

## 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: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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### Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	30-005
Project title	Protection to Community Engagement: Managing Nepal's youngest transborder National Park
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Project partner(s)	Environment and Rural Development Centre (ENRUDEC), National Trust for Nature Conservation Nepal (NTNC), Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC, Government of Nepal) and Banke National Park
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 547,180.00
Start/end dates of project	01 July 2023 - 30 June 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024- March 2025
Project Leader name	Dr Bhagawan Raj Dahal
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Maheshwor Basnet ( <b>ZSL</b> ), Pradip Sedhain ( <b>ZSL</b> ), Ajit Tumbahangphe ( <b>NTNC</b> ), Manish Ghimire ( <b>ENRUDEC</b> )

### 1. Project summary

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 (*Annex 4.1.1*). Similarly, prey species density has increased from 10.27 animals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2013, to 32.6 in 2022 (*Annex 4.1.2*). There are clear similarities between Parsa NP and Banke NP. Parsa's tigers increased nearly six-fold from 2013 to 2022, and prey densities reached 75.1 animals/km<sup>2</sup> in 2022 from 25.32 in 2013 (*Annex 4.1.3*). 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 (*Annex 4.1.4*), showing the park can hold more tigers if prey density is increased. The tiger carrying capacity depends primarily on prey availability, and regular habitat management is required to increase prey numbers.

However, the growing human population in the buffer zones surrounding BaNP has led to mounting pressure on both park and buffer zone resources. As communities expand, the demand for natural resources such as fuelwood, fodder, and grazing land continues to rise escalating Human wildlife Conflict (HWC). At the same time, the resurgence of wildlife populations, particularly large carnivores like tigers, further strains the delicate balance between human needs and ecological integrity. This dual growth of human and wildlife populations has resulted in increased competition for space and resources. It affects both people and wildlife: communities face escalating human–wildlife conflict, while wildlife experiences greater habitat encroachment and resource depletion. The situation presents a significant challenge, but also a potential opportunity. If managed strategically, with integrated planning and community-based

conservation approaches, this shared landscape can support both sustainable livelihoods and thriving ecosystems. To this end, the project is working to strengthen the conservation status of tigers and their prey in BaNP, while simultaneously addressing the socio-economic needs of communities in two high-priority buffer zone areas. Key strategies include improving habitat management to boost prey densities, regular monitoring of tiger, reducing the incidence and impact of HWC, building conservation awareness, and encouraging community stewardship. In parallel, the project is supporting the development of alternative livelihoods such as nature-based tourism to reduce dependency on natural resources and increase economic resilience within buffer zone communities.

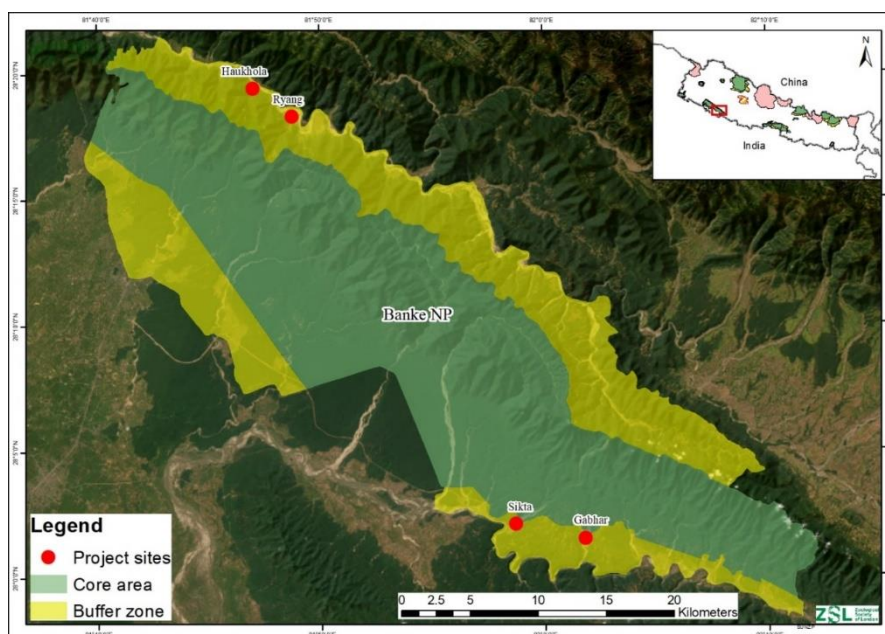


Figure 1: Map showing project sites in Banke National Park and Buffer Zone area

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the main government partner for ZSL's Nepal office. DNPWC and ZSL Nepal have a project coordination committee (PCC) to facilitate the design and implementation of all projects (Annex 4.2.1). The PCC, chaired by the Deputy Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), includes section heads from DNPWC and senior representatives from ZSL Nepal, while the PMU is chaired by the Senior Conservation Officer of Chitwan National Park (CNP), with representatives from ZSL Nepal, its implementing partners such as Environment for Rural Development Center (ENRUDEC) and National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and local government as invitees. In Year Two, the PCC and PMU, established in Year One, continued to work collaboratively with the implementing partners to provide strategic guidance, oversight, and effective issue resolution through ongoing discussions and regular monitoring efforts (Annex 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.5.3 4.6.1, 4.6.2). Consistent with their roles in Year One, ENRUDEC remained primarily engaged in community-focused activities, while NTNC concentrated on conservation efforts within the BaNP, including regular biodiversity monitoring and habitat management initiatives.

Additionally, the project was able to collaborate and strengthen its relationship with the local government of both project communities such as Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality and Kalimati Rural Municipality, by sharing the progress updates as committed and engaging in joint planning process for the upcoming year in both the rural municipalities (Annex 4.5.1, 4.5.2). Similarly, project sharing meeting has been conducted on periodic basis with PCC coordinator, Deputy Director General of DNPWC (Annex 4.5.3).

## 3. Project progress

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**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.** Output 1 focuses on strengthening income streams for poor and marginalized households by enhancing livelihood knowledge, providing skill-based training and toolkits to local youth, supporting income-generating activities, and promoting eco-tourism in BaNP. In Year 2, the community bank established in Year 1 received seed funding, and its members were trained in business planning, operations, and fund mobilization.

#### 1.1 Set up two community banks within the project sites

To strengthen livelihoods of poor, marginalized, and forest-dependent communities, two community banks were established in Year 1: Fulbari Livelihoods Group in Hattidamar BZUC and Milijuli Alternative Income Generating Group in Rapti BZUC. By Year 2, membership grew to 94, 57 in Fulbari (all women, 86% from

disadvantaged groups) and 37 in Milijuli (89% women, 59% from marginalized groups) (Annex 4.9.1). Both banks operate with a fixed 6% interest rate as per their bylaws.

