could serve as potential amplifiers or consumers of the Amigos de Felinos brand, to consumers here in the United States. These include bulk buyers of various products, including artisanal goods, and retailers with e-commerce sites.

To close this section, activities for Output 4 performed as planned for data collection to assess the investigative goals behind the project. Our Wildlife Acceptance Questionnaire was elaborated, validated and open to members of communities under the contest with 300 responses for 2022. Application and reapplication forms were also received and scored, and human-wildlife interactions are under monitoring at Friends of Felids communities. Sample size and data screening are a concern that we attend regularly, however there are practical restrictions that make our team slow and may force some more practical solutions that will restrict data interpretation in the future (weaker evidence). We will report later if changes are needed to concentrate efforts in less indicators with stronger rigor.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Improved capacity for finalist communities to score their wildlife governance status – probability for achieving this is high. Baseline conditions were different for the categories of the communities for the contest, with exemplary ones having more control over wildlife management at the beginning than the communities in need for assistance. After the first contest we perceived changes in local capacity and awareness about their relationship with wildlife. Data must be further analyzed from our scoring process in complement with our field participatory observations to validate how strong a result could be. The second contest will provide more evidence toward informing achievements for this output.

Output 2: Operational wildlife surveillance based on citizen science – probability for achieving this is medium. Baseline conditions were that pilot communities were struggling, and Las Brisas and Caño Negro had no wildlife surveillance at all. Pilots are now operational, and Las Brisas is about to complete their surveillance plan with 50% of cameras installed. However, the implementation in Caño Negro failed. Follow up for Las Brisas is in good advance with local empowerment and fast learning. For the second contest, we are accounting for extra time for implementation, but given the uncertainties of the real context of winning communities we are cautious on the expectations.

Output 3: Consolidated network of communities that receive benefits from coexistence with felids – probability for achieving this is medium. Pilot communities' advances towards consolidation are slow (see section 3.1). In the case of Las Brisas, there are many entrepreneurs already making efforts for commercialization; they are exploring with us the potential under the Friends of Felids label to reach different market opportunities. We plan to target this output enthusiastically and effectively for the rest of the period.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Our three outcome indicators for measuring if “Participation in a national contest motivates local development associations to assess and improve their initial wildlife governance status...” complement each other nicely to arrive to conclusions later in the analytical phase and beyond the period of the project. With base in the following advances, we consider there is a high probability for achieving the outcome.

Indicator 0.1 has not enough precision to detect changes in such a short period, from a quantitative perspective; it will actually be more useful to inspect the content to inform the advances (i.e. forms showed more participation, evidence and thought after field inspections and feedback). From 15 contestants, most reapplicants (8 out of 13) changed their total score by at least 10 points, 7 increasing (53%) and 1 decreasing, and 2 showed no change (Annex 11). We targeted 50% of increase, meaning evidence is in favour of achieving the outcome.

Indicator 0.2 provide data as rich as expected (we do want to insist in the value of qualitative information), with the disadvantage of being labour intensive. From the 208 base codes (first coding round), we can better describe motivation and demotivation reported, governance status and relationship with wildlife, all with context specific information. Concerns and needs about the current wildlife situation and local governance challenges in the words of local people will allow

us to better report on the outcome. A preliminary look at the codes reflects much thought was promoted through the process of the contest, supporting achievement of the outcome (Annex 6).

Indicator 0.3 is expected to provide interesting results, but sample size will limit interpretation, we expect an overall sample measure, and smaller samples for the finalist and winning communities, just enough to run the tests. In other scenario, if the project was research only, sampling effort would not have had this issue. Currently data is under processing, and baseline pre-test stats are not available. Our proposal for getting the best of the research component to support conclusions, is using a mixed methods approach at the end of the project to triangulate evidence from all indicators to support conclusions on the outcome, particularly, participant observation during fieldwork for the contest and for implementation and follow up, provides extra nuances and evidence in favour or not of the achievement of the outcome and impact. Combination of evidence would make a stronger case.

About this, through direct interviews and conversations with community and thus based on self-reporting, we have seen evidence of increased acceptance and tolerance of wild felids (jaguars, pumas, etc.) throughout the Dos Rios community. The community self-reported interest and commitment to the project and were frequently observed engaged in activities designed to achieve the project outcome, including designing and selling products, hosting association meetings, and construction of a new predator-proof chicken coup. Although we expect more quantitative analysis to be reserved for later this year, after a new round of communities has been admitted to AMFE, we believe these indicators – proposed previously – are still well-suited to determining quantitatively measuring “acceptance” and changes to it.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: The contest offers attractive prizes for communities to participate.

Comments: Participants of the first contest focused on getting the equipment and money too much, and no so much on the accompaniment for affiliation to the network Friends of Felids.

Assumption 2 (new): contest guidelines for participants clarify the difference between item prices and the actual value and commitment to become part of the network of Friends of Felids.

Comments: We are now correcting for that in the messaging for the second contest explicating the difference between contest and affiliation.

Assumption 3: Relevant communities feel empowered and supported for applying.

Comments: This do not hold true; there are many issues going on and changing at communities, not all the time they will have the conditions to act under their empowerment, for more support they could receive. This is part of the qualitative results we are analysing for informing policy.

Assumption 4: Existent community development associations (ADIs in Spanish) are searching opportunities for community development or have allies that present the opportunities to them.

Comments: This hold true, and allies were important in many cases.

Assumption 5 (new): Sample size at winner communities allows testing.

Comments: We had to invest extra in-person effort for collecting data in on-line formats. Online interviewing in Costa Rica is not a good strategy, but we try it to make the best of it. We just have no resources to implement in-person surveys for this project, just the crucial to reach a minimum. We will probably have problems to have our post-test completed but expect the best.

Assumption 6: Application forms are validated.

Comments: This holds true. Validation steps were taken, and form for 2023 was improved.

Assumption 7: Objective evidence is available for quantification and detection of interactions.

Comments: Certainly, hard evidence is not that common, we try to be flexible for registering circumstantial evidence and even perceptions; however the analysis differentiate that. Also, self-questioning the validity of evidence was part of the assessment of wildlife governance we promoted.

Assumption 8: Initial capacity to assess wildlife interactions is low, wildlife as a resource has no explicit management planning.

Comments: This holds true on the side of communities. In the case of environmental authorities or external stakeholders we found planning, with local people partially involved or even disputing the plans (e.g. Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge).

Assumption 9: Support from the Ministry of Environment is maintained.

Comments: This holds true.

Assumption 10: Private landowners participate by allowing access for wildlife monitoring.

Comments: This holds true partially, there are always individuals that decide not to participate. Participation if volunteer, no problem about this.

Assumption 11: Adequate health protocols allow implementation of in person activities to complement remote learning.

Comments: sanitary restrictions are now lifted nationally and for the University.

Assumption 12: Access to digital communications by participants supports remote implementation of activities with the project team. Costa Rica has good coverage and improved internet and phone networks for most sites.

Comments: This do not hold true. Hence the next assumption was added (modification approved)

Assumption 13 (new): Complementary means of communications overcome any technological limitations.

Comments: This holds true if effort is invested. Contextual adaptations rely on local leaders for closer communications (direct contact).

Assumption 14: Market for fair trade and eco-labels gradually recovers from the global crisis.

Comments: We believe this assumption continues to be true and ultimately underpins plans to make the entire project sustainable in the long-term. S.P.E.C.I.E.S. is currently exploring these opportunities as they relate to other products, including sustainable agricultural products (e.g., beef and coffee). We believe that after the pandemic, the market potential for global demand for socially responsible products is even stronger than it was before.

Assumption 15: Local leadership assumes wildlife management under the scheme.

Comments: this partially holds true, and it will vary according to the leadership style of individuals into the groups.

Assumption 16: Earnings from production under the label generate enough utilities for supporting both conservation and development components of the scheme.

Comments: this will not hold true for this project period but we are confident in the long-term ability of Amigos de Felinos and its partners to generate sufficient income that will both support conservation, and reinvestment in community development capacity. Greater investment in business operational and management capacity may be critical in the near-term by means of the consultancy specific for this.

Assumption 17: DINADECO maintains support to the community development associations.

Comments: this holds true.

Assumption 18: The association Amigos de Felinos maintains activity and facilitates affiliation of new communities to conform the network.

Comments: this is barely holding true, but they are persistent and aware of the long way to go. To address this with subsequent prospective communities, the project is promoting additional advance transparency with respect to project framing and the collaborative governance framework that must be adhered to should new communities be selected from among other contestants. By ensuring expectations are properly managed at the earliest stages, this will better ensure the association's partnerships will continue to expand seamlessly.

Assumption 19: Coverage of the project reaches large audiences at the national and regional level.

Comments: this holds true based in the evidence we present as Annex 4.

Assumption 20: Political powers keep allowing democratic participation, autonomy of academy and community initiatives to disseminate results (no interference).

Comments: this holds true.

Assumption 21: Standards of scientific quality are maintained or increased for interdisciplinary studies.

Comments: this holds true but challenging due to the limitation of our human resources. We are searching for support on this.

4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

One major, perhaps implicit, thesis behind the project is that Community-based Wildlife Management is possible, desirable, and already happening in the context of Costa Rica. We attempt to recognize good examples of human-wildlife coexistence, but we are particularly interested in the toughest contexts too of human-wildlife conflict to test if the design of the incentive named Friends of Felids could promote coexistence. Finding this “conflict hotspots”, exposing Society to their reality and needs, and presenting to local people with the opportunity to engage are key impacts to target a social change.

