



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



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Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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

1. Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	DIR28S1\1174 (29-018)
Project title	Promotion of coexistence in human-elephant conflict hotspots in Northeast India
Country/ies	India
Lead Organisation	British Asian Trust
Project partner(s)	Aaranyak
Darwin Initiative grant value	£585,619
Start/end dates of project	01 June 22/31 March 25 (Extended until June 2025)
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 - March 2025 Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Belinda Stewart-Cox
Project website/blog/social media	N/A uses British Asian Trust and Aaranyak social media handles
Report author(s) and date	British Asian Trust: Belinda Stewart-Cox, Auro Shashwat, Caroline Abraham; Aaranyak: Bibhuti P Lahkar, Alolika Sinha, Zakir Islam Bora, Rubul Tanti, Rimpee Moran

2. Project summary

Human-elephant conflict (HEC) affects both elephants and the well-being of people in shared landscapes. The states of Assam and Meghalaya in Northeast India are strongholds of the Asian elephant population, and there has been an upsurge in HEC in these states. HEC impacts the food and nutrition security of people, threatening their lives and livelihoods. This leads to retaliatory killings of elephants, undermining conservation efforts. Most HEC incidents are prevalent in rural areas, affecting marginalised people with low incomes.

Through this project, we applied the IUCN SSC Guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence in 20 target villages across six HEC-affected districts in Assam and Meghalaya. We have been working to increase incomes for 600 households, ensuring improved protection for Asian elephants and other threatened species through conservation education, stakeholder

capacity building, local community empowerment, and HEC mitigation tools like seasonal solar-powered electric fences, solar streetlights, and nature-based solutions such as bio-fences using Assam lemon. In protecting livelihoods and increasing incomes, the project reduces poverty while simultaneously protecting elephants and minimizing biodiversity loss.

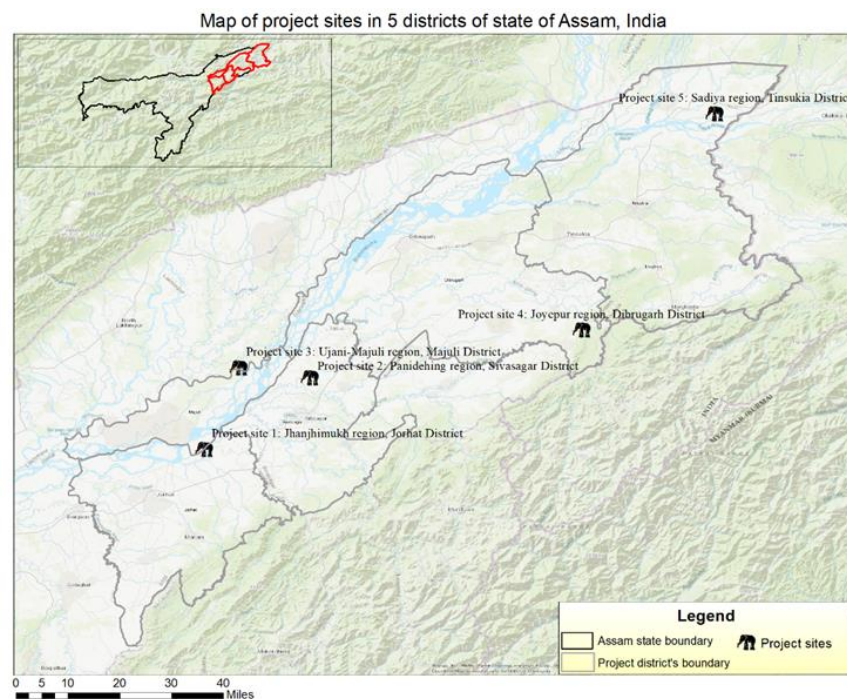


Figure 1. Target villages across five districts (Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia) in eastern Assam

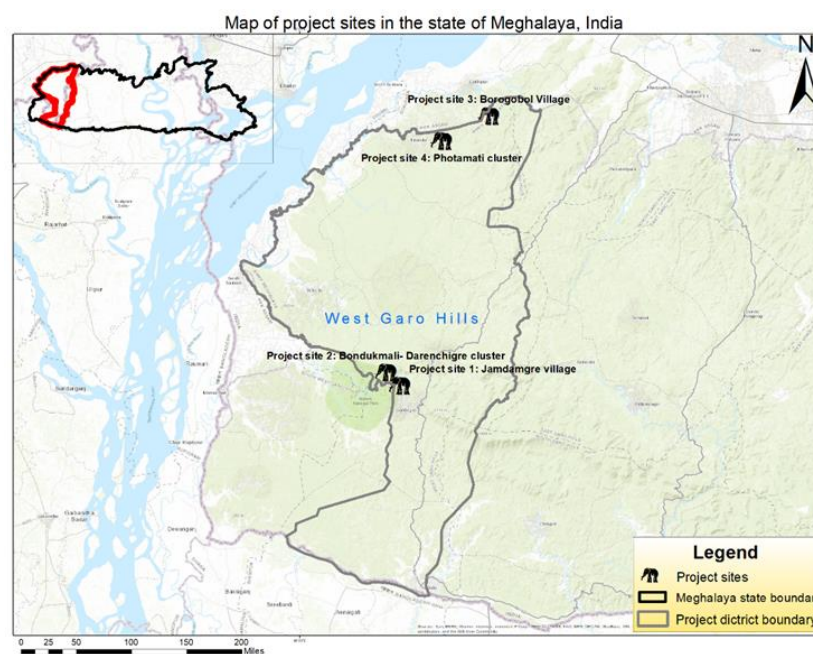


Figure 2. Target villages in West Garo hills District of Meghalaya

3. Project stakeholders/ partners

The British Asian Trust is working with our local partner, Aaranyak, to implement project activities on the ground. We work closely, conducting regular field visits, interacting with relevant stakeholders including local communities, and discuss the way forward consultatively. The Trust, as Project Lead, is responsible for the overall Programme and Grant Management, monitoring and data verification, capacity building and regional/cross sectoral learning. Aaranyak, as the implementing partner, is responsible for on-ground project activities, local stakeholder management, and monitoring and evaluation. We hold regular reviews to ensure the project responds to learnings and changes in context.

The project is not just a collaboration between the Trust and Aaranyak, but also with local communities and other stakeholders, including the local government. The project works with host country institutions, as demonstrated in both Assam and Meghalaya, where the primary government line departments (i.e., Forest Department) are involved in implementing the activities. Other departments and establishments involved include Krishi Vigyan Kendra (a research based agricultural centre, National Agricultural Research System), Dibrugarh University, Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. (APDCL), Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), media and others.

Local communities and other stakeholders, including local governments were actively involved in identifying target villages alongside the project team. We followed a bottom-up, participatory approach to select 600 beneficiaries and their alternative livelihoods. We regularly engage with them and the community and their affinity to the project is an important indicator of success.

4. Project progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Profiling the problem and building evidence

Activity 1.1 to 1.4: Completed in the Year 1.

Activity 1.5- Monitoring of HEC in and around Project village: The project team, Rapid Response Unit (RRUs) members, and the village champions monitor incidents of human-elephant conflict and the movement of elephants in and around the project villages (details in section 3.1). In the last year, we recorded 47 (compared to 64 incidents in Y2) incidents of crop damage in the 20 project villages, affecting around 23.31 acres, while another five incidents were recorded outside the project villages. A total of 18 incidents of property damage (compared to 16 incidents in Y2) were recorded in the project villages. The increase can be attributed to multiple incidents in a single day by elephants. Another 11 incidents were recorded outside project villages. During this reporting period, a man from a project village was injured during an encounter with a wild elephant inside the national park (Annexure 4). We also documented the presence of other wildlife through direct sightings or indirect evidence (Annexure 5).

Activity 1.6- Data analysis and report writing: All the data collected and collated during the three-year project period will be analysed and presented with the final report. The team participated in a day-long training on 'Data Management' by the Centre of Management Studies, Dibrugarh University to learn about data compilation and interpretation.

Output 2: Promoting security for people and elephants by raising awareness

Activity 2.1- Recruit village champion: Completed in Year 1

Activity 2.2 -Conduct workshops for education strategy and IEC:
Completed in Year 1

Activity 2.3-Developing IEC materials: During this reporting period, an audio-visual form of the existing information education and communications (IEC) material of "Gajah Kotha" (our

signature outreach campaign) was developed to disseminate information as well as a booklet. Moreover, we published a handbook on solar fences as one of the primary IEC materials in the local language (Details in 3.8). We had a target of 100,000 people across variety of channels, and we've reached 100,540 people till date.

Activity 2.4- Train Village Champions- We completed training for the village champions (VCs) in Y2. We organised an exposure trip to Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape in Assam this year to further build their capacity. 11 VCs from eastern Assam and the West Garo Hills in Meghalaya with the Aaranyak project team participated in this tour, interacting with the indigenous Karbi community on eco-tourism models, agroforestry, sericulture, and handicraft. Another important session was with local entrepreneurs on local knowledge and products that contribute to sustainable livelihood sources. This trip made an impact on the VCs who now understand how eco-tourism and community-led initiatives protect biodiversity and livelihoods.

Activity 2.5- Conduct awareness: An outreach campaign called “*Gajah Kotha*” (*Mongma Golpo* in Garo), which translates to elephant stories, was designed to generate awareness among the local communities and students. With two phases, the first highlighting basic elephant ecology, the cultural relevance, elephants’ protection, and conservation status. Phase II delves into drivers of HEC, mitigating HEC with tried and tested measures, and highlights how people can coexist with elephants. During this reporting period, we conducted 46 Gajah Kotha events, reaching out to 1,963 people directly (730 men, 691 women and 542 students) (Annexure 6).

To build local communities' capacity, particularly among women, we collaborated with the Civil Defence Department and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to impart hands-on training on first aid, reaching 515 villagers, of whom 62% were women (Annexure 7). The Assam Chief Minister's office account shared the news of this training on the social media site Twitter (X). We conducted other outreach events reaching 4167 people directly (Annexure 8). We assume that each person is likely to have shared their knowledge with their family members (an average family of four). Hence, we estimate we have reached 26,472 people indirectly. With multiple outreach events in each village, we have reached more than 80% households (Annexure 4).