#### **1.1.1 Provide community banks operation trainings to all the CB members.**

One-day community bank operation trainings were held on 7 and 16 June 2024 in Ryang and Gabhar (Annex 4.9.2.1–4.9.2.3), covering CB concepts, objectives, legal status, and operational processes. A total of 64 CB members participated, 83% female and 77% from indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Knowledge scores increased by 22% in Fulbari (50% to 72%) and 26% in Milijuli (52% to 78%) (Annex 4.56).

#### **1.1.2 Provide account and bookkeeping training to all the CB members**

One-day trainings on record keeping, interest calculation, and financial resource management were held in Ryang and Gabhar on 8 and 21 June 2024 (Annex 4.9.3.1–4.9.3.3), with 76 participants, 76% female and 74% from indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Knowledge scores improved by 17% in Ryang (46% to 63%) and 31% in Gabhar (31% to 62%) (Annex 4.56). Refresher trainings were also held on 7 and 8 February 2025, with 32 female participants, 59% from disadvantaged groups (Annex 4.9.3.4).

#### **1.1.3 Conduct periodic meetings (quarterly meetings) with CB members for discussion on project updates, loan disbursement, usage of the loans, monitoring of the loan usage by the members, feedback and any other issues deemed necessary.**

A total of 24 monthly meetings (12 per site) were held by the community bank executive teams from April 2024 to March 2025 (Annex 4.10). Fulbari Jibikoparjan Samuha held meetings every 10th day of the Nepali month, engaging 487 participants, 98% female and 85% from disadvantaged groups. Milijuli Baikalpik Aayearjan Samuha met every 3rd day, with 340 participants, 84% female and 54% from marginalized backgrounds. These meetings focused on group functioning, savings collection, loan disbursement, progress sharing, and decision-making. They also strengthened governance, leadership, loan monitoring, and issue resolution within the groups.

#### **1.1.4 Provide seed funds of GBP 4134 to each of the CBs to facilitate livelihood improvement activities by the community members.**

In Year 2, the project provided a seed fund to Fulbari ALG under Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC while in Year 1, was given to Milijuli ALG at Rapti BZUC. In addition, both groups raised local funds through monthly savings. As of Year 2, the groups collectively now hold reflecting a 7% increase over the project's total seed funding (9% for Fulbari, 4% for Milijuli) (*Source: Community bank record of ALG*). With growing confidence, 45 members (48% of ALG members) accessed soft loans i.e., 22 from Fulbari ALG (all women, 91% from indigenous and marginalized communities) and 23 from Milijuli (82% women, 56% from marginalized groups). A total of NPR 1,219,000 (£7,170) was mobilized (from Fulbari ALG and Milijuli), mainly for goat farming (66%), followed by poultry, shopkeeping (9%), and pig farming (6%) (*Source: Community bank record of ALG*).

#### **1.2 Conduct skill development trainings for community members from the project sites, to support alternative livelihood improvement projects and reduce the natural resource dependence of the community members.**

In Y2, alternative Livelihood trainings were provided to the local youths residing nearby the fringe area of Banke National Park. Through the financial support from the project, we were able to provide 390 credit hours Council For Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) certified course of Electrician/Wiring, Mobile Repairing and Plumbing training for 31 youths of buffer zone communities. Similarly, 7-day business plan formulation training, commercial farming training and goat farming training were conducted among the members of CB.

#### **1.2.1 Conduct a 7-day Business Plan formulation workshop (1 in each side) for development of business plan (2 business plans, one in each site) for identified livelihood interventions in each site.**

With the objective to equip participants with knowledge and skills required to develop comprehensive and viable business plans, enabling them to effectively plan, manage and grow their enterprises, 7-day long workshop was conducted from 20 to 26 June 2024 (Annex 4.12.1-4.12.4) in Kalimati Rural Municipality-7, Ryang, Salyan for the members of Fulbari ALG. Of 47 members participated in 7-day workshop, 85 % were female and 89 % belong to indigenous and disadvantaged group. After analysis of pre and post-test, it was found that the average knowledge score of the participants increased by 26 % (average pre-test score was 34% and post-test score was 60%) (Annex 4.56).

#### **1.2.2 Provide a 3-month long Level 2 training on electrician/wiring to 12 community members (duration based on CTEVT course)**

With the objective of promoting alternative livelihood among the buffer zone communities, the project provided the 390 credit hours CTEVT Certified building wiring training to the 12 local youths residing in buffer zone of Banke National Park (Annex 4.13.1-4.13.3) from 15 December 2024 to 3 February 2025. This training program was facilitated by CTEVT registered training institute. Of 12 youths participated in training program, 3 were female and 50% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged group (Annex 4.13.4).

Out of total credit hour, 80 % of the training course was based on practical field exercise. From the post assessment, score of the training participants was varied from 46 % to 69 % (Annex 4.13.5).

### **1.2.3 Provide a Level 2 training on mobile repair to 12 community members (duration based on CTEVT course)**

With the objective of promoting alternative livelihood among the buffer zone communities, the project provided the 390 credit hours CTEVT Certified Mobile repairing training to the 12 local youths residing in buffer zone of Banke National Park (Annex 4.13.1, 4.14.1, 4.14.2) from 15 December 2024 to 3 February 2025. This training program was facilitated by CTEVT registered training institute. Of 12 youths participated in training program, 8 were female and all of them belong to indigenous and disadvantaged group (Annex 4.14.3). Out of total credit hour, 80 % of the training course was based on practical field exercise. From the assessment, score of the training participants was varied from 44 % to 84 % (Annex 4.14.4).

### **1.2.4 Provide a Level 2 training on plumbing to 7 community members (duration based on CTEVT course)**

With the objective of promoting alternative livelihood among the buffer zone communities, the project provided the 390 credit hours CTEVT Certified Plumbing training to the 7 local youths residing in buffer zone of Banke National Park (Annex 4.13.1, 4.15.1, 4.15.2) from 15 December 2024 to 3 February 2025. This training program was facilitated by CTEVT registered training institute. Of 7 youths participated in training program, all of them were male and 86 % belong to indigenous and disadvantaged group (Annex 4.15.3). From the assessment, score of the training participants was varied from 51 % to 77 % (Annex 4.15.4).

### **1.2.5 Provide training on commercial farming to 20 community members of both BZUC**

In February 2025, three days of commercial farming training were held for community members of both BZUC (Annex 4.16.1, 4.16.2). The training focused on enhancing farmers' skills in modern cultivation techniques, including integrated pest management (IPM), tunnelling, mulching, seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable farming, Gumoz techniques, and efficient irrigation. These practices aim to improve yields, reduce environmental impact, lower chemical input dependency, and support soil health. A total of 82 participants (Annex 4.16.3) attended, with 89% female and 77% from indigenous and disadvantaged groups.