Friends of Felids’s strongest feature is the direct link between wildlife surveillance and the added value for products and services, all by locals. The weakest point is that rooted disempowerment in these communities is the norm. Our team is documenting changes in the relationship between local people and felids and other fauna, an identity is built around this which promotes local stewardship of biodiversity. Changes are also reflected in wellbeing corresponding with a sense of not only responsibility but also a devolution of the rights over wildlife, with an indirect use of it as inspiration for creativity in products and services that make producers proud. Poverty reduction is for now a promise of the scheme, the potential is there but our slow advances may discourage some. Still a long road ahead, and we depend on social buying-up for the initiative.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

During the 2022 contest process, focal points of CITES and Nagoya protocol were included in communications and the awarding event, and we received many complements for the work. Recently, the Mid-Term evaluator held a meeting with one high-level officer that confirmed how our project fits perfectly the National Biodiversity Strategy and Policies. The initiative Friends of Felids will be included in the reports for the CBD (in relation with indicators of local people engagement and design of innovative conservation tools/incentives), and we know politicians refer to our projects constantly as example of citizen participation and innovation in conservation. Sadly, the current government has not the environment as priority, and there is not proactivity toward our initiative.

As appointed representative for the Academic Council (CONARE) to the National Commission for Wildlife, Dr. Amit was not contacted during the whole year by the authorities in charge as the Commission was inactive. Ronit had to report a complaint to the overseen committee for lack of action, leading to CONARE sending an official request for an explanation by the Minister of the Environment, pending response. This is a small contribution to avoid Costa Rica’s failure in its commitments, in this case to engage stakeholders when deciding on wildlife management.

Ronit is also part of the Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group of the IUCN and she had the recent opportunity to attend as organizer the International Conference in the University of Oxford, UK. Besides hosting a high-level panel about Collaboration in Latin America, she shared the new IUCN Guidelines for HWCC with relevant stakeholders back in Costa Rica and keeps looking for opportunities for dissemination of this great effort (press release in May).

6. Project support to poverty reduction

Our team, all Costa Rican, is aware of challenges for conservation projects with respect to poverty reduction, in particular, we have found extremely difficult experiences when surveying households in some of the poorest rural communities in Upala (area with one of the lowest development indexes for Costa Rica). We arrived to the homes of old people in abandonment, families with disabled young unable to access and assistance, migrants living in fear, illiterate people and so on... and we were asking them about jaguars! That was the diagnostic before designing the incentive. Now we actively search for interdisciplinary support to make things differently.

Expected beneficiaries are rural and disempowered communities, the most difficult to work with, who are also affected social and economically by the burden imposed by a conflictive situation with a wildlife that threatens their means of subsistence and is also protected by law. Dr. Amit's dissertation (2016) involved a deeper exploration of barriers and benefits for local people that highlighted many claims for a fair treatment when the right of wildlife were perceived as more important, and citizens were only seen as enemies or obstacles to conservation.

This project aims to Increase welfare by means of a better relationship with wildlife, alternative income, and a stronger and empowered community (in a network structure of inter-community governance). Safety and income are expected to be improved with time with the added value for local products and services with a guaranty of wildlife protection evidence from the surveillance and camera trapping.

7. Gender equality and social inclusion

Our project staff is composed mostly of women, 66% overall and 100% in leadership positions. Considering the employability gap between men and women, and how deep it is in Costa Rican society, whenever we need new hiring, we prioritize giving opportunities to minorities and women. That have been our trend since Ronit founded Gente y Fauna in 2012, and now that she is faculty at the University of Costa Rica.

Similarly, Friends of Felids' board is composed mostly of women, in addition to the two local women hired as full-time coordinators for the monitoring and entrepreneurship teams, and the two women assuming voluntarily the leadership of the monitoring team of Las Brisas (winner community for 2022). The entrepreneurship team is mainly housewives, and the monitoring team have a strong component of country men and young people interested in the use of technologies and tourism.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	100% of project staff, 28% of CIBET scientific committee
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 .	50% of partners specifically DINADECO, Gente y Fauna, SPECIES and AMFE

We also promote gender equality within community participation to the Contest. The Application Form asks for the number of community members who support the application to the Contest disaggregated by gender, and the scoring form values actions carried out at the community level to promote the participation of minorities. About the sample size in our pre-test online data collection for 2022, from the 300 interviews applied, 166 were completed by women from 15 rural

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.

communities indicating their opinions on the matter (to be analyzed). Inclusion of the youth and older people varied by community, and we reported their attendance and participation during the field inspections. Pilot communities tend to include more older people, while Las Brisas is successfully including younger generations. Also, Las Brisas is the first time for our team to relate with indigenous communities which has represented many challenges (see section 3.2-3.4).

In addition, we try to promote equal participation among our allies, for example, the panel of juries for the first edition of the Contest was made up of 14 women and 10 men, and we were mindful to assign at least one jury of each gender when distributing the applications among the jury panel to maintain a fair balance between the evaluations.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Comparing with our previous projects, the logical framework with constant M&E is allowing us to identify issues and take corrective actions more efficiently. Natalia, as the staff in charge of M&E, has only 1/3 time assigned, which has resulted too little for many complex indicators to be processed in real time. Delay in analysis will be carried out even beyond the project period.

Our proposed indicators are informative of the contribution of outputs and activities to the project outcome; our training as scientist lead us to be rigorous on interpretation of results, and evidence will be analysed in dept to reach conclusions. For description of the measures and data collection instruments see our logical framework and annexes. Not significant changes in M&E have being implemented to date. Partners and stakeholders are briefed about advances regularly, however, we will soon require a general meeting to prepare the closure of the project.

The strategy for staff and partners to report often with Natalia on the corresponding indicators is very useful to set a rhythm of advances or give an early warning about the weaker points of the planning. Project partners do not respond as well as the staff on reporting and correcting as the coordinator requires. Therefore, many corrective actions add to the responsibilities of our coordinator to intervene, many times as urgent matters.

We are preparing an additional Request Changes Form to update the logframe and the timeline, for activities and indicators related to marketing of the eco-label due to delays, and personnel availability. These changes have taken some time to take shape due to the increasing concern of human resources been our weaker point; a deeper analysis of viability is under way, trying not to impact current operations.

9. Lessons learnt

So many things would be different if we were writing the project today! But that is the challenge of innovation. Also, it is the challenge of this being the first project we make at the University of Costa Rica and under the Darwin Initiative. Unfamiliarity with this context took us on the current path, now we see much room for improvement. We stand by our technical approach and most of our M&E, it is the relation between the administration and the management of the project what has been far from efficient. I expect Darwin Initiative would appreciate the honesty of these paragraphs, and do not find them rude. Note, the comments do not represent opinions by anyone else, but the authors.

Technically, the Contest has been very well received, makes participants and the public discuss about wildlife coexistence with more grassroots context and practical implications (non-theoretically), the communication strategy made us very proud, and implementation gave us so much new data to guide us on adaptation on behalf of participants (they need us to learn faster than rigorous data analysis). The communication campaign reach and exposure to the target communities was very successful, particularly regarding social media and paid promotion on rural radio stations (Annex 4). As planned, the second contest feeds on that learning, we do recommend projects to apply consecutive interventions for testing and adapting; and keep testing. This time the Contest will be by invitation only and restricted to the north part of the country to better direct efforts and ease the logistics for AMFE. Invited communities will be selected considering their human-wildlife interactions history and recommendation by local

experts and allies, priority will be given to participants of the first iteration located within the set geographic range (see Annex 16). For this iteration we will have less applicants, inviting a maximum of 10 communities to try to ease logistics, but mainly to balance the number of applicants versus winners. Additionally, to alleviate expectations of non-winner communities we will provide them with a token or motivation prize (2-5 cameras). This way they can later ask for affiliation to the network, independently of the Contest. A first explanatory visit to discuss guidelines and a longer field inspection are also changes.

One downside in the contest process, that we intend to correct for the second iteration with the changes above, was the real representation of local leaders when completing the application form, and how much participation is achieved as a community. This was linked to a higher interest in the items of the price instead of an intention to be part of the Friends of Felids network (case of Caño Negro), or linked to wanting to do good for the community without proper consultation (case of Las Brisas). In brief, the situation with Caño Negro occurred after completing the capacity building sessions with camera traps already deployed. Representatives expressed misunderstandings about the identity of Friends of Felids conflicting with the identity of the local group, and there was concern regarding requirements for the group to affiliate the Association and follow basic standards for operations (criteria for the camera trapping arrangement and returning 10% of sales under the label for the monitoring team-themselves). Representatives (who indicated decisions were consensual, although we could not verify that) withdraw its affiliation but claimed the price items. Because our team was inactive during December, we requested them to wait for negotiations in January and recommended they met with AMFE; that meeting ended in bad terms with AMFE deciding Caño Negro was not a good addition due to having different interests and principles. Therefore, in January we proceeded with the disqualification under guidance of the legal advisors (official communications available under request). The case of Las Brisas, also oversimplified here, has long-lasting consequences due to local representatives not consulting many participants, and leaving out the indigenous territory (the right to be consulted as indigenous people was infringed). Unaware of these big issues, we started implementation where it resulted obvious participants were absolutely lost about what we were doing: they were told to come to get prices, not told about being part of a network of Friends of Felids. Once this deeper issue was identified, a conflict resolution process was initiated by Ronit and Yamileth Pérez, president of Friends of Felids. In general, participants who were adequately giving informed consent remained in the project, while others decided not to continue. To date, the relationship with the indigenous territory Nairi Awari is still under negotiations with a tense environment for conversations although mistakes have been acknowledged and sincere apologies have been presented. This context has limited implementation, we have to advance slowly and restrict also spatially. As recommendations, even when we had an explicit warning about the risks of representing a community in our guidelines and we insisted about consultation, we will request evidence about participation for the second contest.

