

DIR29S2\1024

Protection to community engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder National Park

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PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Jasmine
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	The Zoological Society of London
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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Protection to community engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder National Park

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR29S1\1267

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Intensive land-use systems (agric., plantations and urban)

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

Conservation Action 2

Education & awareness (incl. training)

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 2

Human intrusions & disturbance (recreation, war)

Threat 3

Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will strengthen the status of tigers and tiger prey in Banke National Park (BaNP), (Nepal's newest NP) while improving the socio-economic wellbeing of residents in two buffer zone communities, strengthening the relationship between park and people. These aims will be achieved by better management of the park's wildlife and habitats to improve tiger prey density, reducing human-wildlife conflict (HWC) developing conservation awareness and facilitating stewardship among communities, and the promotion of alternative income streams including tourism.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Nepal	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 July 2023	30 June 2026	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████	██████████

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding has been secured from Banke National Park (██████████), Zoological Society of London (ZSL) core funds of ██████████, and through KfW/IUCN Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) Phase-II and Phase-III grants ██████████

Match funding = ██████%

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) ██████████

Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how will

you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

NA

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. What is the need, challenge or opportunity?

For example, what are the drivers of biodiversity loss that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite any evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Banke National Park (BaNP) was established in 2010, providing formal protection to local flora and fauna for the first time. The park was created to aid tiger recovery, and tiger numbers have increased from 0 to 25(1). Similarly, prey species density has increased from 10.27 animals/km² in 2013, to 32.6 in 2022 (2). There are clear similarities between Parsa NP and Banke NP. Parsa's tigers increased nearly sixfold from 2013 to 2022 and prey densities reached 75.1 animals/km² in 2022 from 25.32 in 2013 (3). However, a 2019 ecological carrying capacity study in Chitwan and Parsa national parks shows that estimated tiger densities are still much lower than potential densities (4). showing the park can hold more tigers if prey density is increased. The tiger carrying capacity is primarily dependent upon prey species availability, and regular habitat management is required to increase prey numbers. This project will support BaNP in grassland, wetlands and fire management activities to increase the quality of habitat, ensure viable populations of wildlife and to keep the ecosystem intact.

The growth in human populations in the buffer zones around Banke NP has increased pressures on park and buffer zone resources. A total of 48 major illegal cases of logging and poaching were registered in the past five years in BaNP. There are daily records of fuelwood and fodder collection in the park as well. Banke's wildlife recovery has also put pressure on human lives: human-wildlife conflict (HWC) increases each year in the nine buffer zone communities - including crop raiding, livestock depredation, and human and wildlife injuries and deaths. 305 HWC incidents in BaNP were recorded in in fiscal year 2017/18, 420 in 2018/19, 626 in 2019/20, 771 in 2020/21, and 817 in 2021/22)(5). Likewise, more than 300 HWC incidents have been reported from two project site Buffer Zone User Committees (BZUC) last year. Without remediation, HWC will continue to rise as human and wildlife populations grow. This project will work to reduce dependency on forest products, reduce the incidence of, and build community resilience to HWC, assisting park authorities to reduce illegal activities in two most affected BZUCs.

There are nine BZUCs around BaNP with 8,945 households (HHs) and a total population of 43,394 (20,313 male, 23,081 female). 90% are dependent on agriculture (6). Unlike Nepal's lowland parks, Banke's buffer community predominantly consists of recent immigrants, with indigenous and other minority communities representing only 41% of the total population.. The district is ranked 41 out of 77 for poverty. Most people in the area cannot pursue higher education and only have a mean of 3.9 years of schooling(7). These factors make it challenging to diversify beyond traditional agriculture, livestock farming and dependence on forest resources.

Overall, this project will improve the status of tiger and prey species, provide opportunities to strengthen livelihoods, reduce HWC and develop positive park-community relations.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Using evidence where available, please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

This project will contribute to delivering Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), specifically through activities that align with the following NBSAP strategies: improvement in protected area habitats and connectivity (PA-C); preparing community-based organisations for conservation-friendly management of their forests, with a particular focus on women and disadvantaged or indigenous groups (CE-A). Nepal's NBSAP has identified significant gaps in the participation of women and indigenous groups in conservation which this project will help to address by working directly with these groups. This will, in turn, contribute to Nepal's achievement of Aichi Targets 1, 5, 7, 11 and 15.

The project will additionally contribute to the following SDGs: 1: No Poverty (through fostering sustainable livelihoods for marginalised communities); 5: Gender Equality (through supporting women's greater participation in decision-making on natural resource management); 10: Reduced Inequalities (through improving wellbeing and financial resilience of indigenous and marginalised people); and 15: Life on Land (through improving habitats for threatened wildlife and plants).

Nepal's commitment to the conservation of biodiversity in the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) is enshrined in several policy documents, including the Wildlife Act, Forest Policy, TAL Strategy and Action Plan, and Species-focussed Conservation Action Plans (covering tiger, rhino, pangolin, etc). Specifically, the TAL strategy outlines its goal "to conserve the ecosystems of the Terai and Churia hills in order to ensure integrity of ecological, economic, and sociocultural systems and communities".

Furthermore, the project will contribute to the vision (Living in harmony with nature: Conserve biological resources to ensure ecological functions, financially sustaining Protected Area (PA) systems, and contribute to social wellbeing) of Protected Area Management Strategy 2022-2030, a guiding document for safeguarding the biodiversity assets of the country. The project will contribute to the following key thematic areas of the Strategy: Species and Habitat, Law Enforcement, Human-Wildlife Coexistence and Livelihood, Tourism and Green Economy and other cross-cutting areas such as Research, Monitoring and Knowledge management and Communication and Outreach. Also, the project will contribute to the vision and goal of site-specific management plan i.e. five year management plan of BaNP and its Buffer Zone Management Plan (FY 2075/76 – 2079/80 BS). The vision of this plan is to visualize BaNP and Buffer Zones (BZ) as an extended habitat for megafauna species especially wild tigers in western Terai of Nepal, where local people can live in harmony with nature which eventually contributes to well-being of local community and the goal is to conserve and maintain ecological integrity of the park that eventually support to livelihood improvement of the people living in buffer zone.

Finally, this project aligns with Nepal's Tiger Conservation Action Plan, particularly its focus on "managing Nepal's tigers as a metapopulation, by maintaining connectivity among the protected areas... through the following strategic actions: Improve and restore critical tiger habitats and corridors... Engage local communities in resolving human tiger conflicts... [and] Strengthen tiger and prey-base monitoring and research".

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)
- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

This project builds on initiatives by BaNP and ZSL-led IUCN-KfW funded ITHCP projects, promoting community engagement in conservation, livelihood generation, reducing HWC and enhancing habitats within BaNP. It complements activities undertaken by The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC's) IWT086 promoting ecotourism activities, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development-funded Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas project strengthening agricultural improvement.