### **1.2.6 Provide training on goat farming to all community bank members**

Three goat farming training events were organized over three days in November and December 2024, targeting community bank members (Annex 4.17). The primary goal was to improve skills for successful goat farming, enhancing rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable practices in buffer zone communities. Training topics included local and improved goat varieties, predator-proof corals, balanced diets, selecting productive goats, caring for pregnant goats, and fodder management, with field visits and demonstrations (Annex 4.17.3). A total of 86 participants (Annex 4.17.4), 84% female and 79% from indigenous or disadvantaged groups, attended the events. The training notably increased participants' knowledge, with score improvements of 15% and 24% in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC and 46% in Rapti BZUC (Annex 4.56).

## **1.3 Provide tools for beneficiaries of Act 1.2 to facilitate uptake of the livelihood skills.**

In Y2, after receiving the CTEVT certified trainings, necessary toolkit was provided to the training participants to effectively apply the skills and knowledge gained during training through hands-on practice project supported electrician toolkit, mobile repairing toolkit, plumbing toolkit and commercial farming toolkit to the participants.

### **1.3.1 Provide Electrician tool to facilitate jobs relating to the same, and to leverage relevant training received through Act 1.2.**

For the practical application of the training, project provided the toolkit set for 12 participants involved in building electrician/wiring training. The toolkit set contains Measuring tape, Screwdriver, Tester, Plier, Nose Plier, Hammer, Chisel, Allen Key, Clamp Meter, Rotatory Hammer, File, Hacksaw Frame, Sprit Level, Wire Stripper, Rubber Hammer, Die Spanner, Grander with toolbox (Annex 4.18.1, 4.18.2).

### **1.3.2 Provide Plumbing tool to facilitate jobs relating to the same, and to leverage relevant training received through Act 1.2**

For the practical application of the training, project provided the toolkit set for 7 participants involved in Plumbing training. The toolkit set contains Drill Machine, Pipe Wrench, Adjustable Wrench, Pipe Cutter, Bottom, Plum bob, Hammer, Measuring tape, Sprit Level, Chisel, Hacksaw Frame, Screwdriver, Grander with toolbox (Annex 4.19.1, 4.19.2).

### **1.3.3 Provide Mobile repairing tools to facilitate jobs relating to the same, and to leverage relevant training received through Act 1.2**

For the practical application of the training, project provided the toolkit set for 12 participants involved in Mobile Repairing training. The toolkit set contains DC Power Supply, Multi meter, Iron, Iron stand, Screwdriver, Twizer, Jumper Wire, PCB Stand, Soldering Wire, Soldering Pest with toolbox (Annex 4.20.1).

#### **1.3.4 Provide relevant and efficient farming tools to promote commercial farming, and support to leverage commercial farming trainings provided to beneficiaries through Act 1.2.**

To promote commercial farming practices, those beneficiaries who have received the commercial farming training also provided with additional support of toolkits. Total 82 beneficiaries (89 % were female and 77% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged group) received commercial farming training (Annex 4.21.1,4.21.2).

#### **1.3.5 Support goat farming through relevant goats and tools support, to participants of training in Act 1.2**

As per the request from BZUC, project has supported total of 7 seed goat (4 in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC and Rapti BZUC) to buffer zone communities. We believed that, providing seed bucks (high-quality male goats) to promote goat farming is a strategic intervention with multiple benefits for improving productivity and livelihoods, especially in rural and marginalized communities (Annex 4.22.1-4.22.3).

#### **1.4 Establish education fund within two higher secondary schools to support wildlife victim and/or other vulnerable families for education**

With the primary objective to support children from the most vulnerable households (HHs) affected by human-wildlife conflict (HWC), a project has supported to established one education fund at the secondary school of Rapti BZUC. Another education fund will be established in the following year.

##### **1.4.1 Establish education fund in one higher secondary school to aid education access for children from the most vulnerable HHs**

Before establishment of education fund at Shree Kusumeshwor Secondary School (Rapti Sonari-1, Kusum, Banke), meeting was held on 24 October 2024 to draft the education fund mobilization guideline in presence of School Management committee, Ward chairperson (Rapti Sonari-1), Chairperson of buffer zone management committee (Banke), Representatives of Rapti BZUC, Representative of BaNP. Later, the education fund mobilization guideline was approved by the School Management committee on 12 November 2024 (Annex 4.23.1). On 17 November 2024 education fund of was handed over to Shree Kusumeshwor Secondary School of Rapti Sonari-1, Kusum, Banke (Annex 4.23.2, 4.23.3). Additionally, amount was added to education fund reaching total worth of £ According to the approved guidelines, only the interest generated from the fund may be used to provide scholarships for students or children from households impacted by human-wildlife conflict. These scholarships will be useful to cover essential educational expenses such as school fees, books, uniforms, and other necessary supplies.

#### **1.5 Provide ecotourism support and facilitate tourism stakeholders to promote Banke NP as a tourist destination.**

To link the livelihood activities of buffer zone communities with eco-tourism, local people were engaged in advanced nature guide training and tourism stakeholders meeting in Y2. Such training and meetings will empower local communities through active engagement in eco-tourism related activities.

##### **1.5.2 Provide a 10-day long Nature guide training with 12 participants**

A 10-day advanced nature guide training was held from December 16-26, 2024, with 14 youths (9 male, 5 female) from buffer zone communities of Banke National Park (Annex 4.24.1-4.24.3, 4.24.5). The training included fieldwork, classroom instruction, and evaluations, covering topics such as ecosystem functionality, flora and fauna conservation, wildlife identification, animal behavior, jungle safety, survival skills, professional ethics, communication, and regulations for protected areas (Annex 4.24.2). These sessions aim to create skilled nature guides in the BaNP area and foster green job opportunities. Participants were tested daily, with average scores ranging from 5.2 to 9.3 out of 10 (Annex 4.24.4).

##### **1.5.3 Facilitate tourism stakeholder meetings with the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and authorities including tourism board, HAAN, TAAN, home stays, entrepreneurs, and nature guides.**

On 26 November 2024, a tourism stakeholder workshop followed by a "Cycling Event" was successfully held in Banke National Park, with enthusiastic participation from stakeholders such as hoteliers, nature guides, community-managed homestays, tourism professionals, cycling association representatives, local government, community-based organizations, Banke National Park staff, army personnel, and conservation partners. The event aimed to address challenges in tourism promotion at BaNP, with 102 participants (95 male, 7 female), including 37% from indigenous and disadvantaged groups (Annex 4.25.1, 4.25.2). Discussions revealed that the park's facilities and management were not focused on eco-tourism promotion. In response, the park, in collaboration with conservation partners, planned to establish a trail for safari, cycling, and jungle walks, alongside maintaining landmarks and animal hotspots. Tourism professionals also proposed expanding tourism activities and facilities. The event concluded with an exciting cycling event in the core area of Banke National Park, promoting adventure and eco-tourism.