Management of the project presented as major obstacle an underestimation of the human resources needed. In retrospective, we knew the complexity of this project will be extreme, but we were afraid the budget would not work for the funding application. Our background (NGO) was always working with limited resources and much sacrifice, and the change in the context of the University was supposed to take better care of the human resources, however, requesting "social rights" made the budget impossible to obtain, we thought. Our (Ronit's) decisions were to assign partial-time to all the staff. It was a bad decision, and we would recommend donors and similar projects to invest in the human resources and please do not limit at 40 or 50% of the budget for that. We can do so much with too little (our fieldwork operations are very efficient in spending), but our time needs to be better valued. And this relates to the administration issues, we learned that institutions like universities prioritize administration ahead of operations, as many big NGOs do too. This means that operations cannot go faster, as the practice requires, and that coordinators have less control over the project. Of course, controls are needed, and we are accepting and learning about the imperfect system. In the future, we will hire an administrator staff for big complex projects and expand timelines.

Lessons related to the sustainability challenge come from having in-depth conversations with members of the ConsComm group, where it was suggested that in-house capacity, including with quality control and production capacity, were important to prior examples of success they shared with us, and therefore they would be as well to Friends of Felids products. They also remarked

to us that no one individual, company, institution, or partner had thus far been able to solve the long-term challenges inherent in maintaining supply chains for goods/services that benefit communities; they further noted the existence of tariffs (for some products) as being part of the challenge, and import regulations that demand products be considered “safe” according to various health criteria before being sold legally. Both SSA and the ConsComm group noted the importance of seeing some of the products in person before concrete ideas and agreements could be pursued, as this would give them greater insights into the potential logistical, demand-side, and regulatory challenges which could vary with greatly differing products. We note that all of this progress directly impacts our ability to link supply, production capacity, and product inventory, among other critical considerations, to potential interest among possible vendors based in the USA, the creation of advance purchase orders from such retailers, and bulk export/shipping costs relative to different products produced by the AMFE.

Finally (for this non-exhaustive list), autonomy and democracy for the local governance of wildlife to work in the early stages of the Association Amigos de Felinos (AMFE) remains a challenge with many fronts. UCR and Gente y Fauna defend the model to be democratic under the figure of an associations with renewal of leadership and distribution of power when compared to foundations, societies or companies; UCR actively tries local leadership to assume rights and responsibilities and remain as advisor only. The recent International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence allow us to assess other models, and that reinforced our defensive vision due to existence of many pressures against local control with capitalism and colonialism leading to a loss of local identities, people becoming just employees, and no direct link to conservation practices is enforced. We do fall into a role of motherhood because of this, about which AMFE often makes fun, with a human aspect and bias of judging what is good and what is not for the initiative. Under that role we are pushing AMFE to mature and achieve autonomy, letting them decide removing us from their path, allowing them to fail also. Following these lessons, we are proud but overwhelmed; believing in communities is a must, but striving against rooted disempowerment is discouraging when AMFE continues falling. Faith in the potential of local people remains, how much we can facilitate their processes is still to see.

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

Last year, we shared the complete Annual Report review with all partners and project staff. It was praised and warmly received by all. We felt grateful for the feedback and appreciated the time put into reviewing our work in detail (rarely donors provide thoughtful feedback), from both the Annual Report review but also for the Mid-term Review. The evaluator for the Mid-term review visited the project in February 2023, and met in person or virtually with all the project partners and staff. We were very pleased with his openness towards a complex and tight proposed agenda for the visit. He took the necessary time with each one of those involved: partners, researchers, student assistants, volunteers, and community participants; and even expressed his willingness to virtually meet with more allies after his visit. We are still waiting for the final results of the evaluation but have some feedback.

We try our best and prioritize answering all comments and issues raised by the last year Annual Report reviewer. This reviewer comments were related to sustainability of the initiative, and risks or assumptions; and not as much as to corrections and actions to be taken. As requested, we added further details and context to the summary (section 1), other comments are answered in sections 3.4, 4, 10 and 12 of this report. Additionally, for the second Contest, we try to incorporate suggestions made by our evaluator during the Mid-term Review (see section 8, 10 and 12).

Please note we intended to reply to all reviewer comments, however one we could not understand goes as follow: “Can the project explain where the other 90% of funding for community associations would be sourced?”. We are not sure to what information is this referencing to. One assumption would be this refers to the contribution of 10% of product sales to the monitoring efforts, however that 10% does not represent the budget for operations to date. Friends of Felids currently depends on external funding for operations and also on the voluntary contribution of members, sustainability will require that the 10% will become significant and then account more and more for the annual budget. Also, it is an arbitrary 10% because producers need to perceive earnings during these early phases, but they are aware that when the sales improve the percentage may increase.

11. Risk Management

In the previous year we reported on the risks of our internal administration challenges at the University and the human resources overload, those are not new risks but have increased in the impact for the proper development of the project. The burden of internal regulations constantly delays operations, and our project coordinator takes many risks in behalf of the project to perform no matter the circumstances (risky decisions include personal financing of activities and requiring consultants to begin their tasks without advanced payments). One limitation is that FundaciónUCR, as grant administrator, depends on approvals from many sources and needs to be extremely diligent with requirements; simple requests can take several days, and more complex contracts take up to month and a half. FundaciónUCR is extremely concerned with having approval from Darwin Initiative for everything; our coordinator has to insist all the time that request changes forms are for significant changes. Our coordinator tries to anticipate requests as best as possible, but the operations have a faster pace. There is a risk in financial decisions due to accountability not been updated in real time, and managed in an internal format hard to interpret in the format of the budget for Darwin that our personnel prefer. Lack of synchronization and a shared financial language is frustrating for all parts.

The major risk of our coordinator not receiving proper compensation and carrying out further tasks due to administration and changes is the staff for fieldwork operations, has not been solved. Negotiations reported for last year, promising the assignation of ¼ time were non-effective. Follow up meetings were held at higher levels, acknowledging the fairness of the request, but there is a specific regulation that conflicts. Last notice was that the case was elevated judicially, and expectations are that at least Ronit will receive a partial payment for the second semester of 2023 for ¼ time. Related to this, for the period 2022-2023, we had two unexpected changes in staff for field operations that required much effort to hire and train. There is a tremendous pressure during that period to learn and do tasks quickly, intensity of operations is very heavy on all our staff. Delegation of responsibilities on consultants and partners is a must, however, the level of commitment varies and many times the complexity of our project demands performance beyond the duties, accepted until a certain level. The risk of delegating is reflected in delays on the timeline of activities. Still, consultancies for the rest of the project are key, but against the clock.

Forecasting a higher effort for implementation of the Friends of Felids scheme at the communities winning the 2023 contest, and moving toward sustainability, we decided to shorten the contest period. The new calendar allows for 5 months of implementation, instead of 3, because every community has challenges for adaptation with rhythms of capacity building varying much. To decrease a new risk identified during the first contest about local people requiring much time to comprehend the commitment to become part of the network Friends of Felids (even when documents were clear about that), our new guidelines and the methodology for the contest highlights strongly the difference between the contest and the relation that will be established for the long-term.

Another new risk was the realization by our project team that the actual capacity of the Friends of Felids Association for their internal administration when managing the funds provided by the project is too raw (see sections 3.2-3.4). The Directive board do not assume their responsibilities at length but require constant supervision. The attempts to partner them with allies to get adequate advice are limited by the inability of the members to correctly express their needs. Paperwork for agreements, accountability, banks, and hiring responsibilities becomes overwhelming and frustrating with many unsuccessful attempts. This risk we expect to attend in separate phases due to its complexity; first we will intervene all members to motivate leadership roles in the sight of the approaching election of a new directive board, and second, we will have to make time to facilitate the correction of processes that are out of order to date. It was due to the identification of how serious this risk is, that we requested CRWildlife Foundation to focus their project proposal in promoting administrative capacities (see section 12).

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No further comments.

12. Sustainability and legacy

Our project is included by the Ministry of Environment in the national reporting for the CBD; authorities follow our advances and collaborate with specific needs, such as fieldwork support and technical advice. NGOs, academy and municipalities approach Friends of Felids and CIBET-UCR with invitations to set basis for future collaborations. Individuals throughout the country started also to inquire about volunteering opportunities. With respect to open access, we presented a end of the year report to the University with all materials and those become public documents; all sharing is going according to the to the plan. Data from photo-trapping has a local back-up and a CIBET back-up.

Post-project benefits are still valid, however delayed and not consolidated to date. Likely of sustainability for the impact and outcome of the project will be measured at the closure of the period, expecting an increase in acceptability of felids. Outputs' sustainability is under pressure for the project team to deliver its best in the months to come.