Socio-economic wellbeing for communities through improved livelihood and reduction in HWC
ZSL has established 29 community-led livelihood committees supporting vulnerable groups' livelihoods: (1) improving sustainable and diversified livelihoods for 4,380 HHs who reported an average income increase of 20% and (2) reducing the rate of HWC in conflict-prone zones by 25% in the lowland NPs. This project replicates this proven model.

ZSL engages with BZUCs and under which several Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs) may exist, exercising management rights over buffer zone forests.

Managing priority habitats for wildlife

ZSL supports Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and park authorities to identify and manage priority habitat intervention sites. Our past experience will adapt previous learning regarding the assessment, mapping and profiling of habitats.

Developing community stewardship, promoting outreach for conservation

This project component will benefit from ZSL's experience promoting community participation through Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs), Gharial Guard Groups, Community Managed Pangolin Conservation Areas (including projects DI26-012, IWT-099, and DI-29-011).

Output 1 – Improving livelihoods via diversification, nature-based tourism and stronger buffer zone forest management

- Two community banks (CBs) established, soft loans provided supporting 115 marginalised HHs to

transition to sustainable livelihoods.

- 25 people trained and equipped in sustainable and diversified livelihood skills for income generation such as electrical wiring and plumbing from trained personnel.
- Tourism hospitality training provided to 15 local people.
- Agroforestry training provided to local farmers by agriculture and natural resource professionals along with the distribution of 3,000 native seedlings suitable for agroforestry in the project site to reduce forest dependency and promote a sustainable source of income.
- Education funds established in two higher secondary schools to aid education access for children from the most vulnerable HHs.
- Operation plans of 4 BZUCs and 2 BZCFUGs updated for improved conservation and governance, during which field work and participatory workshops will be carried out with BaNP managers.

Output 2 – Improved habitat management for increase tiger prey density (summarised output)

- Tiger and prey base monitoring training provided for BaNP staff to conduct monitoring activities and track changes in tiger and prey population/density.
- Habitat (grassland and wetlands) mapping/profiling carried out using satellite imagery, digital elevation model, training samples collected for supervised image classification of the satellite imagery and GIS platforms.
- Based on habitat mapping, support provided for the management of two waterholes, including solar pumping and boring to ensure year-round water availability and management/expansion of 15ha grassland, through scrub-clearing, removal of woody vegetation and removing invasive in strategic locations.
- Equipment provided to BaNP to conduct grassland/ wetland management and fire break maintenance.
- Modelling and mapping fire risk using forest fire location obtained from government sources. Based on spatial distribution and density of forest fire, 7km fire break will be maintained in BaNP.
- Conduct study trip for BaNP staff to Manas NP to learn best practices in habitat management and biodiversity monitoring.

Output 3 – Reduced HWC impact via investing in and safeguarding people, crops and livestock (summarised output)

- 120 Predator-Proof Corrals/cowsheds constructed for 120 HHs to reduce livestock predation. BZUCs will select the most vulnerable HHs for support.
- Communities supported to adopt stall feeding through training and distribution of 3,000 grass seedling plugs. 4,000 non-palatable crop seedlings provided to deter herbivory and create income-generation opportunities.
- Wildlife-exclusion fencing erected in priority areas to protect against crop raiding.
- 10 solar outdoor lamps installed to improve safety from wildlife at night.
- Quick relief fund established providing timely compensation for HWC injuries/deaths.

Output 4 – Improved community-park relations via dialogue, outreach, cooperation and co-delivery (summarised output)

- A short documentary on biodiversity, cultural uniqueness and problems of BaNP and adjoining buffer areas produced and broadcasted, information boards and posters installed/mounted as a part of awareness campaigns to build a better park-community relationships.
- 24 school/community programmes aimed at facilitating behavioural change.
- Park-community conservation dialogues carried out, bringing local communities and stakeholders together on priority issues to achieve BaNP conservation goals.
- CBAPUs strengthened through training/orientation and provided support for their mobilisation and regular patrolling to gather information on illegal incidences and HWC for appropriate responds and actions .

Q14. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit, and the post-project value to the country.

All four project outputs involve building local capacity at multiple levels.

The project will build the capacity of buffer zone communities by:

- Establishing two CBs, providing training and co-producing sustainable livelihoods options for 115 members.
- Delivering technical training to 40 people to improve future employment opportunities.
- Delivering agroforestry training to local farmers and distributing native seedlings to reduce forest dependency and promote sustainable livelihoods.
- Undertaking participatory revision of the operational plans of 4 Buffer Zone Community Forests and 2 BZUCs to promote good governance and commitment to conservation.
- Delivering training to BZUCs to promote uptake of stall-feeding and production of grass and non-palatable crop seedlings. This will enable BZUCs to reduce HWC impact and create income generation opportunities, ensuring communities can make sustainable decisions about their local environment for long term benefit.
- Promoting local community engagement in stakeholder meetings and awareness-raising programmes – such as conservation dialogues and community education programmes – will improve attitudes towards conservation. Trainings will be provided to CBAPUs to provide local communities with the capacity to manage and monitor their local ecosystem and natural resources.

BaNP capacity for habitat management improved:

- Government researchers and practitioners take part in training sessions, in study and exposure trips, and co-deliver surveys of tiger and prey base populations, tiger and prey base habitats (grassland, wetlands) and forest fire dynamics. This builds the capacity of staff in tiger and prey base ecology and ensures continued capacity to run essential biological monitoring surveys post-project.
- Project learnings and results will be embedded in site-specific habitat management guidelines, enabling DNPWC to test and scale up this work in other landscapes.
- Improved and productive relationships with buffer zone communities, via dialogues, anti-poaching units etc. as mentioned above.

Partner organisations will be strengthened by:

- Mandatory training in ZSL's Code of Conduct, global safeguarding, and GDPR.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

ZSL recognises the importance of gender mainstreaming to achieve fair societal outcomes and uses a GESI-sensitive approach to project design, beneficiary selection, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting that ensures equitable representation, participation, access, and benefit-sharing.

Women in the project area are highly vulnerable as they have limited economic resilience and access to employment opportunities and are predominantly involved in resource extraction from forests. Women and women-led HHs will be prioritised for the CBs, livelihood activities and Predator Proof Corrals.

Throughout this project ZSL will seek to identify, understand and address gender-related differences and will promote gender equality in our own workplace and through all project activities. Initial consultations with the two BZUCs have identified 115 HHs (50% women) as potential direct beneficiaries of the livelihood work and 5,170 people (53% women) as direct and indirect beneficiaries of the HWC mitigation work.

The project aims to contribute to gender equality through increased security, access to livelihood opportunities and enabling inclusive voices in governance. Livelihood interventions, identified through a participatory approach, will employ Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principles. In doing so, the project builds on ZSL's past successes enabling fairer representation of women and marginalised groups (40-80% of participants) in livelihoods and governance work, and equitable benefits sharing.