Over the course of the 3-year project period to date, we have reached over 20,100 people directly (approximately 4,020 households) through a variety of outreach and awareness activities, as well as over 80,400 people indirectly. This number does not include the reach of the eight radio programmes in the last two years and, as such, we anticipate our target for this activity of reaching over 100,000 people and 1,200 – 1,300 households to have been exceeded.

Activity 2.6- Monitoring by village champions: The village champions along with the project team undertake surveys in the villages to monitor the measures adopted by the villagers to mitigate HEC incidents. During the reporting period, 31 incidents of elephant visits were recorded, and the VCs made 114+ visits to understand the current practices of HEC mitigation and suggest safer measures as needed (Details in Annexure 9).

Activity 2.7- Impact of Awareness: For the outreach campaign “*Gajah Kotha/Mongma Golpo*” conducted to raise awareness on elephants and HEC mitigation, a pre- and post-session evaluation was conducted. We evaluated 22 of the conducted sessions and noted a 7.4% increase in the number of questions attempted indicating improvement in people's knowledge.

Activity 2.8- Media Workshops: During the reporting period, we organised a workshop on HEC mitigation through media for the journalists in Dibrugarh district with the Dibrugarh Press Club, Greater Dibrugarh Press Club and Naharkatia Press Club. 15 journalists attended the workshop and followed up by publishing articles highlighting the need of positive human-elephant conflict stories in their respective news/media outlets (Annexure 16).

Aaranyak's project lead Bibhuti P Lahkar was a panellist during a media roundtable moderated by project member Alolika Sinha, organised by the ClimateRISE Alliance, which highlighted critical issues of human-wildlife interactions. More than 20 journalists from national and regional

publications attended – Doordarshan Kendra, News 18 Assam & NE, Dainik Janambhumi, NE Live, TV9, Asian News International, and Central Bureau of Communication.

Activity 2.9- Radio shows: Radio is an important means of communications in rural Assam. We participated in a live radio talk show on 1st June 2024 through which we interacted with people of Assam as they asked questions related to HEC, its mitigation measures, and others. The show reached across Assam, as evident from the locations of listeners (Plate 1- map). The panel from Aaranyak included Bibhuti Lahkar, Jayanta Pathak, Zakir Bora and Rimpee Moran.

The second radio programme was broadcast on 3rd June 2024 where project team members Rubul Tanti and Niranjan Bhuyan discussed human-elephant conflict mitigation using solar-powered electric fence and nature-based solutions. A crew from All-India Radio, Dibrugarh centre, visited our project village and captured stories of people affected by HEC and how the project is mitigating it that aired in two half-hour sessions starting on 3rd March.

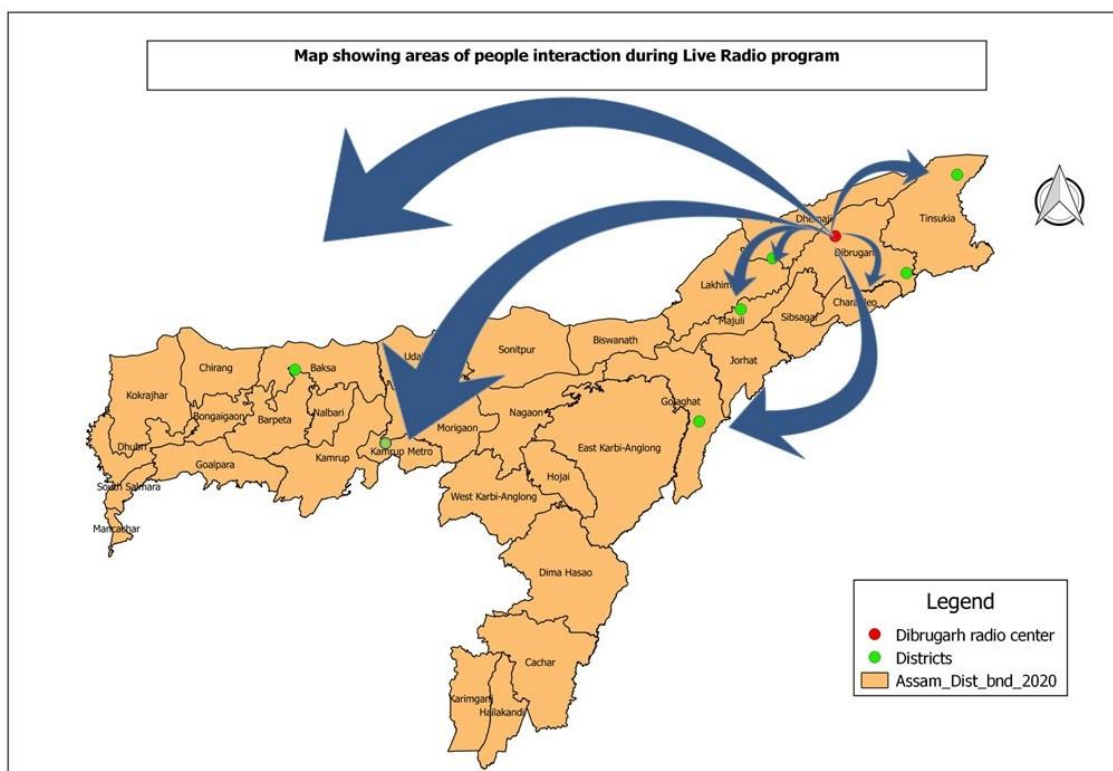


Plate 1. The map depicting the reach of the radio programme

Output 3: Protecting livelihoods and assets

Activity 3.1- Hold dialogues with local communities: Completed in the Year 1

Activity 3.2- Village Fence Committee (VFC): A total of nine village fence committees were formed and trained in the last three years. During this reporting period, two VFC trainings were conducted on 24th and 25th September in the villages of Hatisal Chapori and Sagunpara of Jorhat district, training a total of 124 villagers, 62 in each village.

Activity 3.3.- Seed Funding: The project team held discussions with the VFC members and decided to provide seed money for fence maintenance to registered bank accounts. After facilitating the opening of bank accounts, the team will transfer the money by May 2025.

Activity 3.4- Formation of Rapid Response Unit: We currently have around 398 people engaged with these RRUs to cover all 20 project villages. For ease of management, we have divided them into 10 RRUs instead of 20 as mentioned in the log frame. This year, a total of 123 alerts were sent out in the WhatsApp group (Annexure 10) by the RRU members. Given their effectiveness the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Dibrugarh was keen to merge them with the anti-depredation squad (ADS) by the Assam Forest Department. So, the RRU in Dibrugarh

merged with ADS, comprising 58 members to manage HEC-alerts across 11 villages (including the three project villages) in the area. The total strength now stands at 437. This is a commendable indicator of the success of the programme.

Activity 3.5- Training to RRUs: Completed in Y2

Activity 3.6: Produce a best practice manual: Our field experience showed that instead of publishing a best practice manual, a PowerPoint presentation with the same information is more effective and easier to access, and we can use it while training the RRUs.

Activity 3.7: Provide the RRUs/ADS with field gear: To boost morale and to aid in monitoring of elephants in their vicinity, we provided RRU members with a field kit. In eastern Assam, the RRUs received 292 raincoats, 280 T-shirts, 285 caps and 295 field shoes this year. While in West Garo hills, a total of 24 t-shirts, shoes, caps and raincoats were provided.

Activity 3.8: Solar fence manual: A handbook on low-cost solar fencing was published and launched by Ms. Nandita Gorlosa, Cabinet Minister for Power, Sports & Youth Welfare, ITFC (Archaeology), along with two Padma Shri awardees (4th highest civilian award of the Govt. of India) - Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma and Shrimati Parbati Barua (the first woman Mahout from India). 500 copies were distributed to the VFCs, RRUs, villagers and Government officials.

Activity 3.9: Solar fence installation: During this reporting period we installed 30.1 km of solar fences that helped protect 1,937 acres of paddy field, and INR 8,31,73,200/- (GBP800k) worth of paddy in Jorhat. In Sibsagar, 13 km of solar fence protected 97.5 acres of paddy fields worth INR 34,32,000/- (GBP34k). Two solar fences of 2 and 2.1 km in Tinsukia protected 32.5 acres of fields. The solar fences of 13.1 km in Majuli, Sadiya and Borogobol (West Garo hills) were reinstalled during this reporting period. In the last two years, we have installed 60.2 km of seasonal solar fences. The remaining 20 km will be installed in June 2025.

Activity 3.10- Effectiveness of the solar fences: The project team, along with VCs, monitor the solar fences regularly to check for damage. The 47.1 km seasonal solar fence helped protect paddy worth Rs. 9.66 crore (GBP1 million), and other crops worth Rs. 2.06 crores/ GBP200k (Annexure 11). All the fences installed last year were reinstalled, indicating their efficacy. Prior to fence installation, around 0.6 acres of croplands (750 kgs of paddy) were foraged by elephants.

Output 4: Promoting supplementary livelihoods

Activity 4.1-Supplementing Livelihood: Completed in year 1

Activity 4.2. Beneficiary Selection: Completed in year 1

Activity 4.3- Livelihoods capacity building, materials, evaluation and documentation: During this reporting period, weaving training was organised for 22 women who were provided 85 kgs of yarn. 24 households opting for Areca nut plantation were supported with 150 saplings each while 14 households cultivating Assam lemon were supported with 300 saplings each. 25 people trained in mushroom cultivation and received 18 kg of oyster mushroom spores.

Seven people chose small business and were supported with supplies worth Rs. 10,000/- each (GBP100). In eastern Assam, we conducted six trainings for 102 weavers to scale handloom products, and 21 people trained earlier received 5 kgs of yarn each in Jeypore (N=5), Haldhibari (N=5), Sagunpara (N=10), and one in Hatisal village. A participant in Haldhibari opted to weave *Eri* silk and was supported with 1.5 kg yarn sourced from her village. In Bejorchiga and Hatisal villages, 29 participants were supported with winter crops. Three beneficiaries in Chamorajan village trained on vermicompost and were supported with three units of compost while three participants in Jeypore, and Garo hills were supported with carpentry tools.