#### **1.6 Strengthen operation plans of Buffer Zone Community Forest and Buffer Zone User Committees to encourage good governance and commitment to conservation.**

The operation plan of BZCF and BZUC provide guidance to the users/consumers for sustainable use of forest resources/products and necessary actions needed for the forest management. This year we have

conducted two operation plans related orientation/training to BZCF representative and endorsed 4 BZUC operational plan from Banke National Park.

**1.6.1 Collaborate with BZCFs (2 BZCFs) to strengthen its OP, through assessment, review and identification of gaps and recommendations, to be endorsed by NP.**

Through consultation with BZUC, no operational plans of BZCF require revision. We conducted a one-day training/orientation on BZCF's operational plan provisions, targeting buffer zone community forests linked to Rapti and Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC (Annex 4.26.1, 4.26.2). A total of 44 BZCF representatives participated (17 from Rapti BZUC, 27 from Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC), 36% of whom were female and 59% from indigenous or disadvantaged groups. During the session, participants identified gaps in the operational plan based on current practices and forest policies. At the end, BZCF representatives committed to addressing key issues, including tiger conservation, participatory resource mapping, allocating 5% of BZCF income for relief and human-wildlife conflict mitigation when revising the operational plan (Annex 4.26.1).

**1.6.2 Collaborate with BZUCs (Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC and Rapti BZUC), to strengthen its OP, through assessment, review and identification of gaps and recommendations, to be endorsed by NP.**

The operational plans drafted in Y1 through a participatory approach underwent multiple reviews. After revisions, the finalized plans for Hattidamar, Rapti, Madhyabindu, and Dhakeri BZUCs were endorsed by the respective BZUCs and approved by the senior conservation officer of BaNP (Annex 4.27.1). These plans detail activities for mitigating HWC, forest and biodiversity conservation, tourism promotion, and future directions for biodiversity conservation, HWC mitigation, and livelihood enhancement for buffer zone communities. Additionally, in Y2, the bylaws (Bidhan) for Hattidamar, Rapti, Madhyabindu, and Dhakeri BZUCs were prepared and endorsed by the BZUC (Annex 4.27.2).

**1.7 Promote agro forestry within the project sites.**

Agroforestry practices in Nepal is a multifaceted and sustainable approach that harmonizes agricultural, environmental, and socioeconomic goals. In year 2, facilitated agroforestry related training and fodder species were distributed to the buffer zone communities to promote agroforestry.

**1.7.1 Provide 1 training to 20 community members regarding agro forestry, its importance, as well as mechanisms to start and take care of agro forests for their sustained benefit.**

To promote sustainable land use and reduce pressure on forest resources, two training events (one in each site) were conducted at project sites i.e. 12 December 2024 at Rapti BZUC and 24 December 2024 at Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC. Total of 85 participants were participated in 2 training events, 59 % were female and 69 % belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged group (Annex 4.28.1, 4.28.2).

**1.7.2 Provide 800 fodder and fruit seedlings to 20 HHs for establishing agro forestry in Rapti BZUC.**

To promote agroforestry practices 2000 fodder and fruits seedlings were distributed among the 38 households (HHs) in Rapti BZUC (Annex 4.29.1-4.29.3). Out of 38 HHs who received support from the project 32 % are female and 53 % are indigenous and disadvantaged group. These seedlings will be helpful to initiate agroforestry practices and contributing to livestock fodder availability in project sites.

**1.7.3 Provide 700 fodder and fruit seedlings to 20 HHs for establishing agro-forestry in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC**

To promote agroforestry practices 900 fodder and fruits seedlings were distributed among the 61 households (HHs) in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC (Annex 4.29.1-4.29.3). Out of 61 HHs who received support from the project 54 % are female and 59 % are indigenous and disadvantaged group. These seedlings will be helpful to initiate agroforestry practices and contributing to livestock fodder availability in project sites.

***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.***

Activities under this output focused on camera deployment in strategic areas within Banke National Park, equipment support to Banke National Park and habitat management support.

**2.1 Conduct tiger and prey hotspot monitoring in priority areas within Banke NP.**

Under this activity, camera deployment on strategic priority areas, provided GPS support to BaNP for mapping of available resources, effective management and conservation of national parks.

**2.1.2 Support Banke National Park to deploy cameras in the strategic priority areas within the Banke NP.**

Under this activity, 79 (Bushnell®, Trophy Cam models 119436, 119446, 119456) camera were placed at 50 sites (25 at waterholes and 25 at pathways, which includes fire lines, n=11; safari routes trails, n=9; and animal trails, n=5) to observe the seasonal and spatial patterns of wildlife utilization of waterholes and pathways in BaNP (Annex 4.30.1). Those cameras were deployed from November 2024 to January 2025



for an average of 53 days. During the study it was found that herbivores like Rhesus Monkeys, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Four-Horned Antelope, and Wild Boar showed a marked increase in waterhole visits during the dry season for hydration and heat dissipation (Annex 4.30.2,4.30.3). The study underscores how water availability drives habitat use patterns in BaNP with species like Sambar deer and Rhesus monkey, heavily reliant on waterholes during dry seasons.

### **2.1.3 Provide relevant equipment including batteries and GPS for facilitating camera traps and monitoring.**

Three Garmin 65 S were handed over to Banke National Park for field patrolling, wildlife monitoring, data collection and mapping of available resources (Annex 4.31). Similarly, batteries required for camera deployment in strategic locations (Activity 2.1.2) were procured under this activity.

### **2.2 Conduct site specific wetland and grassland mapping and profiling**

This activity in Y2 has aimed to publish research article on wetland and grassland mapping and profiling and disseminate the camera trap finding with stakeholders via a workshop.

#### **2.2.2 Conduct workshop with authorities and communities for dissemination of initial survey findings as well as validation, with 10 participants each year linked with activity 2.1.**

Due to the delay in analysing the data of the camera trap deployment (tiger and pre base monitoring conducted by (NTNC) this activity was not carried out. The analysis of data collected from the camera trap is underway (*now the activity has been completed while this annual report is prepared*). Therefore, the project plans to share its findings in third year of the project implementation.