ZSL uses Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI)-sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that assesses representation, participation, access, and benefit sharing to demonstrate project impacts on equality. As such, datasets will be disaggregated by gender where possible. ZSL recognises that gender mainstreaming is a continuous process; through GESI-sensitive M&E, well-functioning grievance mechanisms and beneficiary feedback, we aim to facilitate adaptive co-management and continuous learning. Further, we take our obligation to gender equity seriously and promote understanding and commitment among colleagues and project partners through regular training on GESI principles.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who your stakeholders are, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

ZSL maintains a GDPR-compliant database of project reports and outputs. Excepting personal or sensitive data, project data will be freely available in English and Nepali and shared with project partners. Data-sharing agreements will be put in place with project partners to ensure secure and ethical use of data.

All project outputs will be available on ZSL and partner websites and disseminated via social media, and content will be provided for inclusion in newsletters and press releases.

Outputs and publications will be published through open access peer reviewed journals with costs covered by ZSL. We will share project findings through IUCN specialist groups, other conservation and development agencies working in Nepal, and at ZSL events.

Data will feed into global conservation initiatives like the Living Planet Index and will also meet national needs, including CBD reporting. We will provide hard copies of reports in local languages to communities and stakeholders. Results will be communicated verbally to community members, ensuring access regardless of literacy. The project databases and training curricula will in Nepali to ensure accessibility to all.

Consultation meetings with different stakeholders (DNPWC, BaNP, NTNC, BZUC, BZCFUGs) present opportunities to raise awareness of issues in sustainable biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and HWC. Similarly, community outreach will promote human-wildlife coexistence via conservation dialogues, school awareness campaigns, installation of posters and boards, and the broadcasting a short documentary celebrating BaNP's biodiversity and community. Post-project surveys, including an attitude to conservation index, will assess community uptake.

DNPWC will be the long-term custodian of the project impact reports, survey reports, and legal framework recommendations. According to the Government of Nepal's right to information, this shall be open access and available to anyone on request.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended) and the potential to scale the approach.

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

In the short term, the project will work to improve the well-being of people in two BZUCs: Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari (526 HHs) and Rapti BZUC (586 HHs). This will be achieved through providing opportunities to improve livelihoods (beneficiaries 155 HHs; 720 people) and reducing the impacts from HWC (120 HHs/520 people from predator-proof corrals; and 1,112 HHs/5,170 people from mesh wire fencing). The wellbeing of 155 vulnerable and marginalised HHs will increase by 25% through the establishment of CBs, enabling investment in more sustainable and productive livelihoods. The direct economic costs of HWC will decrease by 30% for 1,112 HHs due to HWC reduction activities, which will also provide avenues for positive engagement with and improved attitudes towards wildlife conservation.

Improving livelihoods, reducing HWC and promoting community stewardship in conservation during the project period will result in long-term improvements in the socio-economic resilience of the communities and strengthened park-people relationship, and lasting improvements in the communities' attitude to wildlife conservation.

The project will work with authorities to map and profile wetlands, grasslands, and fire lines in the park and produce recommendations to form a basis for future management intervention. In the short term, this will inform the management of two existing waterholes, which will be fitted with solar panels and deep boring to provide year-round supply of water to wildlife, and the management of 15 ha of priority grassland. Efforts will go towards maintaining a 7 km fire break in fire prone areas that will secure 460 ha of forest area from possible forest fires. Trainings and exposure visits for park authorities will improve their capacities in managing grasslands, wetlands and forest fires. In the short term, these will improve habitat conditions for wildlife. Two existing 10-membered CBAPUs will also be strengthened to conduct regular monitoring missions against illegal human activities in the buffer zone forests, helping reduce such activities through timely information exchange between communities and park authorities. The combined effect of these efforts is expected to result in a 10% increase in tiger numbers and density of tiger prey species by the end of the project and continuing increases in the longer term.

Beyond the project, the habitat management guideline produced through this project will guide BaNP and other protected areas similar to BaNP for sustainable habitat management interventions towards improved wildlife status within the core area. The livelihood scheme will continue functioning sustainably, reaching more community members through the active engagement of CBs. Similarly, the benefit of agroforestry practices will be realised by the local communities and conservation partners and will be integrated as a sustainable approach for buffer zone corridor conservation and community wellbeing. Long-term direct economic costs will be reduced through the implementation of HWC mitigation measures and awareness campaigns reached to local communities will encouraged for sustainable human-wildlife coexistence.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project will improve management effectiveness for the park, including biodiversity monitoring/research to better understand the requirement of its wildlife species and use evidence-based habitat management to improve habitat quality, promoting an increase in the numbers of tiger prey and tigers.

Local authorities predict an increase in HWC in all 9 BZUCs; HWC is expected to increase in the project's two focal BZUCs' areas in particular. Investments in predator-proof corrals and mesh wire fencing along with stall feeding and planting of crops non-palatable to wildlife in these sites will benefit project participants and all other HHs, helping prevent HWC and improving attitudes to wildlife coexistence. Skills enhancement and livelihood support to beneficiaries in the two focal BZUCs will enable the most vulnerable of the households to improve their income. Enabling conditions such as establishing market linkages, site-specific business plans, trainings in operations and bookkeeping, and better networking will facilitate the economic transition. This will reduce dependence on forest resources for livelihoods for the selected HHs and allow them to become more resilient to stresses and shocks.

This model can be replicated in other areas of the park and will help ensure Banke's wildlife are protected, and buffer zone people benefit.

Q19. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding?

How could post-project scaling of the approach (if proven) be delivered: through new finance or through uptake by stakeholders or other mechanisms? Are there any barriers to scaling and how will these be addressed?

How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits?

This project has been co-developed with project partners. Proposed activities are based on the priorities of the park and buffer zone communities, and this alignment ensures the local ownership that is essential for long-term sustainability. Livelihood and human-wildlife conflict activities have come from our meetings with buffer zone groups and local government to support marginalised communities. The biodiversity conservation focus responds to urgent needs articulated by BaNP, as a relatively new park for which the management does not have adequate resources.

Our project partners are permanently based at the field locations and have a significant stake in the outcome of the project. Partner letters of support illustrate commitments to continue the initiatives established by the project. This project will play a catalytic role in bringing together important stakeholders in one place and habituating them to working together in a productive and positive way. BaNP managers have also pledged their matched support to this project.

Project findings and activities that need to be continued will be included in the revised Management Plan of the park which will ensure continuation of the legacy we leave.


Community banks will be tied to cooperatives by the end of the project, ensuring a platform for the funds to increase and benefit more members. Building skills for hospitality and tourism in the area will widen


opportunity for income through business and employment.