The relationship with felids has changed since Friends of Felids was created, predation events occur, and are attended by locals in coordination with authorities. Surveillance and camera trap monitoring maintains alerts in case of poaching or other threats. In Las Brisas, the surveillance in its first steps finds resistance but is welcomed in the lands selected. Sales points are interested and waiting, limitation is the current lack of local mobilization and empowerment. Changes to request include redirect funding to national marketing in general, although it is uncertain if we will get to the level of commercialization we targeted. A key new allie is the Association Yo Emprendedor (Me Entrepreneur), a non-profit with experience and tools to provide to our participants. They will begin group and individual mentorship on May focused on the business model in pilot and Las Brisas communities. A second stage will intervene the teamwork for the production and commercialization, complementing the marketing campaign.

On the international front, S.P.E.C.I.E.S. has the commitment to make this project self-sustaining. We plan to facilitate greater access to responsible international consumer markets. While we note that communities are already significantly advanced in their ability to imagine, and then produce diverse artisanal goods of high quality, as well as in managing the local sale of these products, increased investment in community capacity to manage, expand, and promote their business, including but not limited to accounting and marketing, will be critical to sustained economic growth, and thus long-term success. Hence the relevance to intervene the production end. The pilot communities have already identified this priority need among their members, and we agree. S.P.E.C.I.E.S. efforts to build partnerships with retailers in the US have just begun now that our initial visit to communities is complete. We believe that the cultivation of new international markets, and the development of a strategic plan or framework to connect with these markets, aside from direct investment in community business capacity, will be the most critical to ensuring a sustained legacy for the project outcome, and the greatest opportunity for communities to generate their revenue on their own. Ultimately, a successful pilot model has the greatest potential to leverage the buy-in and participation of newer communities that are integrated via contests or other means, as well as in providing critical guidance and training to these communities.

Friends of Felids is a very appealing organization for different donors, due to its strong community-based component mixing development and conservation. However, being a relatively new group (almost 2 years since its foundation), they have little experience in terms of project management, still require external support. Gente y Fauna actively supports and motivates Friends of Felids to move on with opportunities for complementary financing. Currently, they found support from two donors: Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ, in collaboration with BigCat Rescue) and WWF Central America. MBZ's project is meant to build a Friends of Felids chicken coop due to several member losing poultry to ocelots; this project has again proven that local people needs capacities for teamwork and administration because it is very delayed in its timeline (if successful, MBZ usually provide continuation of funding). In the case of WWF, a first stage consisted in equipment donation, ecological training and communication materials; this year, there is a continuation to improve data management and touristic signaling (all in the pilot communities).

Additionally, they submitted a proposal to Binnacle Fund (negative response just received mid-April) seeking to consolidate female leadership by giving continuity to the hiring of the local coordinators. The organization [CR Wildlife](#) sent in mid-April a proposal for the USA-CR I Debt-for-Nature Swap (pending response), with Friends of Felids as beneficiary to strengthen administrative capacities and the work of the monitoring teams through the use of technological tools such as [SMART](#).

13. Darwin Initiative identity

All campaign materials, contest instruments and guidelines, and data collection instruments include Darwin Initiative and UKAid logos (see Annexes 5, 8,13, 16 and 17). Promotional materials, like magnets, shirts, mugs, and more, were delivered with the logo on them. The project staff uses both logos in their email signatures to highlight the current project. Press releases and graphic design of materials were submitted for approval to newsdesk@defra.gov.uk for each Contest iteration.

Most Costa Ricans are unaware about the funding opportunities from the UK, now we know of two colleagues that expressed interest about applying in the future. Our main communication channels to the public are through social media (Facebook and Instagram), which have been proven to be very cost-effective as shown in the project media report (Annex 4). We give ourselves the task of sharing with the public every step of our experience within our different projects and be conscientious to recognize the different organizations involved. Regarding the Contest, we seek to always tag Darwin Initiative (now @ BiodiversityChallengeFunds) and Defra accounts in our posts; Gente y Fauna and Amigos de Felinos have Facebook (most active), Instagram and YouTube accounts and we have linked back to Darwin Initiative channels (@BiodiversityChallengeFunds).

As a way of recognizing the UK Government's support and strengthening relationships, we invited the UK Ambassador Exc. Mr. Ben Lyster Binns to the awarding ceremony last year. It was his first visit to the University of Costa Rica, and among other special guests, he had the honorary task of delivering the awards to the winning communities. We expect to have a UK Embassy representation again for the second awarding ceremony this year. During her international travel opportunities (Chile, USA and UK), Dr. Amit has presented the project acknowledging the Darwin Initiative; in the UK, she even had the chance to meet Dr. David Macdonald, who was happy to know about our project, and Dr. Amy Dickman, that (to Ronit's surprise) was already familiar with the initiative.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes, Ronit Amit as coordinator is the default focal point. Email: [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 50% Planned: 50%
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. Guidelines were under test during implementation as our explicit terms and conditions for the contest. We are reflecting on the adaptations when working with indigenous communities and looking for advice. Data sharing and privacy are a general concern, in the case of Caño Negro and with authorities of one Conservation Area we are permanently considering the best ethical safeguarding procedures.	

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.

Our guidelines were revised and improved, also the field protocols were adapted to prevent misunderstandings with stakeholders. In the practice we are aware of regulations for safety, such as informed consent forms, permits, insurance coverage, and effective communications, for example.

Safeguarding does not present changes from our application. Policies are maintained and operational. New volunteers and allies are up to date with our normative. Contest guidelines, forms, and informed consent consider safeguarding.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	130.923	129.259		

Most changes have been discussed with and approved by Darwin Initiative, others are pending to report soon.

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		

Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)	

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (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).

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)
Video	(Friends of Felids) AMFE promotional video	Amigos de Felinos pilot communities, based on their experience, motivate communities in similar situations to participate in the Contest and start roaring, Costa Rica. Credits (in video): UCR, CIBET, AMFE, Gente y Fauna, DINADECO, SPECIES, SOUL	@UniversidadCostaRica, @Amigosdefelinos, @CIBETUCR, @GenteyFauna @SavingCarnivores	Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Communities vulnerable to wildlife conflict receive benefits from surveillance of jaguar and puma interactions by competing for assistance in the affiliation into a national network of Friends of Felids marketing wildlife friendly production.</p>		<p>From the two selected winning communities, one was disqualified (CONFIDENTIAL: “Caño Negro”) and the other proceeded with implementation. “Las Brisas”, as the first direct beneficiary community, has the overall Friends of Felids scheme already set. Other participants of the first contest evidenced wildlife surveillance is perceived as a direct and indirect benefit.</p>	
<p>Outcome: Participation in a national contest motivates local development associations to assess and improve their initial wildlife governance status, particularly human-felid interactions in most vulnerable areas (buffer zones and biological corridors).</p>	<p>0.1 50% of finalists, that comply with location and interaction criteria and present the reapplication, will increase their score significantly (X2-test).</p> <p>0.2 Qualitative records will enrich policy discussions from the 3000 community development associations (ADIs in Spanish) nationally that may deliver hundreds of inquiries during the contest period (each iteration).</p> <p>0.3 People living in winner communities increase their Acceptability of jaguars and pumas and their Benefit perception, while their Risk perception decreases significantly from application to end of project (X2-test, gender specific analysis; baseline data will be first application results).</p>	<p>We implemented the first contest edition Apr-Sep with 15 contestants: most reapplicants (8 out of 13) changed their total score by at least 10 points, 7 increasing (53%) and 1 decreasing, and 2 showed no change (Annex 11).</p> <p>Codification of qualitative inquiries is in process. With an effort of 160h to date, all phone calls (59 calls) were transcribed and coded; chats and voice messages are pending (191, Annex 6). We identified 208 raw codes to date.</p> <p>Baseline data collection for the first contest is finished (pre-test on wildlife acceptance). A mean of 18 members (± 10) of 15 applicant communities filled an online interview for a total sample size of 300 interviewees (Annex 7). Database cleaning and organization are in process.</p>	<p>The second contest edition opens April 2023.</p> <p>Lessons learnt guide the adaptations for implementation of the second contest, for example: participation is by invitation to fewer communities, contest duration will be shorter, a first visit serves to explain guidelines in-depth, proof of individual commitment is required.</p> <p>Once all data gets base-coded, thematic coding is next. We now have a better estimation for the analytical effort in front of us, as well as clearer expectations of how this data will inform policy (local people requests, doubts, complaints, and so on).</p> <p>Collection of pre-test data from participants of the second iteration starts in April. Post-test data collection is planned to start in November 2023. For this project period we will only be able to present preliminary results.</p>