#### **2.2.3 Preparation of Wetland and Grassland Mapping and Profiling report and research paper to be published in a peer reviewed journal.**

Last year, we successfully completed an in-depth profiling report on key wetland, grassland and fire prone ecosystems, capturing critical data on biodiversity, habitat conditions, and ecological health of Banke National Park. This foundational work has informed the development of a peer-reviewed research paper that synthesizes our findings and highlights their broader conservation implications. The manuscript has been submitted to Global Ecology and Conservation, a respected international journal, and is currently undergoing peer review (Annex 4.33.1) <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5156699> or <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5156699>.

### **2.4 Support the management of two waterholes within the core of Banke NP.**

The management support of waterholes with the core area of Banke National Park will play vital role in sustaining wildlife populations especially in dry season. Such managed waterholes provide critical year-round access of drinking water for wildlife contributing to the human-wildlife conflict minimization.

#### **2.4.2 Conduct management of one identified wetland (Solar power pumped and boring) - identified through mapping in 2.2**

As part of our ongoing conservation efforts, we have successfully managed one identified wetland area in Banke National Park with solar power pumping and boring techniques. An existing waterhole in Khairi has been repaired and maintained to ensure continued availability of water (Annex 4.34.1,4.34.2). This sustainable approach ensures minimal environmental impact while providing vital water resources for wildlife. An existing waterhole in Khairi has been repaired and maintained to ensure continued availability of water. These waterholes have been equipped with a solar powered pump to ensure consistent water availability for the wildlife.

### **2.5 Support the management of 15 ha grassland within the core of Banke NP**

This activity aims to provide management support for the year-round management of 15 ha grassland in the core area of BaNP for identified through mapping and stakeholders' consultation.

#### **2.5.1 Provide yearlong support for management of 5 ha grassland in the core area of Banke NP, identified through mapping exercise conducted in 2.2**

Through the process of grassland mapping and in close coordination with Banke National Park authority grassland within Khairi Phanta (590706.83, 3108620.75) and Obhary Phanta (581263.76, 3113120.38) has been managed through project support (Annex 4.35.1, 4.35.2). Total of 74-hectare of Khairi and 4 – hectare of Obhary phanta (73-hectare more as targeted) has been managed through manual and mechanized way. The grassland management activities included grass and bush cutting, controlled burning, and uprooting activities.

### **2.6 Provide equipment for grassland, wetland and fire line maintenance to Banke NP**

In year 2, the focus of this activity is to provide Fireline maintenance support to Banke National Park as well as support provide operation support to the tractor which has been handed over to Banke National Park in Year 1. Additionally, tools and field gears for grassland, wetland and Fireline maintenance were provided to Banke National Park with the aims to enhance the park's capacity for managing its habitat effectively by reducing risk of wildfires.

#### **2.6.2 Support regular tractor operation through fieldwork operating cost**

The tractor which has been handed over to the Banke National Park through this project wisely used in habitat management (Grassland and Fireline maintenance) (Activity 4.36.2). Project supported the fuel and maintenance cost of tractor while used in Habitat Management interventions (Annex 4.36.1).

### **2.6.3 Support tools and field gears for grassland, wetland and Fireline maintenance**

To strengthen the capacity of National Park for grassland, wetland and Fireline maintenance different field gears and tools were supported to Banke National Park. Additionally, project has provided 15 bicycles to Banke National Park for strengthen patrolling event to curb illegal activities within the national park (Annex 4.37).

### **2.7 Provide support to improve understanding of the dynamics of forest fire and manage it within the park**

In Y2, firefighting and grassland management training to the frontline staff has been accomplished to enhance the capacity of Banke National Park.

#### **2.7.2 Conduct workshop regarding the finding of the Fire Risk Mapping and efficient fire risk reduction in Banke NP (15 participants each year)**

To enhance the capacity of the frontline park staff of Banke National Park a four day long firefighting and grassland management training has been accomplished (Annex 4.38.1, 4.38.2). Total 16 frontline staff were participated training, out of which 2 are female. Both theoretical/technical session and field practical session has been carried out to accomplish the fire fighting and grassland management training. Training sessions were more focus on grassland management including firefighting knowledge.

#### **2.7.3 Support Fireline management of 3km Fireline in Banke NP, identified through the fire risk mapping and stakeholders' consultation**

A total of 6.44 km (4.34 km in Khairi Phanta and 2.1 km in Obhary Phanta) Fireline has been managed through project (Annex 4.39.1). These areas are one of the major habitats for the wildlife movement and uses. Also, this segment of the Fireline is of paramount importance for routine patrols, especially susceptible to illegal poaching activities that threaten the wildlife. The maintenance of Fireline is essential for implement the conservation strategies and promote jungle safari within the core area of National Park.

#### ***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 people.***

The focus of during this year was to implement HWC mitigation measures such as construction of PPC, mesh wire fencing, installation of community solar lights, establishing quick relief fund while also supporting the income generation streams by distribution of non-palatable crops.

### **3.1 Support Predator Proof Corrals to buffer zone communities**

Livestock rearing stands as a significant asset for the community, and when they experience livestock loss, it directly has impact on their household income. Therefore, to address this challenge and protect household finances, predator proof corals (PPCs) were provided support this year to assist vulnerable households

#### **3.1.1 Support 120 Predator Proof Corrals to buffer zone communities**

In Year 2, the project continued efforts to reduce HWC, supporting 95 predator-proof corrals (PPC)—48 in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari Rapti BZUC and 47 in Rapti BZUC (Annex 4.40.1–4.40.4, 4.41.1–4.41.4). Of the households supported, 38% were women and 65% from indigenous and marginalized communities. Each PPC, built to standards (4m x 2.5m with mesh wire and 1m height), can house up to 15 goats (Annex 4.30.3, 4.41.3). With this addition, the project reached a total of 125 PPCs, surpassing the target of 120, with 61 in Rapti BZUC and 64 in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC (Annex 4.41.5). A field survey showed that these households collectively rear 942 goats, thus secured a rural asset worth approximately NPR 10,362,000 / £160,953, with potential to scale up livestock numbers, creating further income opportunities. The average cost per PPC was NPR 48,660 / £286, with households contributing an average of 55%, demonstrating strong ownership.

### **3.2 Support 2 km mesh wire fencing**

Under the activity, as part of efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict and safeguard local livelihoods, a total of 2450 meter of mesh wire fencing has been installed around the community of Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC (1450 meter; 650 meter in Y1 and 800 meter in Y2) benefitting 38 households and Rapti BZUC (1000m in Y2) benefitting 34 households creating a barrier between wildlife habitats and 39 hector of agricultural land (9ha in Y1 and 30 ha in Y2) , hence not only enhancing food security but also contributing to human-wildlife coexistence (Annex 4.42.1-4.42.3).