This project will support the capacity of government staff and local communities to work towards sustainable livelihoods and conservation. Training will build the skills of government staff and local youths from CBAPUs, while facilitating long-term improvements to monitor tiger and prey population and illegal activities within buffer zone forests, enabling them to take responsibility for scientific monitoring and management of tiger habitats.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

 [Supplementary Information ZSL Nepl](#)

 12/12/2022

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 pdf 1.05 MB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Misuse of funds by partners	severe	unlikely	major	ZSL has stringent financial protocols in place and works with a wide range of partners. A grant agreement is set up with clear outline of financial responsibilities by each partner. Additionally, ZSL has worked with the project partners on many grants and has strong financial reporting systems already in place.	moderate

Safeguarding	Harassment, abuse or sexual exploitation of project stakeholders or participants during their interactions with the project, resulting in harm caused to individuals.	major	unlikely	major	ZSL has rigorous in-house protocols and policies for safeguarding, binding on all partners. ZSL conducts mandatory training for all project staff on safeguarding, GDPR and the Global Code of Conduct (which is implemented through locally relevant grievance and feedback mechanisms, open to all project participants, partners and stakeholders).	moderate
Delivery Chain	Local government or development stakeholders remain silent over unsustainable resource extraction and infrastructure development in fragmenting and degrading northern community forest corridor.	major	unlikely	major	ZSL and partners will sensitise BZCF members and communities on sustainable natural resource management use and will also promote collaboration among PA management, local government and development stakeholders on sustainable resource use and wildlife-friendly infrastructure development.	moderate
Risk 4	The project works with vulnerable community members and causes harm or deepens gender or other inequity by not involving members of the community, not informing them appropriately or leaving out groups' voices from the consultations.	moderate	unlikely	moderate	GESI is mainstreamed into the ZSL Nepal approach, ensuring the inclusion of marginalised groups. This includes the implementation of participatory stakeholder engagement and Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The project also implements grievance mechanisms and beneficiary feedback and collects disaggregated data. Regular checks ensure guidelines and processes are adhered to.	minor

Risk 5	COVID-19 causes disruption to project activities.	moderate	possible	major	Staff and project partners will take H&S precautions to avoid the spread of COVID in line with national policy. Virtual tools are available as a way to continue regular stakeholder meetings, community engagement, and advocacy if social distancing is necessary.	moderate
Risk 6	Increased risks from natural disasters such as flooding and landslides	major	unlikely	major	H&S assessment carried out at project inception phase to guide site selection for project activities and data collection. Close collaboration with local authorities to progress activities in safe conditions. Integration of nature-based solutions like bamboo plantation in relevant output activities to reduce flooding risk.	moderate





Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

-  [BCF-Implementation-Timetable-Template-2022-23-FINAL](#)
-  12/12/2022
-  19:26:10
-  pdf 195.2 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

Day-to-day data collection, management and compilation will be conducted by the staff responsible for programme monitoring and reporting. They will monitor project progress through monthly reporting and evaluation against the indicators outlined in the logframe, with insight from the project leader. Project milestones will be developed to measure monthly progress. Mid-term and endline M&E will be conducted.

Completion of milestones will be monitored through monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based system – including activity tracking, indicator tracking and finance tracking systems. These allow different aspects of successful project implementation to be monitored simply and effectively, with information sources readily combined to assess overall progress and enable highly flexible adaptive management in response to changing conditions.

Outcome indicators will be monitored and evaluated based on annual reports of BaNP, BZUC records, national tiger survey reports, annual monitoring reports and pre- and post-project socio-economic surveys and analysis. Under the guidance of a Nepal wildlife biologist, camera trap surveys and line transects will be conducted to estimate tiger population and tiger prey-base, as well as their distribution across the landscape. Outcome indicators on community livelihoods, wellbeing, and perceptions will be evaluated based on community surveys conducted with a stratified-random selection of participants in both BZUCs communities by the staff responsible for programme monitoring and reporting. The survey will be designed with a Nepali socio-economist in the team, to gauge experiences and perceived improvements with disaggregated data among gender and ethnic groups. Similarly, decrease in economic costs from HWC will be evaluated by analysing the HWC cases registered both at BZUCs and national park offices and conducting community surveys at representative households of both BZUCs.

Progress towards Output 1 will be monitored through CB records on soft loan disbursement and financial statements, training attendance records, BZUC/BZCF operational plans, workshop attendance records, minutes and reports, annual record of visitors at BaNP. The staff recruited for project monitoring and reporting will work together with Field Program Coordinator to analyse the data of pre- and post-project surveys and enable robust evaluation of the projects.

Progress towards Output 2 will be monitored through habitat assessment reports, habitat management guideline, BaNP reports on fire-line maintenance and forest fire data, tiger and prey base monitoring reports including training and workshop minutes.

Programme Coordinator in coordination with BaNP will provide the required reports to M&E officer for the evaluation.

Progress towards Output 3 HWC incidences will be monitored in first instances by collecting the data from BaNP and respective BZUCs. Furthermore, pre- and post- project assessments carried out in representative households of two BZUCs will evaluate and monitor the decrease in direct economic costs due to HWC.

Progress towards Output 4 will be monitored by Field Programme Coordinator through assessing

awareness campaign activities reports, CBAPU reports, training and community meeting minutes, results shared by BaNP regarding intelligence information, CBAPUs operations. staff responsible for programme monitoring and reporting will further evaluate the data results from BaNP records. Pre/post project attitude surveys towards biodiversity conservation will be monitored based on survey reports produced.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	██████████
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	█
Number of days planned for M&E	55

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.**

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [DI Main-Banke-Stage 2-Logframe](#)
 12/12/2022
 19:30:22
 pdf 151.28 KB

Impact:

The future of globally threatened species (tiger, tiger prey species, leopard) in Banke National Park is secured, multi-dimensional poverty reduced, and human-wildlife coexistence improved for buffer zones communities.

Outcome:

Improved status of tiger and prey species, reduced HWC, reduced poverty, and an improved relationship between park and people ensures a viable future for wildlife and people in Banke NP.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Livelihoods of 155 households in project sites are improved (directly) through providing access to income strengthening opportunities, underpinned by support for mainstreaming nature-based tourism and strengthening of operation plans for buffer zone forests.

Output 2:

Improved management of grasslands and wetlands, and control of forest fires in priority areas within the core of the park, underpinned by strengthened understanding of the habitat requirements of key species (sambar deer, spotted deer) results in an increase in tiger prey species density.

Output 3:

Reduced impact of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the project sites (total 1112 HHs/5170 people) through investments in livestock and crop safeguarding, underpinned by improved measures for the safety of the people.