<p>Output 1. Improved capacity for finalist communities to score their wildlife governance status with evidence about coexistence with wildlife, including interactions and uses, achieved through the process of the contest.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of spatial and temporal positive and negative human-felid interactions identified by participant communities (i.e., environmental threats, livestock husbandry, and other coexistence behaviours).</p> <p>1.2 Number of sustainable coexistence practices and uses (existing and potential) of wildlife at participant communities, identified by participant communities, increases by the time of reapplication to the contest.</p>	<p>The 17 communities that sent applications made an effort to assess their wildlife governance status: looking for evidence, having community discussions, and consulting our call-center throughout the period (see Annex 6).</p> <p>Number of interactions: 179 for 13 finalist communities, 44 in Las Brisas and 25 in Caño Negro, during the contest period. After the contest in Las Brisas: one main poaching area detected, one bait-trap disassembled, 4 surveillance signs installed, one area of felid predation on pigs detected (evidence in corresponding field inspection report, available at request). After the contest in Caño Negro: three jaguar-tracks areas, two jaguar sightings posted by locals on social networks, three roaring jaguars reported, one possible felid attack on one cow, one poaching area detected (evidence in corresponding field inspection report, available at request).</p> <p>Number of interactions for pilot communities: 6 between Jan-Mar 2022, and 33 between Apr22-Mar23 for a total of 39.</p> <p>Five contestant communities increased scoring in good practices intensity, winning communities of this iteration did not show difference between application and reapplication reporting (Annex 11).</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 works as a data log manageable by the local monitoring teams, we need to systematize how the raw data gets easily processed for useful and timely interpretation. Indicator 1.2 was developed specifically for the contest process, for that it is appropriate, beyond this project we would like to improve it similarly to 1.1 as a log to monitor the performance of the practices.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Design of communication strategy as a two-fold process, one targeting communities to apply and other targeting a green market for supporting the eco-label.</p>	<p>The strategy for the first contest focused only on targeting communities and involving the public on recognition for participants, but the marketing focus was postponed. We received much positive feedback for the strategy.</p> <p>The strategy for the second contest is in progress and includes adaptations: messaging will focus on in-depth understanding of our guidelines, and highlighting the distinction between the Contest and the long-term commitment required for affiliation to Friends of Felids association (see Section 8). For this year, the strategy does include a marketing phase.</p>	<p>Strategic phases include invitation and support to participants, exposure of the invited communities, the awarding ceremony, and marketing. All supported by printed and digital materials, social networks, press and more.</p> <p>Complementary we will publicize progress by last year's winner and the pilot communities.</p>	

<p>Activity 1.2 Elaboration and validation of guidelines, scoring form on wildlife governance and other data collection instruments (measurement validity and reliability).</p>	<p>Completed for both contest iterations.</p> <p>Application and scoring forms were validated through cognitive testing, and expert review by CONAGEBIO and DINADECO representatives. Minor changes were required for the second contest, mostly to reduce extension and clarify criteria (Annexes 17 and 18).</p> <p>Guidelines were validated through expert review, including legal advisors of the University of Costa Rica and DINADECO. Major changes required for the second contest were approved by the legal team (Annex 16).</p> <p>Approval for the Ethics Committee at the University of Costa Rica was obtained.</p>	<p>As the second contest opens in April, guidelines and application form will be sent by email and WhatsApp to the invited communities. Data collection begins soon after, in early April.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3 Invitation dissemination, reception of applications with an assistance centre using different media to attend inquiries that are recorded for analysis, and selection of finalists.</p>	<p>Completed for first contest: press releases shared with 242 media contacts. Media coverage included several online, radio, and in-press publications (see section 3.1). Representatives from 48 different communities around the country contacted the call-center, 19 community organizations started the application process on the online platform, and 17 ended up submitting their application.</p> <p>Progress for the second contest: Communities to be invited have been selected based on its geographic location and experts' recommendations (either as in need of support or as exemplary efforts in coexistence). Priority was given to applicants of the first contest located in the geographic range defined.</p>	<p>Invitations were sent during the last days of March along with the guidelines. Next, we will open the call-center for inquiries.</p> <p>One change for this iteration is that only one round of applications will be received (no re-applications) after the field inspections. We decided instead to implement an initial short visit with representatives of invited communities to expand on the guidelines because a major limitation was found during the first contest about a careless read of that important document.</p> <p>In addition, there will be no finalists because there are few invited communities. See activity 1.5 below.</p>

<p>Activity 1.4 Field inspections from our experts, with key informants, to assist communities at verification and potential improvements in human-felid coexistence that increases scores on wildlife governance.</p>	<p>Completed for first contest: we carried out 2-day inspections visits to 15 finalist communities around the country. These add up to an effort of 26 field days total (including transfers between communities and rest periods). The inspections included a workshop focused on participatory improvement for the reapplication form, and a rapid socio-ecological assessment of evidence of the 5 application criteria (Annex 9).</p> <p>Planning for the second contest is in progress to spend more time per community.</p>	<p>Logistics are next for inspection visits to be implemented intensively in May.</p> <p>Our protocol for field inspections will have minor changes and we will have a practice session before its implementation to train assistants.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5 Reception of improved applications, selection of winners by an honorary guest panel, and awarding ceremony.</p>	<p>Completed for the first contest: we received 13 reapplications which were distributed between 24 judges, thus having 3-5 judges evaluating each applicant to select 2 winners (one per category). At the awarding ceremony 95 people attended (online transmission with 2000 views), among those, 28 representatives from winning communities, 11 from pilot communities, and representatives of 6 other applicant communities (see section 3.1).</p> <p>Planning for the second contest is in progress, juries will commit to scoring all applicants and have a group discussion session. For the ceremony adaptations include: earlier date and change in venue (see Section 8).</p>	<p>For the second iteration, reception of applications will close on 31st May.</p> <p>Next we have to invite jury members with some modifications and a need to incentivise a longer investment of time. The jury will assess applications between 1-19 June.</p> <p>We will soon hire an event manager as we did last year to support complex logistics. The Awarding Ceremony is set for 4 July (Costa Rica's National Wild Cat Day).</p>
<p>Output 2. Operational wildlife surveillance based on citizen science at winner communities, two in 2022 and two in 2023, become models at the national level under the network Amigos de Felinos.</p>	<p>2.1 At least one monthly update by locals during monitoring under the project, on status of the surveillance, spatial changes, and local responsible persons.</p>	<p>Jan-May 2022 the progress was slow, but in June 2022 the local monitoring coordinator was hired. She submitted monthly reports for the pilot communities and their interaction with the 2022 winning communities: sampling effort keeps 15-17 camera traps (average of 420 night-traps per month), team participation varies constantly (A mean of 8 members per month participating in the different tasks [active members 5 men and 8 women], and investing between 4.25 and 19.25 hours per week total (mean of 12hr, Annex 12), and photo-trapping results</p>

	<p>2.2 Sampling effort, by number of night-traps from active camera-trap stations located around the limits of each winner community, is maintained between 240-450 monthly from the monitoring start date to the duration of the project.</p> <p>2.3 Number of hours per week invested in relevant tasks by each local monitoring team with a goal of at least 10-hours per week (more needed depending on larger areas and local context) involving at least 4-6 members per community (with gender assessment).</p> <p>2.4 Grades from evaluations of participants for the modules are maintained over 8/10 points on average.</p> <p>2.5 Media exposure of the winner communities and their efforts as Amigos de Felinos increases after affiliation</p>	<p>are handled up to date. Indicators 2.2 and 2.3 are reported only for pilot communities. Progress on indicator activities at winner communities is detailed in the rows below.</p> <p>Grades for Caño Negro with 17 participants and 93 training hours: mean participation was 56 hours (range 93-18) and mean grade was 50% (range 14-81).</p> <p>Grades for Las Brisas with 31 total participants (with irregular attendance) and 133 training hours: mean participation was low (range 7-120 hours) and grades were difficult to assess (range 5-87).</p> <p>As baseline, most of the contestant communities did not have social media presence. We increased exposure for all during the first contest with at least 4 posts per community. These posts had variable reach with higher values related to the inspection visits (reach between 15 000 to 126 000 views). Additionally, each community was publicly recognized during the awarding ceremony (minute 40 to 45, FB live) and in the promotional video (Annex 5). Winning communities have received even more exposure since we posted about every step of implementation with them (Example 1 reached 4 300 people, and example 2 reached 1 105 people).</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1. Recruitment and induction of a local wildlife monitoring team during capacity building module 1 (workshops at communities).</p>		<p>For Caño Negro, 13 out of 17 participants were recruited for the local wildlife monitoring team. Induction was implemented from September to November. Regrettably, their involvement finished in January 2023, when the group was disqualified.</p> <p>For Las Brisas, 17 out of 27 participants were recruited for the local wildlife monitoring team. In their case, module 1 of induction had to be repeated three times to clarify several misunderstandings about the process. Induction was therefore implemented from September to February 2023.</p>	<p>Based on the diverse challenges of the 2022 induction, we will improve our teaching and learning guides and the didactic techniques.</p> <p>Several misunderstandings we are preventing since the beginning of the second contest, in relation to clarifying the difference between the actual contest and the commitment beyond the contest.</p>