### **3.3 Support 4000 non-palatable crops to community to deter HWC incidents.**

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<sup>1</sup> 1£ is equivalent to NPR 170



To mitigate human-wildlife conflict and prevent wildlife from encroaching on the farmlands of the community, specifically in the Rapti, Dhakeri and Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC areas, total of 4,769 seedling non-palatable and economically valuable crops like lemon, and Sichuan pepper were distributed to 118 HHs (45% women HHs, 48 % indigenous and marginalized group) (Annex 4.43.1, 4.43.2). These species were strategically selected due to their natural deterrent properties, which discourage browsing by wildlife, while simultaneously providing alternative income-generating opportunities for local households.

### **3.5 Provide training on stall feeding to beneficiaries who received the grass (40 beneficiaries, 20 in each site)**

Two training events were conducted at Syauri of Rapti BZUC on 11 December 2024 and Ryang of Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC on 23 December 2024 (Annex 4.44.1, 4.44.2). A total of 67 members of community banks (61% are female and 64% are indigenous and disadvantaged group) participated the trainings. This kind of training contribute to the long-term strategies aimed at reducing the dependency on forest resources and minimizing the human wildlife encounter.

### **3.6 Support 5 solar outdoor lamps, alongside construction and provision of solar panels, poles and bulbs for the outdoor lamps**

To prevent potential encounters with wildlife during the night, three solar lights were installed (Annex 4.45.1-4.45.3) directly benefitting 70 households (280 community people) of Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC. Additionally, 24 electric lights (Annex 4.45.4) which were installed in Rapti BZUC in collaboration with Rapti Sonari RM-1 directly benefitting to 61 household reaching to 273 community people. As tri-parties agreement has been done between Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality-1, Rapti BZUC and ENRUDEC, Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality-1 have to pay electricity consumption expenses. During Y1 and Y2 total of 49 electric lights has been installed at Rapti BZUC, total of £367.5 (NPR 58,800) electricity consumption fee must pay annually.

***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.***

Key intervention of outreach in Y2 included targeted awareness campaigns in communities and schools, the installation of hoarding boards with conservation messaging, and the mobilization of CBAPUs.

### **4.1 Produce and broadcast a short documentary on the biodiversity, cultural uniqueness and problems of Banke National Park and adjoining buffer zones.**

A short documentary was produced and broadcasted, shedding light on the biodiversity, cultural richness, and challenges confronting Banke National Park and its surrounding buffer zones.

#### **4.1.2 Broadcast the documentary in relevant platforms, including in local tv, YouTube, NTB, DNPWC and Banke NP website.**

The documentary produced in Year 1, showcasing the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of Banke National Park (BaNP), continued to reach wider audiences through strategic media dissemination in Year 2. An agreement was established with Youth Media Hub, a local media outlet, to broadcast the documentary once a week from October 2024 to March 2025 (Annex 4.46.1, 4.46.2). In addition to traditional broadcasts, the documentary was also shared across digital platforms. It was featured on the Facebook page of Avenues Television ([बाँके राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज . . . #avenueskhabar #documentary #BankeNationalPark | By Avenues Khabar | Facebook](#)), a national media outlet, where it garnered 6.8K views. On YouTube (<https://youtu.be/DK6BgJZM5As>), it received 133 views via the Avenues Khabar channel and an additional 88 views through the local media's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSbgYO4mHIE>). These efforts aim to gradually position BaNP as an emerging eco-tourism site, contributing not only to local livelihoods but also to broader conservation goals by creating incentives for the protection of natural and cultural resources.

### **4.2 Produce and install 6 information boards, develop and distribute 20 mounted posters to enable awareness campaign to reach additional buffer zone communities in Banke NP**

The information boards installed within the community serve as enduring reminders of the messages displayed, persisting in the community's consciousness for an extended period.

#### **4.2.1 Install 2 information boards in buffer zones**

Total of 37 information/ sign boards were installed, out of total 20 sign boards depicting information different divisions in Banke National Park Head office (2D wooden carved board), 7 information board depicting detail information of captive elephants, 7 sign boards mentioning range post names (wooden carved) and 3 information boards depicting information about prohibited activities inside the park was installed with the financial support from the project (Annex 4.47.1, 4.47.2).

#### **4.2.2 Install 7 mounted posters**

A total of 36 mounted posters of sizes such as -12 posters of size 24\*36' inch, 12 posters of 30\*24 inch, 8 posters of 18\*30 inch and 4 posters of 24\*18 inch (Annex 4.48.1) has been *prepared*. Such mounted

posters contain the information of wildlife found in Banke National Park and its buffer zone area attracting the tourist to visit the BaNP, allowing to increased revenue of BaNP ultimately benefitting the buffer zone community. These mounted posters will be distributed among the hoteliers, CBAPU, community managed homestays, Nature guide, National Parks, BZUC etc.

#### **4.3 Conduct 4 school programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for kids (3 each in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC, Rapti BZUC, Rajkot BZUC and other BZUCs).**

To foster environmental stewardship among youth and build a foundation for long-term community-based conservation, a total of seven school awareness events (Annex 4.49.1-4.49.3) were carried at Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC (1), Rapti BZUC (1), Rajkot BZUC (1), Kohalpur BZUC (2) and Dhakeri BZUC (2). Altogether, 467 students were sensitized out of which 56% of the participants were girls. By targeting schools as entry points for outreach, these awareness efforts are helping to cultivate a more conservation-conscious generation that is better prepared to support sustainable development and natural resource management in the region.

#### **4.4 Conduct 4 community programmes, aimed at facilitating behavioural change for adults. (3 each in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC, Rapti BZUC, Rajkot BZUC and other BZUCs).**

Recognizing the fact that the human wildlife conflict mitigation requires a multifaceted approach, nine local trainers trained in Y1 as a change agents, were mobilized to lead an awareness campaign 59 events, targeting the fringe area surrounding the BaNP in Rapti BZUC (10), Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC (7), Deurali-Hariyali BZUC (10), Dhakeri BZUC (10), Furkesalli Malai BZUC (5), Madhya Bindu BZUC (4), Purandhara BZUC (8) and Kohalpur BZUC (5) (Annex 4.50.1, 4.50.2), engaging 1931 local community members out of which 72% of the participants were female highlighting the critical role of women in driving behavioural change and promoting sustainable coexistence with wildlife.