Output 4:

Relationships between the park management and local people is improved through meaningful outreach programmes, underpinned by increased participation of two focal communities in conservation dialogues, and evidenced by community participation in intelligence gathering and community-based anti-poaching patrols.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Set up two community banks within the project sites.
- 1.2 Conduct skill development trainings for community members from the project sites.
- 1.3 Provide tools for beneficiaries of Act 1.2 to facilitate uptake of the livelihood skills.
- 1.4 Establish education fund within two higher secondary schools to support wildlife victim and/or other vulnerable families for education.
- 1.5 Provide ecotourism support and facilitate tourism stakeholders to promote Banke NP as a tourist destination.
- 1.6 Strengthen operation plans of Buffer Zone Community Forest and Buffer Zone User Committees to encourage good governance and commitment to conservation.
- 1.7 Promote agro forestry within the project sites.
- 2.1 Conduct tiger and prey hotspot monitoring in priority areas within Banke NP.
- 2.2 Conduct site specific wetland and grassland mapping and profiling.
- 2.3 Conduct workshop for result sharing and expert consultations to produce guidelines for habitat management.
- 2.1 Support the management of two waterholes within the core of Banke NP.

- 2.5 Support the management of 15 ha grassland within the core of Banke NP.
- 2.6 Provide equipment for grassland, wetland and fire line maintenance to Banke NP.
- 2.7 Provide support to improve understanding of the dynamics of forest fire and manage it within the park.
- 2.8 Conduct exposure visit to Manas NP (India) for park staff to learn best practices in habitat management.
- 3.1 Support Predator Proof Corrals to buffer zone communities.
- 3.2 Support mesh wire fencing.
- 3.3 Support non-palatable crops.
- 3.4 Support stall feeding (grass distribution).
- 3.5 Support solar outdoor lamps.
- 3.6 Quick relief fund.
- 4.1 Produce and broadcast a short documentary on the biodiversity, cultural uniqueness and problems of Banke National Park and adjoining buffer zones.
- 4.2 Produce and install six information boards, develop and distribute 20 mounted posters to enable awareness campaign to reach additional buffer zone communities in Banke NP.
- 4.3 Conduct 12 school programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for children.
- 4.4 Conduct 12 community programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for adults.
- 4.5 Engage communities and promote dialogues between them and the park in conservation during national and international conservation days.
- 4.6 Conduct exposure visits for community members to promote the uptake of best practices in HWC mitigation, livelihood improvement and forest management.
- 4.7 Strengthen Community Based Anti-Poaching Units and support mobilisation.
- 4.8 Support CBAPUs to monitor illegal activities within buffer zone forests.
- 4.9 Conduct buffer zone forest management trainings in the project sites.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. Budget


Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.


- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.


N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload the Lead Partner's accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

 [Revised stage 2 budget DI Nepal](#)

 12/12/2022

 20:35:19

 xlsx 102.78 KB

Q25. Funding

Q25a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please provide details:

ZSL has worked in the western Nepal landscape since 2006, including BaNP, Bardia and Shuklaphanta NPs, focussing on both poverty reduction and halting biodiversity loss. The BaNP project was designed after the last national tiger count census results were released to buffer-zone communities, local government, park managers and partners.

Design input came from buffer zone communities, local government, partners and the park to reduce HWC by improving the parks habitats, animal monitoring, and to directly promote enhanced and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized communities.

With the government's priority to maintain healthy populations of tigers (and biodiversity), this project also supports their goal to reduce possible conflicts due to increased animal populations. Wild animals will need to be maintained within the core and corridor forests for both animal and human safety. It is vital to maintain or enhance respect that people have for conservation.

This will provide crucial support for BaNP, as its current level of tourism is very low compared to adjacent Bardia NP. This initiative also supports the broader TAL programme's vision by securing the integrity of habitats within and outside the park, alongside connecting people to important wetlands that border BaNP to its southern bufferzone, the Rapti River.

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q26. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Capital items include a tractor (£11,050) to be handed over to BaNP at project completion, verified by a letter of store entry from BaNP. The tractor's use is necessary to continue habitat management work. Laptop of £2,200 will remain property of ZSL. Camera traps (£3,900). Total capital expenditure is £19,350 (4% of total BCF ask). We will keep monitoring capital cost items during project implementation and beyond. The inventory record of capital items purchased will be maintained by ZSL and partner organizations. This equipment allows for long-term continuation of activities by project partners.

High quality, appropriate capital items using ZSL's and Darwin's procurement policy and value for money will be sought, purchasing (where possible) in-country for efficient, cost-effective maintenance and saving shipping and customs costs.

Q27. Value for Money

Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Please make sure you read the guidance documents, before answering this question.

ZSL has 25 years' experience working with DNPWC, the Government of Nepal and local communities, improving ZSL's access to information, tools, permits and local expertise, enabling cost-effective impact. The project utilises methods, data, infrastructure and learning from our existing ZSL Nepal programmes and wider portfolio of community-based conservation and development projects.

ECONOMY

Costs are reduced by using existing systems, equipment, and infrastructure from ZSL's existing presence in Nepal. Match-funding for some activities and for key technical staff; and employing local staff have been secured from BaNP and ZSL core funds. Required capital equipment, where feasible, will be sourced in-country, avoiding shipping/customs charges. Community contributions will support cost reduction and ensure ownership.

EFFICIENCY

Building on established relationships with DNPWC, BaNP, NTNC and experienced local partners ensures inputs are efficiently translated into outputs, keeping administrative costs low.

EFFECTIVENESS

Implementing tested approaches will support effective delivery. For example, CBs are excellent investments, as demonstrated by our previous successful projects across South and Southeast Asia and Africa.

OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS

ZSL is experienced in developing deliverable, locally cost-effective budgets. The sustainable and scalable nature of the project will continue to provide benefits in the long term. The project will implement cost-effective management improvements with low start-up costs and overheads but large impacts on conservation and community development. By developing local physical and human capital, further long-term conservation benefits are unlocked, in addition to those targeted in the short-term, so increasing the return on investment.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q28. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with all partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement and strengthen your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. If any of the responses are “no”, please indicate how it is being addressed.

ZSL has invested heavily in its safeguarding policies and procedures governing national and international work and takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Throughout ZSL’s experience implementing projects jointly with Nepali NGOs, local governments, local communities and research institutions, the team has developed ways to introduce safeguarding policies inclusive of vulnerable people. As part of due diligence, partners must show they meet the same high environmental and social safeguarding standards prior to signing collaboration agreements. Training is also completed in safeguarding, GDPR and code of conduct as a pre-requisite for all projects.

Q29. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

ZSL has in-house protocols for ethical approval, which adhere to international commitments for human rights and biodiversity including Nepal’s National Human Rights Commission Act 2012. ZSL Nepal’s existing projects have undergone review through the IUCN’s Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS). An additional assessment using ZSL’s ESMS will be conducted involving a full environmental and social risk assessment, ensuring any programmatic risks and potential negative impacts on all stakeholders are mitigated and reported. Assessment results will be captured and managed through an ESMS Plan and Community Engagement Planning Framework which include a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and a co-developed grievance mechanism appropriate for the local context.

International FPIC is recognised. The project will follow ZSL’s FPIC guidelines using a participatory approach ensuring all stakeholder needs, concerns and opinions are incorporated into all programming in an equitable, gender-sensitive approach that enables participation of vulnerable groups.