In Tinsukia, 12 households were supported with 50kg of potato each, while two participants received 2 kg of mustard seed each. 52 households from Tinsukia, Majuli, Dibrugarh and Jorhat

were supported with winter crops. 34 households from the project villages of Jorhat were supported with 1900 kg of potatoes. Six participants from Hatisal village received 1100 lemon saplings and two from Dibrugarh were supported to set up small businesses. Many were affected by the flood, especially ginger, lemon and ghost chilli crops. Nine participants lost their lemon saplings and only 500 of 4500 saplings in Jorhat survived (Details in annexure 12).

Activity 4.4 – Provide materials and tools needed to implement the livelihood options: Details included in activity 4.3.

Activity 4.5 – Provide help to establish a system to process, add value and market the products: We have developed a database of existing Government schemes and are currently exploring how to leverage them for the livelihoods that we support. The project participants have access to markets to sell their products locally and have earned an income by this means.

Activity 4.6 – Link the livelihood beneficiaries to government schemes: Same as above

Activity 4.7-Conduct annual evaluation and impact assessments: We regularly (at least once every quarter) monitor project participants to ensure sustainability and provide support.

Activity 4.8- Document the case studies and share knowledge: The Trust has written three blogs published on both the Trust and Elephant Family (the Trust's conservation organ adopted following a merger in 2019) websites. Posts are published across our social media, with a combined reach of 55,000+ followers, reaching reached > 3,68,000 accounts via Instagram and Facebook. Updates are shared via Elephant Family's newsletter with 19,000+ subscribers, bi-annual update to 200+ supporters, and the Trust's update to stakeholders in UK and India including 600+ supporters. Case studies were shared at the Trust's Annual Dinner attended by 300 supporters, and Elephant Family's Big Egg Hunt with 43,000+ participants. (Annexure 16)

Output 5: Sharing knowledge and building capacity

Activity 5.1: Join village meeting to share findings: To apprise the villagers of project progress and findings, we conducted 20 village-level consultation meetings in between July and September. In July, the village meetings were held at No. 1 Basagaon in Sadiya with around 29 people, in Bejorchiga with 72 villagers, and Gazera with 113 people. In August, we conducted such village meetings in No. 2 Basagaon and Nabasa Gaon villages, which were attended by 49 and 57 people, respectively. Padumphula and Charaguwa Grant village meetings were attended by 76 and 42 people respectively. We also met with the women of the Haldhibari village to gain historical insight of HEC and understand impact beyond physical damage.

Similarly, in West Garo Hills in Meghalaya, we conducted four meetings with local villagers from 11-14 September. The consultation and appraisal meetings were held at Bordubi in Photamati Cluster, Borogobal village, Bondukmali and in Jamdamgre village in West Garo Hills, sharing how their support is mitigating HEC and take feedback from them.

Activity 5.2 Prepare reports/journal articles: To understand how HEC through crop foraging by wild elephants impacts the nutrition intake and dietary pattern of women, we conducted a study in conflict-affected villages of Jorhat with Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The data is being analysed, and the study findings will be shared with the final report.

Activity 5.3 – Hold workshops/seminars to share project findings: During an international conference on HEC management held on 12th August 2024 by the Karnataka Forest Department in Bangalore, India, Anjan Baruah discussed seasonal solar fencing and was awarded as one of the three "best practices" presented. Rubul Tanti presented a poster on RRUs in this conference, and at the Student Conference on Conservation Science, Bangalore, September 2024. Rubul Tanti and Alolika Sinha presented the work during webinars by Friends of Elephants, The Wildlife Academy and Gaja Conservation Trust. Aaranyak's Bibhuti Lahkar and Alolika Sinha met the

British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, and Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. Andrew Fleming, to discuss HEC and the need for biodiversity conservation.

We worked on building team capacity in conducting conservation projects. The team attended a two-day refresher workshop on “Applied Environment Education” on 11th and 12th July 2024 at Extension Education Institute NE region, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara Guwahati. They also visited the Trust’s partner’s Holématthi Nature Information Centre in Karnataka where they received hands-on training on conservation education for school students and understood how the centre generated awareness among local communities.

Activity 5.4 – Conduct an exchange study-trip to BAT’s HEC intervention in Myanmar:
Completed in year 2.

4.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Profiling the problem and building evidence: *Specific data gathered and analysed for the 6 target districts, including on the human population and local biodiversity, focusing primarily on elephants, HEC, and other rare species*

The activities under this output were completed in Y1 and Y2, and all the indicators were met. The project team/RRUs/VCs continue to monitor elephant movement and HEC incidents in and around the project villages. During this reporting period, we recorded 47 incidents of crop damage in project villages affecting 23.31 acres of crop fields and five incidents outside of the project area. 18 incidents of property damage were recorded in project villages, 11 incidents outside, and one was person injured by wild elephants (Details in Annexure 4). Using the information gathered from our regular monitoring and consultations with the community, we have compiled information on the spatial and temporal movements of elephants in and around our project villages as well (Annexure 13).

Output 2: Promoting security for people and elephants by raising awareness: *Knowledge and understanding of elephants, HEC and strategies to improve safety/security is increased for at least 50% of households in 20 villages across 6 districts (n=2600 households)*

By Y3, we have achieved Indicators 2.1 and 2.2. Now, there is one village champion in each village to record data and support the project team in outreach, as well as serve as the primary contact for HEC mitigation in the village (details available in Section 3.1). Different IEC materials were used during the outreach events. To achieve indicator 2.3 and 2.4, we conducted a total of 140 outreach events that included “Gajah Kotha,” awareness on biodiversity and people’s wellbeing, first aid training and training for the RRUs, through which we have directly reached out to around 6645 people. Through our presence in the landscape and interaction with the villagers, all the 20 project villages have now adopted the HEC mitigation measures.

Output 3: Protecting livelihoods and assets: *A system of seasonal crop protection is established in 20 target villages, involving the installation of temporary fencing and the formation of local Rapid Response Units (RRU)*

In line with Indicator 3.1, we conducted two solar fence trainings during this reporting period and trained 124 community members, compared to our target 60 for the entire project period (Annexure 14). The indicator 3.2 was modified (approved by the Biodiversity Challenge Funds team) and the current target is 80 km of seasonal solar fence and 21 km of bio-fence using Assam lemon. Of these, we have installed 47.1 km of solar fencing this year, and a total of 60.1 km in the last two years. The remaining 20 km will be installed by the end of the project in June 2025 as it is dependent on the cropping season. Against the proposed 21 km of bio fence we have planted 19.3 km (accounting 3 rows count). These were planted in 14 individual plots: two in Sadiya, Tinsukia district, four in Sivasagar and eight in Majuli. The remaining is planned for planting in April-May 2025 in Sivasagar district. We have also achieved Indicator 3.3 and formed 10 RRUs – six in eastern Assam and four in West Garo hills (Meghalaya). Now 398 people are in 10 RRUs, and in this reporting period they have sent 123 alerts over WhatsApp.

Output 4: Promoting supplementary livelihoods: *Income generation support through training opportunities and access to finance facilitated for 600 households in 20 target villages*

We achieved the indicator 4.1 and have identified and provided support to 600 households. The project participants have started earning, thereby contributing towards Indicator 4.2. The details of the income generated, increase from the baseline, and how they spend/invest the additional income is provided in (Annexure 15). We are now working with the beneficiary households on Indicator 4.3 to connect them with the existing government schemes and facilitate applications for Government ex-gratia to compensate for losses incurred due to HEC.

Output 5: Sharing knowledge and building capacity: *Skills, learning and best practices derived from this project, and from other national and international HEC projects, are shared locally, regionally and internationally to inform and capacity-build project partners and other human-wildlife coexistence (HECx) facilitators in India and elsewhere.*

In line with Indicator 5.1, village meetings were conducted to apprise the villagers on project findings, progress and to understand their take on human-elephant coexistence. Each year, we conduct these meetings post annual report submission to align with people's availability. In July and August 2024, we conducted 20 village level meetings. In addition, we meet the villagers in informal ways to discuss the project and receive feedback/input.

To achieve indicator 5.2 and 5.3, we have presented our work at various national and international platforms through four talks and one poster presentation. Case studies from the project beneficiaries were published on the British Asian Trust, Elephant Family and the Darwin Initiative websites, on our social media channels, the Elephant Family newsletter with 19,000+ subscribers, bi-annual update to 200+ supporters and the Trust's update to stakeholders in UK and India with 600+ supporters. These were also shared at the Trust's Annual Dinner attended by 300 supporters, as well as Elephant Family's Big Egg Hunt, with over 43,000+ participants. With reference to Indicator 5.4, the activities will be completed by June 2025.

4.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: *Effective application of IUCN Guidelines-based HEC mitigation model in 6 HEC-prone districts in Assam/Meghalaya, resulting in increased incomes for 600 households and improved protection for Asian elephants/other rare species.*

All the project outputs planned have seen significant progress and are mostly on track. Due to unusually severe floods project activities couldn't be carried out accordingly to the workplan, so we requested a project extension until 30 June 2025, which was approved by the Darwin Initiative. We are certain that the project outcome will be achieved by the end of this period. Key progress towards the outcome include:

0.1 By end Y3, 600 households experience a 75% reduction in human deaths/serious injury

- No human deaths have been reported among the 600 project beneficiary households till date. The dedicated outreach campaign "*Gajah Kotha*" that highlights basic elephant ecology, the cultural relevance of the elephants in local communities, elephants' protection, their conservation status, as well as drivers of HEC, and mitigating HEC with tried and tested measures and trainings for RRUs on their roles to ensure safe passage of elephants and managing HEC-alerts, has contributed towards Indicator 0.1.

0.2 By end Y3, 600 households experience a 40% reduction in property damage and a 30% reduction in crop loss.

- Only, four incidents of property damage and 15 incidents of crop damage (amounting to <8 acres of crop-fields) were recorded for these 600 households. Installation of seasonal

solar-electric fences, and the 10 RRUs have contributed towards Indicator 0.2, bringing the reduction in property damage and crop loss to around 60% this year.