#### **4.5 Engage communities and promote dialogues between them and the park in conservation during national and international conservation days (Each year on Global Tiger Day, CBAPU day, Environment Day, Wildlife Week and Wetland Day).**

Various events such as Global Tiger Day, CBAPU day, Environment Day, Wildlife Week and Wetland Day were carried out this year with community and park authority engagement (Annex 4.51.1, 4.51.2). These events recorded 183 participants from community member, Nepal army, stakeholders and park authority. During the Global tiger day celebration, commitment to enhancing collaboration between stakeholders to promote sustainable eco-tourism in BaNP and its buffer zone communities, action plan focusing on developing eco-friendly tourism infrastructure, community engagement, and marketing strategies was discussed. Likewise, the celebration of Wetland Day at Sutaiya Lake located at buffer zone of BaNP successfully fostered awareness and collective action for wetland conservation among the participants.

#### **4.6 Conduct exposure visits for community members to promote the uptake of best practices in HWC mitigation, livelihood improvement and forest management.**

Exposure visits for community members are a vital step in fostering the adoption of best practices in human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation and sustainable livelihoods as it allows individuals to witness successful models firsthand, gain practical knowledge, and build the confidence needed to implement similar initiatives in their own communities.

##### **4.6.1 Conduct one transboundary exposure for community members to promote the uptake of best practices in livelihood, HWC, and forest management (20 participants)**

A cross-learning visit to G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) took place from 19 to 22 February 2025, involving community members from the buffer zones of Banke, Bardia, and Shuklaphanta National Parks. These participants, mainly dependent on agriculture, gained exposure to innovative farming practices (Annex 4.52.1–4.52.4). They interacted with experts, observed research demonstrations, and explored new farming technologies that could be adapted to their local contexts. The visit coincided with the University's Agricultural Fair, offering a valuable opportunity to witness advancements in agricultural techniques.

#### **4.8 Support CBAPUs to monitor illegal activities within buffer zone forests.**

The project continued to mobilize CBAPUs, a youth institution active in conservation at community level, this year as well for an effort to monitor illegal activities in their surroundings.

##### **4.8.1 Support CBAPUs in monitoring of illegal activities within buffer zone, through community patrolling.**

A total of 13 patrolling events were carried out by the CBAPUs in the BZCF of Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC and Rapti BZUC (Annex 4.53.1- 4.53.5). In an average, the team carried out 6 km long patrolling per month engaging 105 CBAPU members (Annex 4.53.6) in foot-based monitoring. One incident of illegal activity, illegal fishing was documented during these patrols (Annex 4.53.5). Patrolling team informed the National Park authority about the incident and warned verbally and educated about national park provision and possible punishment of illegal fishing.

##### **4.8.2 Support CBAPUs in conducting regular meetings (quarterly) in each site for information flow.**

The project supported CBAPU to carry out their regular meetings that facilitate the frequent interaction between CBAPU and BZUC for planning and flow of information from CBAPU to the stakeholders. A total of Eleven meetings were conducted in between May 2024 -March 2025. A total of 90 CBAPU members attended the meeting, of which 74% were female and 64 % indigenous and disadvantage group (Annex 4.54.1-4.54.3). During these meetings, inactive members, those with prolonged absences from meetings and regular patrols, were replaced to ensure active and effective participation.

#### **4.9 Conduct buffer zone forest management trainings in the project sites (each on fire management, water resource conservation and silviculture operation), to members of BZCF.**

Efforts to prevent deforestation and forest fires, combined with sustainable harvesting through appropriate silvicultural techniques in forest management, not only promote the sustainable use of forest resources but also contribute to mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

##### **4.9.1 Conduct buffer zone forest management trainings in the project sites (each on fire management, water resource conservation and silviculture operation), to members of BZCF reaching 20 people**

This training (Annex 4.55.1-4.55.3) focused on promoting sustainable water management practices in buffer zone forest areas, highlighting the critical role forests play in safeguarding water quality and ensuring long-term water availability as well as the Silviculture Operations enhancing participants' understanding of various silvicultural techniques and building their capacity to manage and utilize forest resources sustainably (Annex 4.55.4), which in turn supports the resilience and long-term health of forest ecosystems. The training benefitted a total of 25 executives (44% women, 40% indigenous and marginalized group) of various BZCFUGs such as Bandevi, Baseri, Jaljala, Sauri, Jharana, Jay Bageshwori, Kusum and Rapti of the project community.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

#### ***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.***

Aligned with **Indicator 1.1.1**, the project established two ALGs in Year 1, with 94 households by Year 2 (Fulbari: 57 members, all women; Milijuli: 37 members), of which 86% and 59%, respectively, are women and from indigenous and disadvantaged groups (Act 1.1, Annex 4.9.1). By Year 2, these ALGs had NPR 1,972,480/£11,602 in capital, reflecting a 7% increase from the original seed fund (Fulbari: 9%, Milijuli: 4%) (Source: Community bank records). Training on community banking operations supported 64 participants (83% female, 77% disadvantaged/indigenous) (Act 1.1.1, Annex 4.9.2.1, 4.9.2.2), and 76 participants (76% female, 74% disadvantaged/indigenous) received bookkeeping training (Act 1.1.2, Annex 4.56), with refresher training for 32 women (59% from disadvantaged/indigenous groups) (Act 1.1.2, Annex 4.9.3.4). Three commercial farming sessions (82 participants; 89% female, 77% disadvantaged/indigenous) and three goat farming events (86 participants; 84% female, 79% disadvantaged/indigenous) resulted in a 46% improvement in knowledge scores (Annex 4.56). By Year 2, 45 members (48% of total ALG members) accessed soft loans (**Ind 1.1.3**), totalling NPR 1,219,000/£7,170, primarily for goat farming (66%), followed by poultry, pig farming, and small businesses (Source: Community bank records). Under **Indicator 1.1.2**, 65 youths (40% women, 65% from indigenous and marginalized communities) gained market-relevant skills, exceeding the Year 2 target (Act 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.5.2, Annex 4.13–4.15, 4.24). This included CTEVT-certified courses in electrical work (12 youths), mobile phone repair (12 youths), and plumbing (7 youths), as well as advanced nature guide training for 14 youths and hospitality training for 20 participants (trained in Year 1) to support ecotourism, further claiming the **Output indicator 1.1**.