The project will not introduce new indigenous/traditional restrictions to natural resource use and access. Under existing laws, communities cannot use core protected areas for livelihoods, some natural resource collection is permitted --- these activities will be protected.

Health and safety of all project staff is assured by adherence to government and ZSL H&S protocols.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q30. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr. Bhagawan Raj Dahal	Project Leader	20	Checked
Dr. Hem Sagar Baral	Project Advisor	10	Checked
Bishnu Thapaliya	Field Programme Coordinator	60	Checked
Tbc	Programme Monitoring and Reporting	60	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Amit Pajiyar	Finance Business Partner	25	Checked
Simon Hedges	HWC Advisor	5	Checked
Katherine Secoy	Operational oversight	3	Checked
Aaron Foy	Programme coordinator	5	Checked
Taskina Hadi	International Finance Business Partner	3	Checked
Tbc	Project Officer	100	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [ZSL Nepal Combined CVs and JDs](#)
 12/12/2022
 19:49:05
 pdf 1.15 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. Project Partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Website address: www.zsl.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

ZSL is an international conservation charity with extensive experience managing large field-based conservation projects around the globe. In Nepal, ZSL has supported the Government of Nepal for nearly 30 years in conserving priority landscapes and species, working with Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and partners, especially the NTNC. ZSL Nepal's field offices have delivered very successful DI projects - improving livelihoods and establishing community-led conservation, providing technical and financial oversight, monitoring and safeguarding, and sharing learning nationally and globally. Establishing a permanent presence in 2014 under Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) DNPWC, ZSL Nepal has a proven track record of working with project partners to deliver outstanding projects improving livelihoods and establishing community-led conservation of key species and habitats. ZSL will work with the park and partners to improve the habitat conditions of the Banke National Park, with interventions that support availability of water, grazing area and reduced forest fires. We will work with partners and communities to improve livelihood of marginalized and poorer communities that live in the buffer-zone of the NP.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):



Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)

Website address: www.dnpwc.gov.np

(Max 199/200 words)

Under the MoFE, DNPWC is the authorized government agency for the conservation and management of the country's wildlife, habitats, and outstanding landscapes of ecological importance. DNPWC is currently managing 20 protected areas and 13 buffer zones across the country, with support from its 1,937 staff members. It leads on the preparation and implementation of species conservation and action plans. DNPWC is also responsible for liaising with all protected area managers for the conservation of habitat and species and monitors and evaluations all projects occurring in protected areas and buffer-zones. It also implements conservation-related national and international treaties and conventions like CBD, CITES, Ramsar, GTF, and UNESCO/WHs. It has conducted periodic national surveys for protected flagship species like tiger and rhino. DNPWC also facilitates the distribution of HWC relief grants across the country. ZSL and DNPWC have worked in partnership for nearly 30 years and ZSL has had an MoU in place with DNPWC since 2014. DNPWC provides overall guidance on conservation issues, needs and interventions. In this project, DNPWC will support on the central and field-level coordination required for planning and implementation, as well as monitoring, evaluating and advising on effective project interventions.

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

2. Partner Name: Banke National Park (BaNP)

Website address: <https://bankenationalpark.gov.np/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

BaNP is the site-level government partner that will supervise the implementation of habitat restoration activities, organise capacity-building workshops/trainings, and conduct wildlife and other site-level monitoring. BaNP will chair site-level meetings through the existing Project Management Unit which ZSL and NTNC belong to.

Community-Based Organisations (CBO), including Buffer Zone Community Forest (BZCF) and Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) will provide support to ZSL, NTNC and BaNP to identify the most vulnerable HHs for livelihood and HWC mitigation activities, nominate youths for skill development and as CBAPU members.

All project partners have collaborated in project design and co-own project outputs. ZSL will steer the project, coordinating with the government, implementing partners and communities.

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)

Website address: www.ntnc.org.np

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): NTNC was established in 1982 by a legislative act as an autonomous not-for-profit organisation, mandated to work in the field of nature conservation in Nepal. They have a permanent presence in Bardia National Park which also works at BaNP and surrounding habitats and have managed several livelihood development and biodiversity conservation projects. ZSL has a long-standing relationship with NTNC spanning three decades. NTNC will provide technical staff and will assist in implementing field activities for habitat management and species monitoring as well as community development initiatives such as livelihood improvement, HTC mitigation and strengthening community-based wildlife conservation.

Allocated budget: ██████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details
(including roles
and
responsibilities *No Response*
and capacity to
engage with the
project):

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No


Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.


No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.


 [Cover Letter ZSL Nepal_DIR29S2_1267](#)


 12/12/2022


 19:54:48

 pdf 331.25 KB

 [ZSL Nepal Combined Letters of Support](#)

 12/12/2022

 19:54:41

 pdf 2.59 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
29-011	Monica Wrobel	Terai Arc Community Stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods

IWT099	Bhagawan Raj Dahal	Securing Chitwan-Sindhuli Green Corridor; strengthening community stewardship and law enforcement
28-006	Monica Wrobel/ Tungalag Ulambayar	Protecting Mongolia's Gobi Desert for wild camels and herder communities
26-012	Hem Baral	Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale
26-006	Rebecca Sennett Day	Conserving Tsavo's wildlife by building community resilience and fostering coexistence
25-024	Jeremy Huet	Securing marine biodiversity and fishers' income through sustainable fisheries, Mozambique

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of







I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.



(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.





Checked

Name	Andrew Terry
Position in the organisation	Directory of Conservation and Policy
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 AT sig  12/12/2022  20:04:36  jpg 10.85 KB
Date	12 December 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 ZSL AR and Accounts 2020-21	 ZSL Annual Report 2021-22 LR
 12/12/2022	 12/12/2022
 20:05:24	 20:05:12
 pdf 5.03 MB	 pdf 4.52 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 ZSLGlobal Safeguarding Policy
 12/12/2022
 20:05:38
 pdf 1.48 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked

I have attached the below documents to my application	
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above)	Checked
• my completed implementation timetable as a PDF using the template provided	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 32, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 28.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: DIR29S2\1024 - Protection to community engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder national park

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Livelihoods of 155 households in the project sites are improved (directly) through providing access to income strengthening opportunities, underpinned by support for mainstreaming nature-based tourism and strengthening of operation plans for buffer zone forests.													
1.1	Set up two community banks within the project sites.	2												
1.2	Conduct skill development trainings for community members from the project sites.	4												
1.3	Provide tools for beneficiaries of Act 1.2 to facilitate uptake of the livelihood skills.	1												
1.4	Establish education fund within two higher secondary schools to support wildlife victim and/or other vulnerable families for education.	2												
1.5	Provide ecotourism support and facilitate tourism stakeholders to promote Banke NP as a tourist destination	4												
1.6	Strengthen operation plans of Buffer Zone Community Forest and Buffer Zone User Committees to encourage good governance and commitment to conservation.	4												
1.7	Promote agro forestry within the project sites.	2												
Output 2	Improved management of grasslands and wetlands, and control of forest fires in priority areas within the core of the park, underpinned by strengthened understanding of the habitat requirements of key species (sambar deer, spotted deer) results in an increase in tiger prey species density.													
2.1	Conduct tiger and prey hotspot monitoring in priority areas within Banke NP.	36												
2.2	Conduct site specific wetland and grassland mapping and profiling.	4												