<p>Activity 2.2. Participatory camera-trapping monitoring establishment under learning-by-doing capacity building sessions (module 2), including camera stations set up, equipment and data handling, surveillance and reporting.</p>	<p>Capacity building sessions for module 2 are finished at Caño Negro and Las Brisas.</p> <p>At Caño Negro (no longer active in the project, see Section 8) exploration for camera trap locations was carried out in October. In November, 13 people participated in the initial placement of 9 camera trap stations with a total of 35 hours invested in the field -not accounting for exploration- (evidence in fieldwork report, available at request). Cameras were later removed and collected when the group was disqualified from the contest.</p> <p>At Las Brisas, exploration was carried out Octubre-March with 15 people participating in the deployment of 9 camera trap stations around their community investing a total of 39 hours in the field (evidence in fieldwork report, available at request).</p>	<p>Six camera stations are pending permits for deployment within the indigenous territory or private properties. We expect to complete the camera arrangement in May. The relationship with the Indigenous territory is very challenging, and slow advances are the norm.</p> <p>Results by the wildlife monitoring team at Las Brisas are expected in May, and after that on a monthly basis.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3 Showcase of photo-trapping results as part of the communication campaign for the contest, with marketing components of visual identity, storytelling, real-time updates.</p>	<p>This activity was postponed for 2022 according to the communication strategy more focused in the role of local communities. Photos from the wild were used, but not highlighting wildlife as the main protagonist.</p>	<p>For the 2023 marketing component, we expect to cover this activity for the awarding event and the marketing phases.</p> <p>Colleagues are planning a parallel exhibition of photo-trapping images the day of the event in July.</p>
<p>Output 3. Consolidated network of communities that receive benefits as entrepreneurs that coexist with jaguars and pumas, with the four winners of this contest added to the pilot three existing at the beginning of 2021.</p>	<p>3.1 Rate of income to investment for members of the local team of entrepreneurs. Baseline to be set at the end of the induction at winning communities, we expect opportunistic spikes in sales during the period of this project (rate is likely to have a slow growing pace).</p> <p>3.2 Number of hours per week invested in relevant tasks by each local entrepreneurship team with a goal of at</p>	<p>Consolidation is a slow process. Only Las Brisas was successfully recruited and the Association is now under their challenges of restructuring their organizational model.</p> <p>Income and investment were difficult to register, with the local entrepreneurship coordinator failing in her reporting. Estimation of earnings was 100 000 CRC for individual sales, 350 000 CRC in fairs and 350 000 CRC in wholesales. Investment in supplies, utilities and labor considers only 200 000 CRC from our project. Income to investment rate was then 4.00 CRC. New volunteer coordinators will restart the register for the pilot communities and Las Brisas. A</p>

	<p>least 20-hours per week involving at least 5-8 members per community (with gender assessment).</p> <p>3.3 Grades from evaluations of participants for the modules are maintained over 8/10 points on average.</p> <p>3.4 At least one monthly update by locals, after the end of contest and until the end of the project, on the status of the intercommunity organization, planning, achievements, and division of responsibilities.</p> <p>3.5 Income from sales of products and services by customers reached by the campaign, increases monthly for the duration of the project.</p> <p>3.6 Number of partnerships and alliances built through the campaign increases during the project. Data disaggregated for local, national and regional partners. Baseline not available.</p>	<p>consultancy we will request soon will focus on strengthening the small business administration bases, including keeping controls up to date.</p> <p>Indicators 3.2 is reported only for pilot communities. Progress on indicator activities at winning communities is detailed in the rows below.</p> <p>See indicator 2.4 above regarding grades from evaluations of learning modules at winning communities.</p> <p>Monthly updates by Friends of Felids Association are on track, with written reports in charge of the hired local coordinators. The directive board reports verbally and keeps a minutes book of their meeting sessions. The monitoring coordinator has excellent performance in general, while the entrepreneurship coordinator does not perform satisfactorily.</p> <p>Since the start of implementation at winning communities, representatives of the Association have carried 5 visits among both communities; they also held 1 virtual intercommunity meeting to close the year 2022 with 80 attendees among the three communities (50 adults and 30 young people and children). One virtual meeting was held with Caño Negro representatives to negotiate their continuation in the project that resulted in the decision to disqualify them from the contest.</p> <p>Among other achievements, to date the Association has submitted 3 grant proposals: WWF Central America awarded, Mohamed bin Zayed Fund awarded, and Binnacle Fund pending. Administrative tasks are the weaker point for the Association due to lack of capacity and diverse social obstacles, advances to date include compliance with tax regulations, social security and accountability. However, mistakes on finances will impact Output 2 and Output 3 (see sections 3.2 and 3.4).</p> <p>Partnerships included the Ministry of Environment that included Friends of Felids and Gente y Fauna in their invitation list for events, the Debt-for-Nature Swap opened a new funding opportunity and several potential partners approached to apply in collaboration (a proposal to be sent mid April by Costa Rica Wildlife Foundation), the University of Chiriquí-Panamá sent a group of students to the pilot communities in 2022 and hosted a jaguar fest last February and a representation of Friends of Felids travelled to Panamá. The School of Sociology at the University of Costa Rica developed group projects in the course Sociological Research with 4 visits to the pilot communities. Other partners include: UACFel-SINAC, Conagebio, Mar a Mar, Upala Municipality, Tourism Chamber, Women Institute and Distance Education University training.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1 Recruitment and induction of a local entrepreneurs' team during capacity building module 1, that uses Amigos de Felinos as added value.</p>		<p>For Caño Negro, 10 out of 17 participants were recruited for the local entrepreneurship team. Induction was from September to November.</p>	<p>In Caño Negro we lost a great opportunity based in responsible ecotourism due to the increase in sightings of jaguars in the wetlands.</p>

	<p>For Las Brisas, 16 out of 27 participants were recruited for the local entrepreneurship team. Induction was therefore implemented from September to February 2023.</p> <p>Pilot communities maintained between 22-25 active members, but investing a range of 0-14 hours per week.</p>	<p>Most participants were guides or boat drivers. However, pressure to benefit only some touristic providers was part of the discussion that ended in the disqualification.</p> <p>In Las Brisas, local people has received several workshops on entrepreneurship that facilitates the use of the label, not many services are offered.</p>
Activity 3.2 Application of the eco-label to selected existing or potential products and services under learning-by-doing capacity building module 3 (development of identity, skill improvements, and reporting).	<p>Capacity building sessions for module 3 are finished at Caño Negro and Las Brisas.</p> <p>Application of the eco-label is delayed at Las Brisas since selection of products is in progress. This stage was not implemented at Caño Negro.</p>	<p>The local entrepreneurship team is soon deciding on the investment of the funds earned from the contest and products inspired by felids are getting nice quality, thanks to the existing skills of participants. Use of the label is planned for May and on.</p>
Activity 3.3 Showcase of advances in labelled products and services as part of the campaign for the contest, with marketing components of visual identity, storytelling, real-time updates.	See Activity 2.3	See Activity 2.3
Activity 3.4 Coordination of administrative tasks by winning community representatives meeting pre-existent Amigos de Felinos for capacity building related to commercialization and sustainability.	<p>Representatives of pilot communities (board members and local coordinators) have visited Las Brisas three times (October, January, and March) to support implementation of modules, and clarify inquiries regarding the scheme.</p> <p>Group WhatsApp chats facilitate communications, but in person meetings are preferred by all.</p>	<p>Annual assembly at pilot communities is set for the end of July, and we expect to facilitate in person and virtual participation of representatives from Las Brisas and winners of the second contest.</p> <p>The assembly will include the election of new board members for the period 2023-2025.</p>
Activity 3.5 Marketing for customer acquisition and alliances at local and national scale as part of the campaign aimed at generating financial benefits for the eco-label scheme.	This activity was postponed for 2022, marketing efforts were reduced to local retail by participants. Other project operations consumed our human resources causing this major delay.	Consultancies by Soul Communications and Yo Emprendedor will intensify efforts for the rest of the project.
Activity 3.6 Exploration and test of regional and potential global markets with development of partners and approach to e-commerce, also supporting a convenient and sustainable supply chain.	S.P.E.C.I.E.S. has been having high level conversations with prospective partners across the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the	In consultation with prospective partners and as much as possible, based on consumer-driven data, we

		<p>Zoological Association of America (ZAA), which combined host hundreds of retail gift shops across the entire United States. We have also been having discussions with the several independent retail vending corporations that manage these gift shops, as well as independent institutions. All of these companies and institutions are potential buyers of goods and products. Among the zoo institutional community, we have also assembled a group of individuals looking to address the import-export, supply chain, and production capacity challenges of selling sustainable goods from rural communities coexisting with wildlife around the world. After the first visit to Friends of Felids, ideas and challenges were better identified.</p>	<p>will identify the items with the greatest interest and potential for sale to partner clients and customers. We will also develop a general framework for communities regarding the distribution and sale of Friends of Felids products, with considerations for exporting, shipping, price, production, etc. Finally, we are hoping to broker relationships with three different institutions, companies, or retailers that are interested in regularly selling at least 3-5 different AdF goods, whether monthly, annually, or seasonally.</p>
<p>Output 4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Evidence supports the thesis that the eco-label reached the desired communities, and generated sustainable benefits that resulted in community-based wildlife management, with the contest as a marketing tool for scalability.</p>	<p>4.1 Change in scores of winner communities is higher than change in scores of not selected communities from time of application to the end of the project reflecting targeted impact.</p> <p>4.2 Scores for Perception of benefits increase in participants from application to the end of the project.</p> <p>4.3 Wildlife presence and relative abundance (with emphasis in jaguars, pumas) around the communities is maintained during this project term. Baseline to be determined in the three first months of surveillance.</p> <p>4.4 Ratio of wildlife pro-coexistence behaviour to threats to human-felid coexistence identified at each community increase monthly during implementation of the project.</p>	<p>(No statistical test) The winner of category 1 (Las Brisas) showed an increased total score between the application and reapplication (more than 10 points). Additionally, they increase their score in sections related to potential for entrepreneurship, potential for governance and importance of the site for conservation (sightings of jaguars, pumas, and other wildlife).</p> <p>The winner of category 2 (Caño Negro) did not show differences between the application and reapplication total score nor by section score. However, this community got the highest score by more than 20 points since their application, leaving little room for a significant difference at reapplication.</p> <p>Wildlife presence at pilot communities is maintained since the reactivation of the monitoring, with pumas and jaguars detected every other month and more frequently in recent months, particularly jaguars preying on domestic animals (Jan-Mar 2023, Annex 12).</p> <p>Ratio of wildlife pro-coexistence behaviour to threats was not yet estimated. However, we detected a recent increase of negative interactions (predation cases) at pilot communities, at least 5 cases between January and March. AMFE local coordinator collaborated with a UACFel officer and Panthera on the attention of all cases.</p>	