0.3 By end Y3, 600 households experience 30% increase in household annual income.

- With capacity building and support received for each chosen livelihood options, as well as re-supporting in cases of unsuccessful attempts, facilitated additional income generation for 600 beneficiary households. Out of 600 households, around 166 beneficiary reported increase in annual income by 10% to 40%, while another 10-beneficiaries reported increase between 40 % to 80%, and six reported increase of more than 100%. 192 beneficiaries reported an increase between 1% to 9 %, while 130 other beneficiaries chose either lemon or areca nut cultivation, and the income generation from these livelihood options shall take a minimum of 3 to 5 years. These do not need much maintenance and will add to the annual income generation of the household. The project team is currently working with those who reported <30% increase, providing them with market linkage to boost their income. By the end of the project, a 30% increase in annual income is predicted for these 600 beneficiary households.

0.4 By end Y3, 40% fewer elephant killings in target areas and 20% increase in sighting/signs of key species.

- A robust mechanism is in place to monitor HEC and other wildlife in and around project villages contributed towards Indicator 0.4. There have been no elephant killings in target areas during the project. Also, a total of 14 highly threatened species were sighted in and around the project villages in this reporting period (baseline 0, Annexure 5).

4.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Raising local awareness about elephants, their ecology and needs, and the causes of HEC, while also improving livelihoods and reducing the severity of HEC, will result in fewer elephant deaths

Comments: No elephant deaths were reported in and around the project villages during the reporting period.

Assumption 2: Raising household incomes and requiring project participants to sign a pledge to protect wildlife / nature (e.g. not kill rare species or engage in illegal logging) will help improve biodiversity at landscape level and protect other threatened species e.g. rhino, buffalo, hog deer, leopard, primates.

Comments: At the local scale biodiversity is improving as evident from the sighting records and indirect evidence of wild animals in the area. A total of 14 species of highly threatened category were sighted in and around the project villages in this reporting period (Baseline 0).

Assumption 3: Evidence of the successful implementation of this approach, shared with and by key stakeholders, will facilitate replication of this model in other HEC hotspots in Northeast India

Comments: The villagers around the project villages are keen to implement the HEC mitigation measures and manage HEC-alerts through RRUs. A few have undertaken solar fence training, and are part of our RRU WhatsApp groups, which is indicative of local replication. Project success and learnings shared with a wider audience through articles and presentations will lead to replication at regional/national level. As highlighted above, learnings from the project have been shared across several talks and conferences.

Assumption 4: All the stakeholders, including relevant government departments, will support project activities to help reduce HEC

Comments: All the stakeholders are supportive towards HEC mitigation as evident from the collaborative work. The forest departments of Assam and Meghalaya are working jointly in the border areas (southwestern Assam and West Garo hills district). The Divisional Forest office (DFO)-Dibrugarh have asked the team to merge the existing RRU team in that area with the anti-depredation squad to manage HEC-alerts.

Assumption 5: Relationships among the partners and all key stakeholders remain constructive throughout.

Comments: The relationships among the partners and all key stakeholders are good and no major difficulties were faced in implementing the project.

Assumption 6: Local communities and relevant households cooperate on collecting the information needed and engage with the project aims.

Comments: The project team received full cooperation and support from the local communities.

Assumption 7: Covid restrictions will not seriously impact project activities.

Comments: No impacts of Covid were seen during the reporting period. However, the project villages and nearby areas were affected by the flooding of the Brahmaputra River. This affected the villagers, who lost houses, crops, and fields to the water. To assist the communities, our team supported with emergency materials for sanitation, hygiene, cooking and first aid.

Assumption 8: Stakeholders are supportive of the project initiatives and volunteer to collaborate with staff and field workers.

Comments: The stakeholders support the project and volunteer their time in form of HEC alerts (RRUs), assisting the project team (village champions), and installation of HEC mitigation tools (Village fence committee, village champions, RRUs, village heads, villagers).

Assumption 9: The selected local champions engage in project activities as per their agreed role.

Comments: All the village champions recruited during Year 1 of the project are actively engaged with the project and assist the team in monitoring HEC and conducting outreach.

Assumption 10: HEC continues to be a problem and target communities remain keen to use the HEC mitigation methods proposed and agreed

Comments: The local communities are supportive towards using proposed HEC mitigation measures as they have witnessed better crop protection through these measures. Learning about the effectiveness of the tried and tested mitigation measures elsewhere through our outreach programmes have built their confidence and they are keen to use these mitigation measures.

Assumption 11: Target community farmers remain keen to participate in erecting and maintaining solar-powered fences as per the agreed protocols, as well as to help train others.

Comments: Post harvest, the villagers have taken the fence down this year. The fences that were installed last year were taken down post-harvest and again reinstalled during the crop season this year. The VFC monitors the fences and reports to the project team in case of any difficulties.

Assumption 12: Target community members are willing to form and implement RRU teams as per the agreed protocols to promote safety and reduce HEC.

Comments: Currently 437 people are engaged with 10 active RRUs/ADS. Each RRU shares information about elephants in their vicinity, sending out 123 alerts in this reporting period.

Assumption 13: Local communities will participate and accept the skill development training options and practise the supplementary livelihood options.

Comments: All the 600 households received their preferred skill development training and support to supplement their livelihood, and we are monitoring to ensure sustainability.

Assumption 14: Project participants will agree to sign a conservation pledge not to kill any key species or cause deliberate harm to biodiversity (e.g. through illegal logging).

Comments: All the project participants who received support are keen to protect biodiversity and are not involved in any activities that cause harm to biodiversity as per our monitoring.

Assumption 15: Useful lessons emerging from this project will be of interest to/adopted by other conservation practitioners and HEC-affected communities.

Comments: The HEC mitigation measures adopted so far have been highly effective and has gained acceptance among the local communities.

4.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction

Intended impact: *Human-elephant coexistence enabled at landscape level in Northeast India by safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of people and elephants, resulting in improved welfare of communities and biodiversity protection.*

We have made significant progress towards achieving the project outcome. With installation of seasonal non-lethal solar fences, the local communities now harvest a substantial yield and have secured crops worth an estimated value of INR12.24 crore (GBP1.2 million), so people feel more inclined towards elephants and their habitats. For example, the project villages in Majuli, which lie on a riverbank protected by an embankment, have suggested restricting farming to one side of the embankment, so elephants can forage on the other side. In West Garo hills, the local people, afraid for their lives, used to chase elephants on sight. Now they do not chase the elephants, which has averted accidental injuries among people and ensures safe passage for elephants. This anecdotal evidence indicates that the project is contributing towards fostering ideas of coexistence at the landscape level in Northeast India.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The Asian elephants are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

CBD: The project promotes in-situ conservation (Art.8); sustainable use of natural resources (Art.10); providing incentives to conserve biodiversity (Art.11); public education in the value and importance of biodiversity and natural resources (Art.13); technical/scientific cooperation in adopting a new approach to human-wildlife conflict mitigation (Art.18). The project aligns with the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD in its vision to achieve human-elephant coexistence and contributes towards net biodiversity gain in target areas, better understanding of the value of elephants and their habitats, equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits, and improved capacity and financial status of local stakeholders.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species: The Indian sub-species of *Elephas maximus* has been added to Appendix 1 of the CMS because it is both endangered and crosses national jurisdictional and international borders. The elephant populations targeted by this project in northeast India regularly cross-national boundaries – from Assam to Meghalaya and Assam to Arunachal Pradesh – and national boundaries to Bangladesh and Myanmar. Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report Review 2023.

SDGs: This project will contribute to SDG1, 2, 5 and 15 by protecting and improving livelihoods among poor communities; improving the food security of households whose crops will be protected from damage; including women across all activities and supporting conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

India's National Biodiversity Action Plan: RRAs and PRAs have made initial steps to raise awareness about biodiversity. By raising awareness of the values of biodiversity and steps to use it sustainably, reducing degradation, fragmentation, and loss of natural habitats to improve the environment and human well-being (Tgt3); ensuring ecosystem services, especially those affecting human health/livelihoods/wellbeing, are safeguarded, considering the needs of women and local communities, particularly poor and vulnerable sections (Tgt8).

Kathmandu Declaration for Asian Elephant Conservation 2022: The project promotes coexistence by minimising HEC and engaging with local communities to gain their participation

in biodiversity conservation and land-use planning; and provide sustainable and alternative livelihoods through financial support, technical guidance and support, and other measures.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The HEC incidents in Assam mostly occur in the rural areas, affecting farmers with low incomes. Crop foraging by wild elephants impacts food and nutritional security, as well as people's livelihoods. This project is already contributing towards poverty alleviation by supplementing livelihood opportunities of 600 beneficiary households currently in six districts of two states. The average annual income of these households is INR 56,073/- (GBP560) (ranges between INR 4000 (GBP40) to 300000 (GBP3,000)). Post the project support, around 166 beneficiary reported increase in annual income by 10% to 40%, while another 10-beneficiary reported increase between 40 % to 80%, while another six-beneficiary reported increase of more than 100%. Another 192 beneficiary reported an increase between 1% to 9 %, while 130 other beneficiaries chose either lemon or areca nut cultivation, and the income generation from these livelihood options shall take a minimum of 3 to 5 years. These do not need much maintenance, and we expect that this will add to the annual income generation of the beneficiary household. The project team is currently working with the beneficiaries which reported annual increase in income by <30%, providing them with market linkage to boost their income. By the end of the project, a 30% increase in annual income is predicted for these 600 beneficiary households.

During this reporting period, all 600 households have received their skill development training, and are practising their chosen livelihood options with the support of this project. The project demonstrates that there are more than monetary benefits to supporting people from low economies impacted by HEC in terms of skills development and knowledge generation. The indirect project benefits include reduction in HEC incidents (~40 % from crop & property damages; ~70% fewer human deaths due to HEC by project end), skill-development to augment livelihood, providing market-linkages and building confidence. Complementing livelihood opportunities with skill development and supporting local communities with effective HEC mitigation tools will have a positive impact on people's wellbeing and alleviate poverty.

However, many project villages were affected by floods this year. We assessed the impact of flood on 22 crop-based beneficiaries in Sadiya and found that crops such as the ginger and ghost chilli were significantly affected. In Jorhat's project villages, nine beneficiaries lost their lemon saplings and only 500 survived of the 4500 saplings provided (Details in annexure 12).