Project Title: DIR29S2\1024 - Protection to community engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder national park

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.3	Conduct workshop for result sharing and expert consultations to produce guidelines for habitat management.	1												
2.4	Support the management of two waterholes within the core of Banke NP.	2												
2.5	Support the management of 15 ha grassland within the core of Banke NP.	4												
2.6	Provide equipment for grassland, wetland and fire line maintenance to Banke NP.	6												
2.7	Provide support to improve understanding of the dynamics of forest fire and manage it within the park.	4												
2.8	Conduct exposure visit to Manas NP (India) for park staff to learn best practices in habitat management.	1												
Output 3	Reduced impact of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the project sites (total 1,112 HHs/5,170 people) through investments in livestock and crop safeguarding, underpinned by improved measures for the safety of the people.													
3.1	Support Predator Proof Corrals to buffer zone communities.	4												
3.2	Support mesh wire fencing.	3												
3.3	Support non-palatable crops.	3												
3.4	Support stall feeding (grass distribution).	3												
3.5	Support solar outdoor lamps.	2												
3.6	Quick relief fund.	1												
Output 4	Relationships between the park management and local people is improved through meaningful outreach programmes, underpinned by increased participation of two focal communities in conservation													

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	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	dialogues, and evidenced by community participation in intelligence gathering and community-based anti-poaching patrols.													
4.1	Produce and broadcast a short documentary on the biodiversity, cultural uniqueness and problems of Banke National Park and adjoining buffer zones.	5												
4.2	Produce and install six information boards, develop and distribute 20 mounted posters to enable awareness campaign to reach additional buffer zone communities in Banke NP	3												
4.3	Conduct 12 school programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for children.	3												
4.4	Conduct 12 community programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for adults.	3												
4.5	Engage communities and promote dialogues between them and the park in conservation during national and international conservation days.	6												
4.6	Conduct exposure visits for community members to promote the uptake of best practices in HWC mitigation, livelihood improvement and forest management.	2												
4.7	Strengthen Community Based Anti-Poaching Units and support mobilisation.	2												
4.8	Support CBAPUs to monitor illegal activities within buffer zone forests.	36												
4.9	Conduct buffer zone forest management trainings in the project sites.	4												

Project Summary	SMART indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: The future of globally threatened species (tiger, tiger prey species, leopard) in Banke National Park is secured, multi-dimensional poverty reduced, and human-wildlife coexistence improved for buffer zones communities.			
Outcome (Max 30 words) Improved status of tiger and prey species, reduced HWC, reduced poverty, and an improved relationship between park and people ensures a viable future for wildlife and people in Banke NP.	0.1 Improvement in the multi-dimensional well-being index of the participating 155 households (HHs) by 25% by the end of the project (baseline for the HHs established by the end of Y1) 0.2 10% increase in tiger numbers and density of prey species (sambar deer, spotted deer) by the end of the project (baseline 2022 tiger survey data). 0.3 Direct economic costs from Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) decrease by 30% in the participating (1,112 HHs from HWC reduction measures) (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of project. 0.4 60% increase in positive attitude of all 1,112 HHs in project sites towards conservation by the end of the project.	0.1 Pre- and post-project well-being surveys 0.2 Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) records, annual reports from the park, pre- and post-project biodiversity surveys, national tiger survey data. 0.3 Annual reports from the park, buffer zone user committee (BZUC) records, project reports, pre and post social surveys, market value analyses for crop and livestock losses. 0.4 Pre- and-post project attitude surveys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banke National Park remains a priority area in the Western Terai Landscape for biodiversity conservation for the Government of Nepal. - The park management is willing to shift from protection-centric approach to management-centric approach to address various nuances arising in the park and its buffer zones. - Communities living in the project sites are willing to participate in project activities. - Meaningful engagement of communities remains an important tool to promote positive relationship between park and people. - Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict continues to be the primary concern for buffer zone communities. - The park is willing to provide its staff to participate in project activities.
Outputs: 1. Livelihoods of 155 households in project sites are improved (directly) through providing	1.1 155 HHs (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) benefit from livelihood interventions by the end of Y3, with	1.1 BZUC records, bylaws and constitution of CBs, pre and post project social survey reports, photographs, project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project site residents are willing and able to engage in livelihood strengthening activities.

<p>access to income strengthening opportunities, underpinned by support for mainstreaming nature-based tourism and strengthening of operation plans for buffer zone forests.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Two community banks (CB) established with 100 HHs by the end of Y1, growing to 115 HHs by the end of Y3.</p> <p>1.1.2 Additional 40 HHs (youths) trained in skill development and hospitality training by the end of Y2.</p> <p>1.1.3 At least 35% of the participating HHs operate enterprises through soft loans by the end of Y3.</p> <p>1.2 Six BZUC/BZCF operation plans within the two project sites updated to improve conservation and governance by the end of Y2.</p> <p>1.3 12% reduction in forest resource dependency (baseline to be established in Y1) of the project beneficiaries by the end of Y3.</p> <p>1.4 At least 15% increase in tourists (domestic and international) visiting the park and its buffer zone (baseline to be established in Y1) by the end of Y3.</p>	<p>reports, skill development training minutes and photographs.</p> <p>1.2 BZUC records, park records, BZUC/BZCF operation plans, meeting minutes and photographs.</p> <p>1.3 BZUC records, park records, pre and post project social surveys.</p> <p>1.4 Park records, district tourism board records, project reports, workshop minutes, photographs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community banks can be managed in a way that minimises risks and meets all regulatory requirements. - Authorities are receptive to revision of forest plans. - Improving livelihoods results in reduced forest dependency - Tourists find Banke NP an attractive destination and 'spread the word'. - Significant proportion of revenue from tourism goes to local communities: the set-up, e.g., homestays and community-run rafting trips, is designed to ensure that.
<p>2. Improved management of grasslands and wetlands, and control of forest fires in priority areas within the core of the park, underpinned by</p>	<p>2.1 Key habitat for ungulate species within Banke NP improved by the end of Y3, with</p> <p>2.1.1 Site-specific grassland and wetland management</p>	<p>2.1 Park records, park annual reports, project reports, training reports, pre and post project biological survey reports, pre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat requirements are a limiting factor for the growth of wildlife species in Banke NP. - Management and/or creation of key habitats within the park is a