<p>Activity 4.1 Statistical analyses for monitoring of change in wildlife governance (including pro-coexistence behaviours) in relation with participation in the contest (from application and reapplication forms).</p>	<p>On progress for the first contest, see indicator 1.1, 1.2, and 4.1.</p>	<p>The changes for the second contest eliminate the reapplication form (Section 8).</p>
<p>Activity 4.2. Survey with structured questionnaire on Wildlife Acceptance Capacity (WAC) model to a sample of community members to assess relative change of individuals (pre- and post-test).</p>	<p>First iteration pre-test data already collected. Online interview was open to all applicant communities during 4 months (May to August), plus 2 more months for winner communities, and an extra effort of 3 field days to accomplish the minimum sample size (30) at Las Brisas. Pre-test sample size of 34 interviewees at category 1 winner, and 25 at category 2. See indicator 0.3 above</p>	<p>See indicator 0.3 above</p>
<p>Activity 4.3 Evaluation of learning-by-doing processes (media platforms tests) for each module at participant communities, disaggregated by gender and inclusion criteria.</p>	<p>Overall evaluations proved to general, they only provide a sense of involvement by participants but reflect social issues instead of the building of capacities. We delivered 11 Yaguarundi badges earn at Caño Negro (level 3), and 7 Tigrillo badges (basic level 1) at Las Brisas. See Annex 14.</p>	<p>We will improve evaluations, and probably will have to restructure measures of individual performance. Capacities for monitoring and entrepreneurship are increasingly evidenced by familiarity with the tasks.</p>
<p>Activity 4.4 Analysis of changes from wildlife photo-trapping (descriptive and statistical): list of species, curves of accumulation, relative abundance, interspecific interactions, and other ecologically relevant data.</p>	<p>For pilot communities, data processing is up to date, but further analyses are pending (see indicator 4.3 and Annex 12). For Las Brisas, baseline data collection started in March 2023.</p>	<p>First update on monitoring data from Las Brisas is expected in May 2023, we expect to collect three months for baseline data. At the end of the project period, only preliminary data will be available, as further analysis will require more time.</p>
<p>Activity 4.5 Performance analysis (using Mixed Methods) of the Amigos de Felinos scheme for winners to assist the fieldwork team if corrective actions are needed.</p>	<p>Activity is delayed to date, empirical real-time assessment of performance allows researchers to implement changes based on experience, however, deeper mix-methods will be required to feedback. It seems this approach does not work well in real-time.</p>	<p>We keep recording all occurrences as unstructured observations to complement other data collected for triangulation at the end of the project period.</p>

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: Communities vulnerable to wildlife conflict receive benefits from surveillance of jaguar and puma interactions by competing for assistance in the affiliation into a national network of Friends of Felids marketing wildlife friendly production. [Note: in red the most recent approved changes]			
<p>Outcome: Participation in a national contest motivates local development associations to assess and improve their initial wildlife governance status, particularly human-felid interactions in most vulnerable areas (buffer zones and biological corridors).</p>	<p>0.1 50% of finalists, that comply with location and interaction criteria and present the reapplication, will increase their score significantly (X2-test).</p> <p>0.2 Qualitative records will enrich policy discussions from the 3000 community development associations (ADIs in Spanish) nationally that may deliver hundreds of inquiries during the contest period (each iteration).</p> <p>0.3 People living in winner communities increase their Acceptability of jaguars and pumas and their Benefit perception, while their Risk perception decreases significantly from application to end of project (X2-test, gender specific analysis; baseline data will be first application results).</p>	<p>0.1 Application scoring form for the contest (2021 and 2022) filled by participant Associations, with remote support from our team. This form will assess initial conditions about wildlife governance; changes will be assessed in the reapplication scoring for finalists, and at the end of project for winners.</p> <p>0.2 Records of the content of communications with applicants through different media during the contest (coded qualitative database).</p> <p>0.3 Pre- and post-test results with a structured questionnaire on Wildlife Acceptance Capacity model, applied to a sample for each community (from list of each ADI’s members; 1:1 gender inclusion).</p>	<p>The contest offers attractive prizes for communities to participate, considering the health crisis.</p> <p>Contest guidelines for participants clarify the difference between item prices and the actual value and commitment to become part of the network of Friends of Felids.</p> <p>Relevant communities feel empowered and supported for applying.</p> <p>Existent community development associations (ADIs in Spanish) are searching opportunities for community development or have allies that present the opportunities to them.</p> <p>Sample size at winner communities allows testing.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Improved capacity for finalist communities to score their wildlife governance status with evidence about coexistence with wildlife, including interactions and uses, achieved through the process of the contest.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of spatial and temporal positive and negative human-felid interactions identified by participant communities (i.e., environmental threats, livestock husbandry, and other coexistence behaviours).</p> <p>1.2 Number of sustainable coexistence practices and uses (existing and potential) of wildlife at participant communities identified by participant communities increases by the time of reapplication to the contest.</p>	<p>1.1 Contest application and reapplication forms and its rubric of assessment.</p> <p>1.2 Field inspections by our experts with local representatives (inclusion of heterogeneous key informants, by gender and socio-economic characteristics), with notes and supporting information, such as images.</p>	<p>Application forms are validated (expert reviews, cognitive tests, and pilot test).</p> <p>Objective evidence is available for quantification and detection of interactions.</p> <p>Initial capacity to assess wildlife interactions is low, wildlife as a resource has no explicit management planning.</p>

<p>Output 2</p> <p>Operational wildlife surveillance based on citizen science at winner communities, two in 2022 and two in 2023, become models at the national level under the network Amigos de Felinos.</p>	<p>2.1 At least one monthly update by locals during monitoring under the project, on status of the surveillance, spatial changes, and local responsible persons.</p> <p>2.2 Sampling effort, by number of night-traps from active camera-trap stations located around the limits of each winner community, is maintained between 240-450 monthly from the monitoring start date to the duration of the project.</p> <p>2.3 Number of hours per week invested in relevant tasks by each local monitoring team with a goal of at least 10-hours per week (more needed depending on larger areas and local context) involving at least 4-6 members per community (with gender assessment).</p> <p>2.4 Grades from evaluations of participants for the modules are maintained over 8/10 points on average.</p> <p>2.5 Media exposure of the winner communities and their efforts as Amigos de Felinos increases after affiliation.</p>	<p>2.1 Technical report of camera-trapping including camera stations arrangement and status (active, lost, removed), night-traps, main species captured, local participation, field experiences, and mapping of the area.</p> <p>2.2 Database of effort in hours of participation by person (accounting for gender and inclusion data), specifying tasks such as practices, stations maintenance, group coordination, data collection and surveillance.</p> <p>2.3 Learning modules (1 and 2) reports and evaluations to improve retention and reflection of content.</p> <p>2.4 Communications and media technical report with data on press efforts and media hits, showcase and storytelling events, publicity estimate, and social media analytical tools</p>	<p>Support from the Ministry of Environment is maintained.</p> <p>Private landowners participate by allowing access for wildlife monitoring.</p> <p>Adequate health protocols allow implementation of in person activities to complement remote learning.</p> <p>Access to digital communications by participants supports remote implementation of activities with the project team. Costa Rica has good coverage and improved internet and phone networks for most sites.</p> <p>Complementary means of communications overcome any technological limitations.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Consolidated network of communities that receive benefits as entrepreneurs that coexist with jaguars and pumas, with the four winners of this contest added to the pilot three existing at the beginning of 2021.</p>	<p>3.1 Rate of income to investment for members of the local team of entrepreneurs. Baseline to be set at the end of the induction at winning communities, we expect opportunistic spikes in sales during the period of this project (rate is likely to have a slow growing pace).</p> <p>3.2 Number of hours per week invested in relevant tasks by each local entrepreneurship team with a goal of at least 20-hours per week involving at</p>	<p>3.1 Technical report and database of productivity: inventories (inputs/outputs), costs/sales, reinvestment, local labour, etc.</p> <p>3.2 Database of effort in hours of participation by person (accounting for gender and inclusion data), specifying tasks such as practice, creative design, acquisition of materials, group coordination, production, promotion, events, etc.</p>	<p>Market for fair trade and eco-labels gradually recovers from the global crisis.</p> <p>Local leadership assumes wildlife management under the scheme.</p> <p>Earnings from production under the label generate enough utilities for supporting both conservation and</p>