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered, and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	

Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	
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Considerations of Gender and Social Inclusion have been central to our approach. Our baseline surveys conducted in Y1 gathered information on GESI core principles (collecting data on gender, caste, economic and social status) and this information was used to identify the interventions. Keeping this in mind, our focus has been on gender and marginalisation issues faced by the indigenous communities we are working with, particularly with regards to representation, participation and access to rights and entitlements. As such, we believe we are on track to be Sensitive on the GESI scale, but learning from this intervention will be used to move future interventions towards a more Empowering approach.

Some notable achievements to back up this claim are as follows.

- Our outreach campaign called “*Gajah Kotha*” (*Mongma Golpo* in Garo), which translates to elephant stories, was designed to generate awareness among the local communities and students, has reached out to 1963 people directly, of which 35.20% are women across the six project districts (Annexure 4). This contributes to the core principle on Practice and Representation.
- To build local communities' capacity, particularly among women in human-elephant conflict affected project villages of eastern Assam and Meghalaya, we collaborated with the districts' Civil Defence Department and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to impart hands-on training on first aid. We conducted 11 such workshops, reaching out to 515 villagers, of whom 62% were women (Annexure 7). This contributes to the core principle on Roles and Responsibilities.
- Out of 600 project beneficiaries, 65% (N=389) are women. The second most preferred livelihood option was farming (N= 257), and women participate equally. However, most land holdings are held by men, and so technically the beneficiaries were male.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The project incorporates a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework at various levels and has used the log frame to highlight the data that was needed (as noted in the measurable indicators and means of verification) and then designed our activities for the field teams. We also keep digital records of the data so it can be shared and reviewed at regular intervals for monitoring and reporting purposes.

The project team holds weekly meetings to assess the progress in conducting activities, and monitors project progress and performance against the log frame, and timetable periodically. Subsequently the partner organisations have monthly meetings with each other to discuss project progress measured against the log frame, timetable and budget. In addition, regular updates are shared by the team members through a WhatsApp group. Monitoring of the project's participants takes the form of interaction and hand holding by the project team. In this reporting period, three visits were made by BAT's Senior Conservation Manager to monitor the project.

Based on the above and progress to date, we believe the methods and means of verification as outlined in the log frame remain valid to measure outputs and outcomes. As demonstrated in Section 4.2 and 4.3, through rigorous monitoring, we have collected sufficient evidence to link our activities to project Outputs and Outcome. However, we have faced some challenges on how to clearly link our awareness campaigns to mindset change. We are working with our Senior MEL Manager to develop a methodology to do the same. In the meantime, we have gathered numerous pieces of anecdotal evidence (mentioned in the report), which demonstrate mindset change, thereby fostering better coexistence between people and elephants.

To measure indicators of achievement, such as % of human death/serious injury, elephant death, property damage, crop loss, and improved income, we have set up a quarterly review system

from the field, wherein we collect data from all 20 project villages and also provide additional support wherever required. Please refer to section 4.3 on percentage change of the same. Moreover, there have been no changes to the M&E plan over the reporting period, but we have added more rigour to the process to ensure we can demonstrate clear success of the interventions. To achieve this, we have decentralised the approach. Wherein, the local partner collects the data from the project villages and we provide the framework to analyse the same, identifying clear patterns to support our hypotheses.

9. Lessons learnt

The project completed its third year. Our interventions have matured and are starting to show good results. Some of the notable learnings from the project are as follows.

What worked well:

- Our learning in Y2 still holds true. Active engagement and transparency about the aim of the project, taking due consent when and where necessary, on-ground presence of the project team, and cultivating relationships with stakeholders are key to project success.
- Added to this is the success of our Village Champion model. This bottom-up participatory approach has highlighted the importance of capacity-building among community stakeholders to resolve their own issues confidently among themselves and thereby ensuring sustainability of our work.
- To ensure sustainability of our livelihoods interventions, we have developed a system of continuous monitoring. We regularly (at least once every quarter) monitor the project participants to understand if they are practising the livelihood activities post training and provide support if needed. We track if they are practising the livelihoods for at least two quarters to ensure sustainability. Also, to facilitate the sale of their products, we held village-level exhibitions and encouraged them to participate in other events.

What didn't work well and we would/will do differently:

- This year, Assam witnessed one of its most severe floods to date. This highlighted the impact of climate disasters on our interventions. Without addressing climate preparedness and resilience, we risk losing all progress made through our interventions on coexistence. Hence, we've decided to start working in this space as well after this project. We've already initiated discussions between both organisations to start scoping out priorities to work on. As next steps, we will develop a concept note to approach relevant donors to support this work. We will also reach out to our own network of supporters to help kickstart the work. We recognise that this is a large and long-term programme and are keen to leverage the government machinery to achieve our goal.
- For our interventions, we always consult relevant scientists and technical experts before implementation. However, we learnt an important lesson that highlighted the relevance of traditional knowledge of community as well. We followed the instructions of the agriculture experts in Assam when planting the Assam lemon as bio-fence. However, we ignored the traditional knowledge of the community, which also incorporated the climate patterns. This led to loss of several saplings due to the floods unfortunately. Going forward, we will ensure we prioritise the traditional knowledge of the community more, especially on matters related to climate and weather patterns.

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

Actions in response to the last Annual Report review are the following:

- The review of AR2 had asked us to elaborate on our point that Output 3 witnessed low participation of women, as it was seen as a man's job due to the dangers involved, and the work we were doing to change mindsets to encourage participation of women in HEC mitigation. Unfortunately, the mindset remains the same as it is still a dangerous job. However, we have initiated women-focused interventions. HEC mitigation results in injury at times, so we have provided first aid training to women to help injured people till medical help arrives. We have also actively encouraged participation from women in outreach programmes and have witnessed an increased participation of women in our annual

review meetings with the community. These mindsets have been formed over generations, and it is difficult to change in a short span of 3 years of the project. However, we are confident of seeing change in the future.

- The review also highlighted the need for establishing clearer causal links between activities and impacts. We have demonstrated this in the current report, under section 4.5 in particular. For instance, post installation of seasonal non-lethal solar fences, the local communities now harvest a substantial yield and have secured crops worth an estimated value of INR12.24 crore (GBP1.2 million), which has led to a positive inclination among the people to secure elephants and their habitats. For example, the project villages in Majuli, which lie on the riverbank protected by an embankment are keen on restricting their farming activities on one side of the embankment, so elephants can forage on the other side. In West Garo hills, the local people used to chase elephants on sight. Now they do not chase the elephants averting accidental injuries among people and ensuring safe passage for elephants. This anecdotal evidence indicates that the project is contributing towards fostering ideas of coexistence between people and elephants in Northeast India.
- Lastly, the review points out that the AR2 does not explicitly reference the GESI context within which it operates. We have addressed in the relevant GESI section.

11. Risk Management

During June-July 2024, 10 project villages in eastern Assam districts of Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Jorhat were affected by severe annual floods. The flood significantly affected the project activities for around two months in these villages. In particular, the livelihood tools and resources provided for lemon and chilli cultivation were all damaged. To support the community, the project provided essential sanitation and protective gear, such as mosquito nets, tarpaulin sheets, sanitary pads, disinfectants, utensils, first-aid kits etc. However, a significant observation post flooding was how the silt-covered crop fields are uncultivable for the next few years, adding to food insecurities. The Risk Register has been updated to reflect the same.

12. Scalability and durability

Our exit strategy was as follows:

By the end of this project, villagers in 20 target communities, and trained HEC champions in every village will continue to raise awareness about elephants, tactics for avoiding HEC, and the value of biodiversity conservation. As a result, more households will adopt the HEC mitigation measures promoted by this project. The trained fencers as well as informed fence committee members, will continue to install, maintain, monitor, and remove seasonal fences as needed.

Community RRU teams will continue to manage an HEC-alert network to warn villagers of the presence of elephants and ensure their safe passage, reducing the defensive-aggressive reactions in people and elephants that tend to exacerbate HEC. 600 households will continue to generate supplementary incomes from the enterprises established under this project, and trained individuals, most of them women, may use their knowledge to start other enterprises and/or share their skills with other villagers. Aided by the village champion and village committee members, community members will continue to access government loan/compensation schemes which can be used to finance more micro-enterprises.

Aaranyak will maintain its involvement with the target communities and associated district officials, but will advise or supervise, rather than manage, giving assistance as needed to help activities become embedded in communities' own cooperative systems. As far as we know, this exit strategy and legacy is still valid and will continue to be valid so long as it is possible to implement project activities. Community members and local government officials are very keen on this project and indicate that they will contribute to its success. The fence removal and reinstallation, RRUs functioning on their own with new members joining from neighbouring

villages and testimonies from livelihoods beneficiaries are some pieces of evidence that support this claim. Moreover, we have designed a Phase 2 of this project for which we have already raised additional funds to kickstart the work post closure of this project.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative's logo and other identifying markers have been utilised across project collateral from wearables such as t-shirts and caps to posters and signboards and highlighted at all gatherings including meeting with local communities and representatives from governments. At this stage, all project stakeholders are familiar with the Darwin Initiative, as well as external stakeholders such as government officials, business leaders, and community leaders. Our social media channels are active and in all relevant posts by Elephant Family (the British Asian Trust) and Aaranyak, the @biodiversitychallengefunds account has been linked and credited.