<p>strengthened understanding of the habitat requirements of key species (sambar deer, spotted deer) results in an increase in tiger prey species density.</p>	<p>guidelines produced based on habitat assessment, mapping and expert consultations by the end of Y2.</p> <p>2.1.2 Monitoring underway for water source use and predator/prey dynamics related to management at two water sources within core of the park by the end of Y2.</p> <p>2.1.3 15 ha of grassland managed following habitat management guidelines to accommodate larger number of ungulates within core of the park by the end of Y2.</p> <p>2.2 At least 460 ha of forest directly secured from forest fire in fire prone areas, selected through consultation with park authorities, by the end of Y3, with</p> <p>2.2.1 7 km of fire line managed by the end of Y2.</p> <p>2.2.2 Fire-fighting unit of the park trained and equipped by the end of Y2.</p> <p>2.3 10% increase in density of key prey species (sambar deer, spotted deer) within the park by</p>	<p>and post project photographs, guidelines</p> <p>2.2 Park records, park annual reports, project reports, training reports, pre and post project photographs, water source camera trap data, inventory list and receipt from park for fire-fighting equipment</p> <p>2.3 Park records, park annual reports, pre and post project biological surveys, project reports</p>	<p>priority for improved tiger prey numbers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest fires are a critical challenge within the park and its buffer zones. - Accepted best practices in prey and habitat management can be replicated locally.
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	the end of Y3 (baseline to be set during 2022 tiger survey).		
<p>3. Reduced impact of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the project sites (total 1112 HHs/5170 people) through investments in livestock and crop safeguarding, underpinned by improved measures for the safety of the people.</p>	<p>3.1 20% decrease in livestock depredation by tiger/leopard in the project sites (baseline to be established in Y1) by the end of Y3, with</p> <p>3.1.1 120 Predator Proof Corrals distributed by the end of Y2.</p> <p>3.2 25% decrease in crop raiding by wild boar/nilgai in the project sites (baseline to be established in Y1) by the end of Y3.</p> <p>3.2.1 35 ha of crop land secured with 2000 m mesh wire fencing by the end of Y2.</p> <p>3.3 25% decrease in deaths/injuries from tiger/leopard and other wildlife species in the project site (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of Y3.</p>	<p>3.1 BZUC records, pre and post project social survey reports, photographs, project reports.</p> <p>3.2 BZUC records, pre and post project social survey reports, photographs, project reports.</p> <p>3.3 Park records, incident reporting, BZUC record, pre and post project survey reports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human-wildlife conflict will continue to be a major problem in the buffer zones of Banke NP if mitigation methods are not implemented. - Community members are willing to offer in kind support (labour, materials) to construct PPCs. - Costs of livestock and crop depredations can be calculated from HWC rates and typical market values. - Funds from local government towards the construction of mesh wire fencing can be leveraged.
<p>4. Relationships between the park management and local people is improved through meaningful outreach programmes, underpinned by increased participation of two focal communities in conservation dialogues, and evidenced by community participation in intelligence gathering and community-based anti-poaching patrols.</p>	<p>4.1 At least 250,000 people exposed to outreach programmes in buffer zone by the end of Y3, with</p> <p>4.1.1 12 school and 12 community education programmes conducted by the end of Y3 (4 in each year), sharing cases from other Nepal park buffer zones.</p>	<p>4.1 Pre and post programme survey reports, project reports, photographs.</p> <p>4.2 Park records, CBAPU reports, training minutes, photographs, monitoring mission reports.</p> <p>4.3 Pre and post project Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey, project report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information boards and mounted posters help reinforce and extend the message promoted during the school and community programmes. - Education and outreach programmes motivate youths in BZUC to participate in monitoring activities. - Outreach work and community participation in dialogues and community-based anti-poaching

	<p>4.1.2 6 information boards installed in the project landscape visible at major sites (park entry points, roadside, major market) by the end of Y2.</p> <p>4.1.3 At least 75% of focal community HHs are represented in local conservation dialogue meetings/fora</p> <p>4.2 25% increase in intelligence re illegal activities received by the park (baseline to be set in Y1) from the two project BZUCs by the end of Y3, with</p> <p>4.2.1 Two 10-membered Community Based Anti-Poaching Units operational (trained and equipped) in the two project sites by Y1.</p> <p>4.2.2 Each CBAPU conducting a total of 30 monitoring missions in their respective buffer zones by the end of Y3.</p> <p>4.3 60% of direct participants of the awareness programmes reporting improved positive attitude towards biodiversity conservation by the end of Y3.</p>		<p>units results in improved attitudes to the park and its wildlife.</p> <p>- The reduction in HWC (Output 3) will also contribute to improved attitudes to the park and its wildlife.</p>
Activities			
1.1 Set up two community banks within the project sites.			

1.2 Conduct skill development trainings for community members from the project sites.
1.3 Provide tools for beneficiaries of Act 1.2 to facilitate uptake of the livelihood skills.
1.4 Establish education fund within two higher secondary schools to support wildlife victim and/or other vulnerable families for education.
1.5 Provide ecotourism support and facilitate tourism stakeholders to promote Banke NP as a tourist destination.
1.6 Strengthen operation plans of Buffer Zone Community Forest and Buffer Zone User Committees to encourage good governance and commitment to conservation.
1.7 Promote agro forestry within the project sites.
2.1 Conduct tiger and prey hotspot monitoring in priority areas within Banke NP.
2.2 Conduct site specific wetland and grassland mapping and profiling.
2.3 Conduct workshop for result sharing and expert consultations to produce guidelines for habitat management.
2.4 Support the management of two waterholes within the core of Banke NP.
2.5 Support the management of 15 ha grassland within the core of Banke NP.
2.6 Provide equipment for grassland, wetland and fire line maintenance to Banke NP.
2.7 Provide support to improve understanding of the dynamics of forest fire and manage it within the park.
2.8 Conduct exposure visit to Manas NP (India) for park staff to learn best practices in habitat management.
3.1 Support Predator Proof Corrals to buffer zone communities.
3.2 Support mesh wire fencing.
3.3 Support non-palatable crops.
3.4 Support stall feeding (grass distribution).
3.5 Support solar outdoor lamps.
3.6 Quick relief fund.
4.1 Produce and broadcast a short documentary on the biodiversity, cultural uniqueness and problems of Banke National Park and adjoining buffer zones.
4.2 Produce and install six information boards, develop and distribute 20 mounted posters to enable awareness campaign to reach additional buffer zone communities in Banke NP.
4.3 Conduct 12 school programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for children.
4.4 Conduct 12 community programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for adults.
4.5 Engage communities and promote dialogues between them and the park in conservation during national and international conservation days.
4.6 Conduct exposure visits for community members to promote the uptake of best practices in HWC mitigation, livelihood improvement and forest management.

4.7 Strengthen Community Based Anti-Poaching Units and support mobilisation.
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4.8 Support CBAPUs to monitor illegal activities within buffer zone forests.
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4.9 Conduct buffer zone forest management trainings in the project sites.