	<p>least 5-8 members per community (with gender assessment).</p> <p>3.3 Grades from evaluations of participants for the modules are maintained over 8/10 points on average.</p> <p>3.4 At least one monthly update by locals, after the end of contest and until the end of the project, on the status of the intercommunity organization, planning, achievements, and division of responsibilities.</p> <p>3.5 Income from sales of products and services by customers reached by the campaign, increases monthly for the duration of the project.</p> <p>3.6 Number of partnerships and alliances built through the campaign increases during the project. Data disaggregated for local, national and regional partners. Baseline not available.</p>	<p>3.3 Learning modules (1 and 3) reports and evaluations to improve retention and reflection of content.</p> <p>3.5 Communications and media technical report of marketing analysis with Key Performance Indicators (KPI): reach and return of investment from customers and alliances, and Social Media Analytics (more precise indicators will be part of the design of the communication strategy-activity 1.1).</p>	<p>development components of the scheme.</p> <p>DINADECO maintains support to the community development associations.</p> <p>The association Amigos de Felinos maintains activity and facilitates affiliation of new communities to conform the network.</p>
<p>Output 4 Monitoring and Evaluation: Evidence supports the thesis that the eco-label reached the desired communities, and generated sustainable benefits that resulted in community-based wildlife management, with the contest as a marketing tool for scalability.</p>	<p>4.1 Change in scores of winner communities is higher than change in scores of not selected communities from time of application to the end of the project reflecting targeted impact.</p> <p>4.2 Scores for Perception of benefits increase in participants from application to the end of the project.</p> <p>4.3 Wildlife presence and relative abundance (with emphasis in jaguars, pumas) around the communities is maintained during this project term. Baseline to be determined in the three first months of surveillance.</p> <p>4.4 Ratio of wildlife pro-coexistence behaviour to threats to human-felid coexistence identified at each</p>	<p>4.1 Scoring form for the contest reapplied for 2022 participants (2023 participants will need follow up beyond this project)</p> <p>4.2 Pre-and post-test results with a structured questionnaire on Wildlife Acceptance Capacity model, applied to a sample for each community (from list of each ADI's members; 1:1 gender inclusion).</p> <p>4.3 Technical report and database of photo-trapping (standard spreadsheet for detections, date, location, species, behaviour).</p> <p>4.4 Monthly report and database of human-wildlife interactions by wildlife surveillance teams (including</p>	<p>Coverage of the project reaches large audiences at the national and regional level.</p> <p>Political powers keep allowing democratic participation, autonomy of academy and community initiatives to disseminate results (no interference).</p> <p>Standards of scientific quality are maintained or increased for interdisciplinary studies.</p>

	community increase monthly during implementation of the project.	photographic record of activities, reports of poaching, felid predation, wildlife sightings, and more).	
<p>Activities</p> <p>1.1 Design of communication strategy as a two-fold process, one targeting communities to apply and other targeting a green market for supporting the eco-label.</p> <p>1.2 Elaboration and validation of guidelines, scoring form on wildlife governance and other data collection instruments (measurement validity and reliability).</p> <p>1.3 Invitation dissemination, reception of applications with an assistance centre using different media to attend inquiries that are recorded for analysis, and selection of finalists.</p> <p>1.4 Field inspections from our experts, with key informants, to assist communities at verification and potential improvements in human-felid coexistence that increases scores on wildlife governance.</p> <p>1.5 Reception of improved applications, selection of winners by an honorary guest panel, and awarding ceremony.</p> <p>2.1 Recruitment and induction of a local wildlife monitoring team during capacity building module 1 (workshops at communities).</p> <p>2.2 Participatory camera-trapping monitoring establishment under learning-by-doing capacity building sessions (module 2), including camera stations set up, equipment and data handling, surveillance and reporting.</p> <p>2.3 Showcase of photo-trapping results as part of the communication campaign for the contest, with marketing components of visual identity, storytelling, real-time updates.</p> <p>3.1 Recruitment and induction of a local entrepreneurs' team during capacity building module 1, that uses Amigos de Felinos as added value.</p> <p>3.2 Application of the eco-label to selected existing or potential products and services under learning-by-doing capacity building module 3 (development of identity, skill improvements, and reporting).</p> <p>3.3 Showcase of advances in labelled products and services as part of the campaign for the contest, with marketing components of visual identity, storytelling, real-time updates.</p> <p>3.4 Coordination of administrative tasks by winner community representatives meeting pre-existent Amigos de Felinos for capacity building related to commercialization and sustainability.</p> <p>3.5 Marketing for customer acquisition and alliances at local and national scale as part of the campaign aimed at generating financial benefits for the eco-label scheme.</p> <p>3.6 Exploration and test of regional and potential global markets with development of partners and approach to e-commerce, also supporting a convenient and sustainable supply chain.</p> <p>M&E</p> <p>4.1 Statistical analyses for monitoring of change in wildlife governance (including pro-coexistence behaviors) in relation with participation in the contest (from application and reapplication forms).</p> <p>4.2 Survey with structured questionnaire on Wildlife Acceptance Capacity (WAC) model to a sample of community members to assess relative change of individuals (pre- and post-test).</p> <p>4.3 Evaluation of learning-by-doing processes for each module at participant communities, disaggregated by gender and inclusion criteria.</p> <p>4.4 Analysis of changes from wildlife photo-trapping (descriptive and statistical): list of species, curves of accumulation, relative abundance, interspecific interactions, and other ecologically relevant data.</p> <p>4.5 Performance analysis (using Mixed Methods) of the Amigos de Felinos scheme for winners to assist the fieldwork team if corrective actions are needed.</p>			

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	At least 15 people per winner community are recruited and complete the capacity building modules on the Amigos de Felinos scheme related to local wildlife monitoring and use of the ecolabel as added value. (Adults only)	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	Women, Men Same people receiving 2 types of training	0	44 (20 women, 24 men)		44 (20 women, 24 men)	74 (39 women, 35 men)
DI-A03	Project feedback will promote improvement on capacity at Friends of Felids pilot communities and at applicant communities to the Contest	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of the project.	Number of organisations	Local community organization	1	15		16	24
DI-A04	At least 5 people per town affiliated to the network will report applying new capabilities 6 months after training. At least 5 interns and assistants report use of new skills 6 months after training.	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. *Risk of double counting with DI-A01	People	Women, Men Women, Men	0 0	14 (10 women, 4 men) 7 (4 women, 3 men)		14 (10 women, 4 men) 7 (4 women, 3 men)	30 (20 women, 10 men) 9 (3 men, 6 women)
DI-B03	Association statutes, procedures and implementation scheme is available to network communities and endorsed by representatives from the Ministry of Environment. Baseline: No management plan	Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.	Number	In Spanish, focussed on human-wildlife coexistence	0	0		0	1
DI-B05	Friends of Felids promotes an increased participation in community and wildlife governance among all of its	Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).	People	Women, Men	0	41 (30 women, 14 men)		41 (30 women, 14 men)	71 (45 women, 29 men)

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	members at pilot and winning communities	*Risk of double counting with DI-A01 and DI-A04							
DI-C12	Friends of Felids Facebook and Instagram accounts increased followers and reach through the project period	Social Media presence	Number	Followers/year Facebook (FB), Instagram (IG) Reach/year Facebook (FB), Instagram (IG)	2 004 (1046 on Fb, 958 on IG) 63 829 (55506 on FB, 8323 on IG)	2 851 (1611 on FB, 1240 on IG) 985 919 (844610 on FB, 141309 on IG)		2 851 (1611 on FB, 1240 on IG) 985 919 (844610 on FB, 141309 on IG)	3 400 (1950 on FB, 1450 on IG) 1 050 000 (900000 on FB, 150000 on IG)
DI-C15	Media coverage will increase Contest exposure	Number of Media related activities	Number	National digital	0	11		11	13
DI-C19	Communication campaign products will promote and clarify participation	Number of other publications produced.	Number	Publicity videos Guidelines	0 1	1 1		1 2	2 2
DI-D04	Wildlife occurrence/presence and relative abundance (with emphasis in jaguars, pumas) around the communities is maintained during this project term. Baseline to be determined in the three first months of surveillance.	Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/distribution) within the project area.	% Increase	Pilot communities Winner community iteration 1	Collecting baseline N/A	Population maintained Collecting baseline		Population maintained Collecting baseline Statistical analyses not yet performed	Population maintained Population maintained
DI-D15	Number of spatial and temporal negative human-wildlife interactions reported by Friends of Felids communities. Only cases with evidence provided are included.	Net change in incidences of human wildlife conflict.	Number	Poaching, predation on domestic animals	0	19 (3 poaching, 16 predation)		19 (3 poaching, 16 predation)	N/A N/A
DI-D16	Scores for Perception of benefits increase in	Number of people reporting improved livelihoods.	People	Women, Men	0	0		Statistical analyses not	N/A

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	participants from application to the end of the project.				0	0		yet performed	N/A

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)
Guidelines 2022	Terms and conditions	Concurso Amigos de Felinos. 2022	Female	Costa Rica	CIBET-UCR, San José	http://amigosdefelinos.com/concurso/assets/doc/Lineamientos_CAF.pdf
Amigos de Felinos Learning Guide*	Manual	Amit, R., I. Azofeifa. y N. Valverde-Zúñiga. 2022	Female	Costa Rica	CIBET-UCR, San José	https://www.kerwa.ucr.ac.cr/handle/10669/87824
Roaring communities*	Promotional video	Soul Communication and Amigos de Felinos. 2022	N/A	Costa Rica	Youtube.com	https://youtu.be/g66aRZtHyvA
What's on the horizon for community-based conservation? Emerging threats and opportunities.	Scientific paper	Esmail, N., McPherson, J. M., Abulu, L., Amend, T., Amit, R., Bhatia, S., ... & Wintle, B. (2023).	Female	Kenya	<i>Trends in Ecology & Evolution</i> . Elsevier	https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347(23)00037-X

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?	Y
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	N
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.	Y
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.	Y
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	N
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	n/a
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y&N
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	