14. Safeguarding

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 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)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	199,703			

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Trusts and own resources
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			Trusts

16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

17. 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 to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (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 including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

18. Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Human elephant coexistence (HEC) enabled at landscape level in Northeast India by safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of people and elephants, resulting in improved welfare of communities and biodiversity protection.</p>	<p>With installation of seasonal non-lethal solar fences, the local communities now harvest a substantial yield and have secured crops worth an estimated value of INR12.24 crore (GBP1.2 million). For example, the project villages in Majuli, are now keen on securing elephant habitat by restricting their farming activities on one side of the embankment, while making the land available on the other side for elephants to forage in.</p> <p>In West Garo hills, the local people, afraid for their lives, used to chase away elephants on sight, which was stressful for both the villagers and elephants. With our education programme and community empowerment approach, we highlighted the importance of corridors for elephants. We also reiterated that if the elephants are left undisturbed, they gently pass through the villages without causing harm. Realising this, the villagers now keep an eye on the elephants, but do not unnecessarily chase them. This change of attitude towards elephants has not only averted accidental injuries among people but also ensures safe passage for elephants.</p> <p>This anecdotal evidence indicates that the project is contributing towards fostering ideas of coexistence between people and elephants at the landscape level in Northeast India.</p>	
<p>Outcome: Effective application of IUCN Guidelines-based HEC mitigation model in 6 HEC-prone districts in Assam/Meghalaya, resulting in increased incomes for 600 households and improved protection of Asian elephants/other rare species</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p>	<p>No human deaths/serious injury have been reported from the 600 project beneficiary households till date.</p>	<p>The project's signature outreach event, Gajah Katha, will continue to raise</p>

Community engagement and empowerment: By end Y3, 600 households experience a 75% reduction in human deaths/serious injury.		awareness of the community members in the project area.
Outcome indicator 0.2 Protecting livelihoods and assets: By end Y3, 600 households experience a 40% reduction in property damage (i.e., to major structures - granary, house, shop - that is crucial to people's lives and livelihoods) and a 30% reduction in crop loss.	Only, four incidents of property damage and 15 incidents of crop damage (amounting to <8 acres of crop-fields) were recorded for these 600 households. Installation of seasonal solar-electric fences, and active participation of the 10 RRUs has contributed towards Indicator 0.2, bringing the reduction in property damage and crop loss to around 60% this year	We will focus on monitoring the efficacy of the fences to protect the livelihoods and assets of our target communities.
Outcome indicator 0.3 Livelihoods promotion: By end Y3, 600 households experience 30% increase in household annual income.	Out of 600 households, around 166 beneficiary reported increase in annual income by 10% to 40%, while another 10-beneficiaries reported increase between 40 % to 80%, while another six beneficiaries reported increase of more than 100%. 192 beneficiaries reported an increase between 1% to 9 %, while 130 other beneficiaries chose either lemon or areca nut cultivation, and the income generation from these livelihood options shall take a minimum of 3 to 5 years. These cultivation beyond the first year do not need much maintenance and we expect this will add to the annual income generation of the beneficiary household. The project team is currently working with the beneficiaries which reported annual increase in income by <30%, providing them with market linkage to boost their income. By the end of the project, a 30% increase in annual income is predicted for these 600 beneficiary households.	We will continue to monitor the households to ensure sustainability of their livelihoods and also collect evidence to demonstrate an income increase of 30%.
Outcome indicator 0.4 Biodiversity Protection: By end Y3, 40% fewer elephant killings in target areas and 20% increase in sighting/signs of key species.	No elephant killings have been reported in target areas. Also, a total of 14 highly threatened species were sighted in and around the project villages in this reporting period (baseline 0).	Season movement patterns of elephants will continue to be monitored.
Output 1 Profiling the problem and building evidence: Specific data gathered and analysed for the 6 target districts, including on the human population and local biodiversity, focusing primarily on elephants, HEC, and other rare species		

Output indicator 1.1 By Q3-Y1, 20 target villages experiencing high levels of HEC, are actively engaged in the project.	Completed	
Output indicator 1.2 By Q4-Y1, 20 target villages profiled, with findings informing planning, implementation and evaluation of project interventions.	Completed	
Output indicator 1.3 By Q4-Y2, information compiled on the spatial and temporal movements of elephants and other key species.	Using the information gathered from our regular monitoring and through consultations with the community, we have compiled information on the spatial and temporal movements of elephants in and around our project villages (Annexure 13).	Collection of information on elephant movement and other key species presence through village consultations during questionnaire surveys and ground truthing in the area will continue.
Output 2. Promoting security for people and elephants by raising awareness: Knowledge and understanding of elephants, HEC and strategies to improve safety/security is increased for at least 50% of households in 20 villages across 6 districts (n=2600 households)		
Output indicator 2.1. By Q2-Y1, one champion (n=20) recruited for each target village and trained to record data, help undertake outreach activities and serve as primary contact for village HEC activities.	Completed	
Output indicator 2.2. By Q4-Y1, education materials (print, audio, video) produced in local languages and used for HEC outreach to 100,000 people in 20 target communities.	Completed	
Output indicator 2.3. By end Q2-Y3, at least 1200 households have adopted HEC mitigation measures promoted by the project to reduce impacts on people and elephants.	We conducted a total of 140 outreach events that included our signature “Gajah Kotha” campaign, awareness on biodiversity and people’s wellbeing, first aid training and training for the RRUs, through which we have directly reached out to around 6645 people. Through our presence in the landscape and interaction with the villagers, all the 20 project villages have now	Completed. The project’s signature outreach event, Gajah Katha, will continue to raise awareness of the community members in the project area.

	adopted the HEC mitigation measures discussed during the outreach campaigns. This was confirmed via regular monitoring at village level by VCs, RRUS and project team.	
Output indicator 2.4. By Q3-Y3, 50% of 2600 households (n=1,300) in 20 villages have increased knowledge and understanding of elephants/their needs, other key species, and are committed to their safety.	We conducted a total of 140 outreach events that included our signature “Gajah Kotha” campaign, awareness on biodiversity and people’s wellbeing, first aid training and training for the RRUs, through which we have directly reached out to around 6645 people. Through our presence in the landscape and interaction with the villagers, all the 20 project villages have now adopted the HEC mitigation measures discussed during the outreach campaigns. This was confirmed via regular monitoring at village level by VCs, RRUS and project team.	Completed. The project’s signature outreach event, Gajah Katha, will continue to raise awareness of the community members in the project area.
Output 3. Protecting livelihoods and assets: A system of seasonal crop protection is established in 20 target villages, involving the installation of temporary fencing and the formation of local Rapid Response Units (RRU)		
Output indicator 3.1. By Q4-Y1, 60 people (3 per village) trained as trainers to install, monitor and maintain safe and effective seasonal solar-power fences.	We conducted two solar fence trainings in this reporting period and trained 124 community members, compared to our target of 60 people for the project (Annexure 11).	Completed. We will hold refresher trainings, if required.
Output indicator 3.2. By Q4-Y2, 80km of seasonal solar-powered fencing and 7kms of biofences (3 rows of lemon plants) installed and materials required for crop & village protection (powerful torches and/or solar lights) being used by vulnerable households.	Till date, 60 km of seasonal solar fence and 19.3km of biofence, using Assam lemon, has been installed. The remaining 20 km of solar fence will be installed by the end of the project in June 2025 as it is dependent on the cropping season. The remaining biofence is planned for planting in April-May 2025 in Sivasagar district.	We will achieve this indicator in Q1-Y4
Output indicator 3.3. By Q1-Y2, 10 RRU teams formed, trained and operating an HEC alert-network using the best practice approach to facilitate safe passage for elephants.	We have achieved this Indicator. Currently, 437 people are engaged in 10 RRUs, and this reporting period they have sent a total of 123 alerts using the WhatsApp groups. This year we also supported the RRU members with field kits comprising t-shirts, caps, raincoats and field shoes.	Completed

Output 4. Promoting supplementary livelihoods: Income generation support through training opportunities and access to finance facilitated for 600 households in 20 target villages.		
Output indicator 4.1. By Q3-Y2, 600 individuals (80% women) complete at least 1 skills-based training.	600 beneficiaries (389 women) have received their chosen skill-based training.	Completed. We will continue to provide support to the 600 beneficiaries and monitor them to ensure sustainability of their livelihoods.
Output indicator 4.2. By Q3-Y2, 100 households supported to adopt tried-&-tested alternative cash crop cultivation (e.g., turmeric, <i>Hololoma aromatica</i> , citronella, citrus plants, common flax/sesame)	The project participants are already working on their chosen livelihood options and have started earning additional income, thereby contributing towards Indicator 4.2. The details of the income generated, increase from the baseline, and how they spend/invest the additional income is provided in Annexure 15.	We are now monitoring the beneficiary households to track their income levels
Output indicator 4.3. By Q2-Y3, 70% increase in applications to government for compensation, loan schemes and other benefits by target community members.	We are now working with the beneficiary households on Indicator 4.3 to connect them with the existing government schemes for livelihood. The project team facilitates applications for Government ex-gratia to compensate for losses incurred due to HEC among villagers.	The project team will continue to facilitate applications for Government ex-gratia and other schemes.
Output 5. Sharing knowledge and building capacity: Skills, learning and best practices derived from this project, and from other national and international HEC projects, are shared locally, regionally and internationally to inform and capacity-build project partners and other human-wildlife coexistence (HECx) facilitators in India and elsewhere.		
Output indicator 5.1. By Q4-Yr3, 3 meetings held (one at end of each year) with each target community (total=60) to share project findings, lessons learned and results.	Village meetings were conducted to apprise the villagers on project findings, progress and to understand their take on human-elephant coexistence. Each year, we conduct these meetings post annual report submission keeping in line with people's availability. In July and August 2024, we conducted 20 village level meetings. In addition, we meet the villagers in informal ways to discuss the project initiative and receive feedback/input from the beneficiaries and other villagers.	We will continue to hold regular meetings with the community to share project findings, lessons learned and results. We are also planning for the final consultation towards project end.
Output indicator 5.2. By Q3-Y3, analysis of HEC and HEC mitigation strategies in project area, with case studies and learning collected during	To understand how HEC through crop foraging by wild elephants impacts the nutrition intake and dietary pattern of women, we conducted a study in conflict-	We will continue to scope for opportunities to share knowledge and best practice

the project, effective for enabling coexistence shared and published.	affected villages of Jorhat with Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The data is being analysed, and the study findings will be shared with the final report. We've also shared three blogs on conservation and coexistence that highlight that learnings from this project.	on HEC mitigation in different geographies.
Output indicator 5.3. By Q4-Y3, lessons learned from this project shared through online/offline (n=10) workshops with partner organisations, HECx, practitioners and decision makers. including representatives of Government agencies who have a role to play in mitigating HEC such as Forest Department, Civil Administration, Assam Power Corporation etc.	We have presented our work at various national and international platforms through four talks and one poster presentation. Further, the case studies from the project beneficiaries were published on the British Asian Trust, Elephant Family and the Darwin Initiative websites, on Elephant Family and Aaranyak's social media channels, Elephant Family's quarterly newsletter with a readership of 19,000+ subscribers, Elephant Family's exclusive bi-annual update to 200+ supporters, British Asian Trust's update to quarterly stakeholders in UK and India which includes 600+ supporters. These case studies were also shared at British Asian Trust's Annual Dinner attended by 300 supporters, as well as public facing events such as Elephant Family's Big Egg Hunt, with over 43,000+ participants.	We will continue to scope for opportunities to share knowledge and best practice on HEC mitigation in different geographies.
Output indicator 5.4. By Q4-Y3, decision makers who develop mitigation strategies (such as Ministry of Forest & Environment, Project Elephant) are informed about successful strategies for HEC, informing India's National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan, and its Guidelines for HEC Mitigation targeting	To be completed by June 2025	
Output indicator 5.5. By Q3- Y2, knowledge and best practice on HEC mitigation through livelihood interventions and installation of seasonal solar-fence in different geographies is shared and put into practice by project personnel	Completed. We will continue to scope for opportunities to share knowledge and best practice on HEC mitigation in different geographies.	We will continue to scope for opportunities to share knowledge and best practice on HEC mitigation in different geographies.

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Human elephant coexistence (HEC) enabled at landscape level in Northeast India by safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of people and elephants, resulting in improved welfare of communities and biodiversity protection			
Outcome: Effective application of IUCN Guidelines-based HEC mitigation model in 6 HEC-prone districts in Assam/Meghalaya, resulting in increased incomes for 600 households and improved protection for Asian elephants/other rare species.	<p>0.1 Community engagement and empowerment: By Q1 Y4, 600 households experience a 75% reduction in human deaths/serious injury. <i>Baseline: 24 HEC incidents occurred in the villages of eastern Assam in the form of crop and property damages and one human death.</i></p> <p>0.2 Protecting livelihoods and assets: By Q1 Y4, 600 households experience a 40% reduction in property damage (i.e., to major structures - granary, house, shop - that is crucial to people's lives and livelihoods) and a 30% reduction in crop loss. <i>Baseline: 24 HEC incidents occurred in the villages of eastern Assam in form of crop and property damages and one human death</i></p> <p>0.3 Livelihoods promotion: By Q1 Y4, 600 households experience 30% increase in household annual income.</p>	<p>0.1 & 0.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official records of the Forest Department providing number of human fatalities, injuries and data on property loss. Conflict assessment report based on IUCN guideline template, photos, and survey verification by project team. <p>0.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports with analysis of socio-economic data gathered via surveys & questionnaires of income changes prior to and as a result of the project. <p>0.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official records of the Forest Department and verification by project team from survey data collected at project start & end. 	<p>Raising local awareness about elephants, their ecology & needs, and the causes of HEC, while also improving livelihoods and reducing the severity of HEC, will result in fewer elephant deaths.</p> <p>Raising household incomes and requiring project participants to sign a pledge to protect wildlife / nature (e.g. not kill rare species or engage in illegal logging) will help improve biodiversity at landscape level and protect other threatened species e.g. rhino, buffalo, hog deer, leopard, primates.</p> <p>Evidence of the successful implementation of this approach, shared with and by key stakeholders, will facilitate replication of this model in other HEC hotspots in Northeast India</p> <p>All the stakeholders, including relevant government departments, will support project activities to help reduce HEC.</p>

	<p><i>Baseline: Average Annual Income per household = INR35,000 (GBP350) (Aaranyak data from west Assam)</i></p> <p>0.4 Biodiversity protection:</p> <p>By Q1 Y4, 40% fewer elephant killings in target areas and 20% increase in sighting/signs of key species.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 16+ elephants died between 2018-2021 in the target districts of Assam; hunting levels of key species TBC</i></p>		Relationships among the partners and all key stakeholders remain constructive throughout.
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Profiling the problem and building evidence: Specific data gathered and analysed for the 6 target districts, including on the human population and local biodiversity, focusing primarily on elephants, HEC, and other rare species</p>	<p>1.1 By Q3-Y1, 20 target villages experiencing high levels of HEC, are actively engaged in the project. <i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>1.2 By Q4-Y1, 20 target villages profiled, with findings informing planning, implementation and evaluation of project interventions. <i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>1.3 By Q4-Y2, information compiled on the spatial and temporal movements of elephants and other key species. <i>Baseline: 0</i></p>	<p>1.1 List of villages, GPS locations, relevant official records, village agreements to engage in project.</p> <p>1.2 Reports from surveys, patterns/impacts of HEC, socio-economic profiles of target communities inc. livelihood activities, income levels, sources of protein, HEC records of Forest Dept, Yr2 workplans for target areas.</p> <p>1.3 GIS maps of current land use, seasonal movement patterns of elephants & other key species.</p>	<p>Local communities and relevant households cooperate on collecting the information needed and engage with the project aims.</p> <p>Covid restrictions will not seriously impact project activities.</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Promoting security for people and elephants by raising awareness: Knowledge and understanding of</p>	<p>2.1 By Q2-Y1, one champion (n=20) recruited for each target village and trained to record data, help undertake outreach activities and</p>	<p>2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names, photos, attendance records; training reports 	<p>Stakeholders are supportive of the project initiatives and volunteer to collaborate with staff and field workers.</p>

<p>elephants, HEC and strategies to improve safety/security is increased for at least 50% of households in 20 villages across 6 districts (n=2600 households)</p>	<p>serve as primary contact for village HEC activities.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>2.2 By Q4-Y1, education materials (print, audio, video) produced in local languages and used for HEC outreach to 100,000 people in 20 target communities.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>2.3 By end Q2-Y3, at least 1200 households have adopted HEC mitigation measures promoted by the project to reduce impacts on people and elephants.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>2.4 By Q3-Y3, 50% of 2600 households (n=1,300) in 20 villages have increased knowledge and understanding of elephants/their needs, other key species, and are committed to their safety.</p> <p><i>Baseline: TBC Y1</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field reports, photos, and monitoring by the project team <p>2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of education materials; all posted on Aaranyak website. Project social media pages created/kept updated, print and broadcast media reports shared on social media pages. <p>2.3 & 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre/post outreach evaluation of the same people to assess changes in knowledge gained. Reports of changes in attitudes and behaviour of households Reports from the M&E teams (both project and external) 	<p>The selected local champions engage in project activities as per their agreed role.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Protecting livelihoods and assets:</p> <p>A system of seasonal crop protection is established in 20 target villages, involving the installation of temporary fencing and the formation of local Rapid Response Units (RRU)</p>	<p>3.1 By Q4-Y1, 60 people (3 per village) trained as trainers to install, monitor and maintain safe and effective seasonal solar-power fences.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>3.2 By Q4 Y2, 80km of seasonal solar-powered fencing and 7kms of biofences (3 rows of lemon plants) installed and materials required for</p>	<p>3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of training sessions with names, photos, best practice manual, record of fences installed in Yr2 by trained fencers. Record of village fence committees established and operational. 	<p>HEC continues to be a problem and target communities remain keen to use the HEC mitigation methods proposed and agreed.</p> <p>Target community farmers remain keen to participate in erecting and maintaining solar-powered fences as per the agreed protocols, and to help train others.</p>

	<p>crop & village protection (powerful torches and/or solar lights) being used by vulnerable households.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>3.3 By Q1-Y2, 10 RRU teams formed, trained and operating an HEC alert-network using the best practice approach to facilitate safe passage for elephants.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p>	<p>3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maps with GPS coordinates of fenced sites, photos of installed fences, audio-visual feedback from farmers. ○ Record of torches/ solar lights provided with records, reporting outcome, when used. <p>3.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Named photos of RRU team members, records of HEC alerts sent, RRU incident reports ○ Best practice manual for RRU teams 	<p>Target community members are willing to form and implement RRU teams as per the agreed protocols to promote safety and reduce HEC.</p>
<p>Output 4</p> <p>Promoting supplementary livelihoods: Income generation support through training opportunities and access to finance facilitated for 600 households in 20 target villages.</p>	<p>4.1 By Q3-Y2, 600 individuals (80% women) complete at least 1 skills-based training.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>4.2 By Q3-Y2, 100 households supported to adopt tried-&-tested alternative cash crop cultivation (e.g., turmeric, <i>Hololoma aromatica</i>, citronella, citrus plants, common flax/sesame)</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>4.3 By Q2-Y3, 70% increase in applications to government for compensation, loan schemes and other benefits by target community members.</p>	<p>4.1: Training reports, list of participants, photos, participant feedback, pre/post training survey and end of project survey</p> <p>4.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field reports/photos of alternative crops planted; maps with GPS location of the cultivated areas ○ Increased income generation verified through <i>bona fide</i> documented proof. <p>4.3: Official documents for any financial assistance applied for or provided to target community</p>	<p>Local communities will participate and accept the skill development training options and practice the supplementary livelihood options.</p> <p>Beneficiaries supported through this project will agree to sign a conservation pledge not to kill any key species or cause deliberate harm to biodiversity (e.g. through illegal logging).</p>

	<i>Baseline: TBD Y1</i>	members by Government depts or finance institutions.	
Output 5 Sharing knowledge and building capacity: Skills, learning and best practices derived from this project, and from other national and international HEC projects, are shared locally, regionally and internationally to inform and capacity-build project partners and other human-wildlife coexistence (HECx) facilitators in India and elsewhere.	<p>5.1 By Q4-Yr3, 3 meetings held (one at end of each year) with each target community (total=60) to share project findings, lessons learned and results.</p> <p><i>Baseline = 0.</i></p> <p>5.2 By Q3-Y3, analysis of HEC and HEC mitigation strategies in project area, with case studies and learning collected during the project, effective for enabling coexistence shared and published.</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>5.3 By Q14-Y43, lessons learned from this project shared through online/offline (n=10) workshops with partner organisations, HECx, practitioners and decision makers. including representatives of Government agencies who have a role to play in mitigating HEC such as Forest Department, Civil Administration, Assam Power Corporation etc</p> <p><i>Baseline: 0</i></p> <p>5.4 By Q14-Y43, decision makers who develop mitigation strategies (such as Ministry of Forest & Environment, Project Elephant) are informed about successful strategies for HEC, informing India's National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action</p>	<p>5.1: Report with photos of each community feedback meeting</p> <p>5.2 & 5.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hardcopies and softcopies of the articles/reports available in publications &/or on Aaranyak website ○ Record/photos of sharing events <p>5.3 & 5.4 Record of presentations given at relevant national (e.g. India HEC mitigation and HECx workshops) and international (e.g.AsESG/other) meetings.</p> <p>5.5 Reports on project exchange from personnel in India and Myanmar</p>	Useful lessons emerging from this project will be of interest to/adopted by other conservation practitioners and HEC-affected communities.

	Plan, and its Guidelines for HEC Mitigation targeting <i>Baseline: 0</i> 5.5 By Q3- Y2, knowledge and best practice on HEC mitigation through livelihood interventions and installation of seasonal solar-fence in different geographies is shared and put into practice by project personnel <i>Baseline: 0</i>		
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1: Profiling the problem and building evidence

1. Conduct an inception meeting in each district (n=6) for the project implementing team and government stakeholders (Forest Dept and District officials) to discuss/agree a project plan, identify 20 target villages, sources of existing information on the chosen sites, and plan to collect additional necessary information.
2. Conduct an outreach and mobilisation meeting in each of the selected villages (n=20) to explain the project and gain 'buy-in'. The meetings will include village heads, Panchayat members, village development committees, youth club members, women Self Help Groups (SHGs), teachers, farmers etc. We will aim to reach at least 20% of the population of each village. By involving various representatives within the communities, we will ensure the entire population of the village is reached. These meetings will also be used to identify and recruit village volunteers (10 per village) to help carry out the profiling surveys.
3. Conduct a 'Rapid Rural Appraisal', a socio-economic survey, in each village as part of the outreach and mobilisation meetings. The information gathered will be used to develop community profiles (including, number of women-headed household, daily-wage earners, farmers with their own land, landless farmers etc.), establishing the baselines and providing an understanding of the dependence of each community on natural resources shared by both people and elephants, as well as their culture and history. This will be followed by Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) among the surveyed household to verify the information provided to us.
4. Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) questionnaire-based surveys to verify data socio-economic data gathered and data on HEC pattern, damage and loss to farmers, existing practices of HEC mitigation, and their effectiveness. Based on the RRA information gathered, the project team will select representatives of different demographics (women-headed households, daily wage earners, landed farmers, landless farmers etc.) and conduct surveys through project team members and volunteers. The women-headed houses will be given priority.
5. Establish a system to monitor elephant movement/behaviour through sightings/signs reported by villagers (to be verified by Aaranyak and the village 'champion' see 2.1 below) and fence guards/monitors. Project team members and volunteers will gather information from local communities on elephant movement in the vicinity, follow the tracks and signs of the elephants to gain an understanding on the routes that elephants use to move

for at least year. Data gathered will include elephants/key species from sightings/signs around villages, HEC patterns, human deaths/severe injuries from HEC, damage to property and crop loss with estimates of cost; existing practices of HEC mitigation, and their effectiveness.

6. Analyse the data gathered, prepare GIS maps, write reports, and disseminate the results to concerned stakeholders (including to village meetings).

Output 2: Promoting security for people and elephants by raising awareness

2.1 Recruit a ‘champion’ for each village (n=20) to help coordinate, organise surveys, gather data, and liaise with those affected by HEC. Champions will largely be selected from the volunteers who support with the socio-economic surveys and will be chosen based on their interest in the work, literacy, dedication to the cause and communication skills.

2.2 Meetings led by the Project Team with relevant specialists to develop an education strategy, module, timetable, and materials to raise awareness.

2.3 Develop printed/audio/visual IEC (Information, Education, Communication) materials in Assamese and Garo plus other local languages as needed, these will be disseminated through trainings and events in local communities, as well as on social media. We aim to reach 100,000 people across a variety of channels.

2.4 Train village champions to help deliver the outreach programme to raise awareness about elephants, avoiding HEC, and conservation.

2.5 Conduct awareness events in each target village (via village organisations). At least six events will be conducted per village (n=120) over an 18-month period (Q1, Y2 – Q2, Y3). The events will involve adults and youth, but with separate events for women to ensure they also learn how to avoid HEC and receive a basic first aid training in case of hurt. We aim to reach at least 70% of the village population (n=1,800 households) over the six events.

2.6 Working with the village champions, establish a system to monitor whether targeted households adopt best practices to minimise/avoid HEC. The project team, in collaboration with local champions, will monitor the targeted households through direct observation (for example, whether the households are still using illegal electric fences, harming elephants using spears while chasing away) and secondary information gathering (for example, complaints from Village Heads, members of Village Defence parties)

2.7 In consultation with the project M&E specialist, establish a system to monitor the impact of awareness-raising activities, conducting assessments to reveal their effectiveness so that the approach, or activities, can be modified if necessary.

2.8 Hold a workshop for media personnel to generate awareness about elephants and HEC to facilitate positive reporting on conflict issues, and to help modify the aggressive methods often used by the government anti-depredation squads which can cause elephants to become aggressive. Aaranyak has an established platform “Media for Conservation” and will use this network to ensure participation of the media personnel. The project team will work with the local correspondents from our project area and conduct workshops in each district.

2.9 Conduct a series of Q&A radio shows (at least five) with local radio stations to raise awareness about elephants, and develop a short film, on HEC mitigation and the role people play.

Output 3: Protecting livelihoods and assets

3.1 Hold one community dialogue in each target village (n=20) to share best practices to mitigate and reduce crop-raiding and damage to property (including grain stores). During each community dialogue at least 70% of the HEC affected households will be represented, as well as different committees such as the village defence committee, village development committee, village panchayat members, and village heads.

3.2 Under the village committee, establish a village fence committee (VFC) comprising at least 20 members to take responsibility for managing and maintaining the solar fences. The VFC’s primary role will be the proper maintenance of the fence, actively taking part in installation/ de-installation / re-

installation of the seasonal fences The committees will be responsible for collecting money from each household protected by the fence during the project period for maintenance of the fences post-project.

3.3. In year 3, VFC will be supported to set up a revolving fund with seed funding of approximately GBP300 from the project to sustain the fences post the project period and install new fences

3.4 Form Rapid Response Units (RRU), one per village (n=20) comprising 10 members, training them in non-aggressive methods of deterrence and involving them in alerting villagers to the presence of nearby elephants through app technology.

3.5 Provide training, assisted by trained RRU members, for government anti-depredation squads on basic elephant ecology and behaviour, causes of HEC, and involve them in monitoring elephants and HEC so as to improve their own practices and performance and help reduce conflict.

3.6 Produce a best practice manual for members of the RRUs and government anti-depredation squads.

3.7 Provide the RRUs/ADS with field gear, and villagers with torches, solar streetlights (if appropriate) and first aid kits to help them facilitate safe passage for elephants and to monitor HEC.

3.8 Produce a manual in Assamese and Garo on how to install, manage and maintain a solar-powered fence so that it is effective at protecting crops but also safe for people, livestock and wildlife. To be used by fencing trainers, fence owners, fence committee members.

3.9 Install up to 1280kms of non-lethal, solar-powered, seasonal fences and 7kms of biofences (3 rows of lemon plants) based on site need and the movement of elephants.

3.10 Working with the village champion, farmers and fence committee, establish a system to collect and collate data on the effectiveness of the solar fences, reporting the results and making them available.

Output 4: Promoting supplementary livelihoods

4.1 Assess markets, value chains, micro-finance opportunities and viable supplementary livelihood options for HEC-affected people in target villages. The project team will conduct qualitative and quantitative assessments to identify the viable livelihood options for villages, taking into consideration the communities' culture and lifestyle, as well as resources and market viability. The qualitative data will be collected through questionnaires, interviews and observations. Quantitative data will include information like local product prices.

4.2 Conduct consultation workshops, at least two in each village (n=40), to select beneficiaries from 600 households to be supported with supplementary livelihood opportunities.

4.3 Conduct capacity-building training programmes on the supplementary livelihood options for the registered beneficiaries. The focus and duration of the training will depend on the viable livelihood options identified and selected by the beneficiaries. Based on the different supplementary livelihood options (for example, pig farming, pisciculture etc.) selected, we will arrange capacity building training. Households, rather than individuals, will be selected for support to counter dropouts. Any individual from each of 600 selected households aged 18 or above can participate and engage in the livelihood opportunities.

4.4 Support the trained beneficiaries by providing the materials and tools needed to implement their livelihood option, as well as hand-holding support. Specific materials will depend on the livelihoods selected; for example, if we are supporting a household with pig farming, the project will provide them with at least two piglets and veterinary treatments, as well as support to access markets. The beneficiary will provide the food and shelter.

4.5 Provide help to the beneficiaries to establish a system to process, add value and market the products they develop through this project.

4.6 Link the livelihood beneficiaries with appropriate government schemes facilitated by Aaranyak, the village champion and literate members of the village committee.

4.7 Conduct annual evaluation and impact assessments to measure project progress and performance against outputs and outcomes

4.8 Document case studies and other qualitative data, including quotes, videos and photographs, including feedback from project staff as part of regular review sessions, to inform project delivery/adaptation and share as part of knowledge and capacity building activities to profile the project, raise awareness, and improve best practice.

Output 5: Sharing knowledge and building capacity

5.1 The project team will join a village meeting to share findings from project activities with local communities. Meetings will be joined in every village at the end of each project year (n=60)

5.2 Preparation and publication of five reports/journal articles, sharing the learning and findings from the project. Reports/articles will be shared on partners' websites and disseminated through partners' social media and networks. In particular, BAT will share with our thousands of partners and supporters across the South Asian diaspora, philanthropy, private sector, government and civil society in the UK and South Asia.

5.3 Hold workshops/seminars to share project findings and lessons learned with practitioners in order to institutionalise them and ensure sustainability. 10 online/offline workshops/seminars will share learning with different or combined stakeholder groups (including civil society practitioners, funders, and policy makers) and three workshops will be held to specifically inform India's National HWC Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan, and its Guidelines for HEC Mitigation

5.4 Conduct an exchange study-trip programme of the project personnel to and from BAT's HEC intervention in Myanmar (Darwin 27-012) to learn and share knowledge on successful implementation of holistic HEC projects involving livelihood interventions and seasonal solar fencing.

20. 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, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Yes
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes- See Annex 4-15
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	Yes
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	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	