Aligned with **Indicator 1.2**, the project updated four Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) operational plans and four by laws (Act 1.6.1, 1.6.2, Annex 4.26, 4.27) achieving the Y2 target of six updated plans. **Indicator 1.3** is being tracked using baseline data collected in Y1. However, the actions taken to reduce pressure on forest resources. These include agroforestry training for 85 participants (59% women, 69% from disadvantaged groups) (Act 1.7.1, 1.7.2, 1.7.3, Annex 4.28, 4.29) and the distribution of 2,900 seedlings (Rapti: 2,000; Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari: 900), benefiting 99 HHs, including 44% women-led households. Additionally, an education fund was established at Shree Kusumeshwor Secondary School with an initial investment of £3,058 (NPR 520,000) in November 2024, followed by £1,176 (NPR 200,000) in March 2025, totalling £4,234 (NPR 720,000) (Annexes 4.23.2–4.23.4). This fund supports children from households affected by human-wildlife conflict with essential educational needs, reinforcing the project's commitment to inclusive development and resilience. Lastly, under **Indicator 1.4**, to promote ecotourism and increase visitation to BaNP and its buffer zone, the project hosted a 10-day advanced nature guide training for 14 youths (Act 1.5.2, Annex 4.24) and a tourism stakeholder workshop and cycling event with 102 participants (37% from disadvantaged and indigenous groups) (Annex 1.5.3, Annex 4.25.1, 4.25.2). These activities are designed to enhance the park's visibility and eco-tourism readiness. As a result, 546 tourists visit BaNP (Source: BaNP visitor record 2081/82) surpassing the **Indicator 1.4**. Overall, the project successfully met or surpassed Year 2 targets under Output 1, demonstrating strong progress for achieving the intended outcomes by the end of Year 3.

**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.**

In Year 2, the project made significant progress in improving grassland and wetland management, as well as controlling forest fires in priority areas within BaNP, in alignment with the project's output indicators. A wetland in Khairiphanta in BaNP was restored with a solar-powered pump, ensuring year-round water access (Act 2.4.2, Annex 4.34.1, 4.34.2). 79 Bushnell® Trophy Cam units were deployed across 50 strategically selected sites including 25 waterholes and 25 pathways (fire lines: 11, safari trails: 9, animal trails: 5) from November 2024 to January 2025, with an average deployment of 53 days. The images from camera trap revealed that herbivores like Rhesus Monkeys, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Four-Horned Antelope, and Wild Boar showed a marked increase in waterhole visits during the dry season for hydration and heat dissipation (Act 2.1.2, Annex 4.30.2, 4.30.3). This findings underscores how water availability drives habitat use patterns in BaNP with species like Sambar deer and Rhesus monkey, heavily reliant on waterholes during dry seasons supporting **Indicator 2.1.2 and 2.2.3**.

Likewise, **Indicator 2.1.3** was achieved with active management of over 83 hectares (ha) of grassland across two years, 74 ha in Khairiphanta and 4 ha in Obhary Phanta in Y2, and 5 ha in Karautiphanta in Y1, exceeding the 15-hectare target. This overachievement was made possible by provisioning a tractor for grassland operations, enabling regular and efficient maintenance activities (Act 2.5.1 2.6.2; Annex 4.35, 4.36, 4.37), thereby enhancing year-round habitat suitability for key wildlife species. Moreover, under **Indicator 2.2.1**, the project exceeded its fireline management target of 7 km by clearing a total of 9.9 km over two years, 6.44 km in Year 2 (Khairi: 4.34 km; Obhary: 2.1 km) and 3.5 km in Year 1 along a sub-section connecting to the highway near Khairi Phanta. This effort helped protect nearly 500 hectares of forest from wildfires, while also improving patrol efficiency in high-risk areas vulnerable to poaching (Activity 2.7.3; Annex 4.39.1). Furthermore, 33 frontline staff of BaNP (17 frontline staff in Y1 and 16 frontline staff in Y2, including two women), were trained in fire-fighting techniques and equipped with gear such as helmets, gloves, jump suits, swatters, and fire extinguishers, meeting **Indicator 2.2.2** requirements (Act 2.7.2, Annex 4.38.1). A **research manuscript** on fire management was also submitted to *Global Ecology and Conservation*. Collectively, these integrated interventions have significantly enhanced the ecological integrity and habitat quality within BaNP, supporting a 10% increase in prey species density (e.g., Sambar and Spotted Deer) as targeted under **Indicator 2.2.3** to be measured by Y3, and demonstrating robust progress toward the overall achievement of Output 2.

**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 people.**

In Year 2, the project advanced its goal of mitigating human-wildlife conflict by supporting the construction of 125 PPCs over two years (64 in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari Rapti BZUC (Act 3.1, Annex 4.40) and 61 in Rapti BZUC (Act 3.1.1, Annex 4.41), surpassing the Year 2 target under **Indicator 3.1.1**. Of the supported households, 38% were women-led and 65% were indigenous or marginalized, reflecting the project's inclusive approach. Each PPC was built to project standards (4m x 2.5m, with 1.5m mesh wire and 1m height above ground), housing up to 15 goats (Annex 4.40.3, 4.41.3). A field assessment revealed that beneficiary households collectively rear 942 goats (averaging 7 goats per household), securing a rural asset valued at approximately NPR 10,362,000 / £60,953. Each PPC cost NPR 48,660 / £286, with households contributing 55% of the cost, demonstrating strong community ownership. This achievement directly contributes to **Output Indicator 3.1** and represents a major milestone in promoting coexistence and protecting rural livelihoods.

Additionally, 2,450 meters of mesh wire fencing were installed over two years (1800 meters in Year 2 and 650 meters in Year 1) in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari and Rapti BZUCs, benefiting 72 households and securing 39 ha of agricultural land, surpassing the target for **Indicator 3.2.1** and improving food security and coexistence (Act 3.2.1, Annex 4.42). Furthermore, 4,769 seedlings of non-palatable, income-generating crops (e.g., lemon, Sichuan pepper) were distributed to 118 households (45% women-led, 48% indigenous/marginalized) in Rapti, Dhakeri, and Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUCs, acting as natural wildlife deterrents (Act 3.3, Annex 4.43) further contributing to **Output Indicator 3.2**. To reduce reliance on forest fodder and limit wildlife encounters, training sessions (61% women and 64% from disadvantaged communities) emphasized balanced livestock nutrition, use of nutritious grasses, and sustainable fodder cultivation (Act 3.5, Annex 4.44.1, 4.44.2), enhancing long-term mitigation of HWC. To reduce nighttime wildlife encounters, three solar lights were installed in Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC, and 24 electric streetlights were installed in Rapti BZUC, benefiting 131 households (Act 3.6, Annex 4.45), with an annual electricity cost of £346 (NPR 58,800) covered by Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality, supporting **Output Indicator 3.3**. Through a combination of integrated interventions, the project has significantly enhanced

community resilience to HWC directly benefitting 629 households (2893<sup>2</sup> community people) (213 in Y1 and 416 in Y2) building a strong foundation for achieving **Output Indicator 3** by Y3.

**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.**

Efforts under Output 4 were rooted in increased participation from two focal communities in conservation dialogues, shown by their active involvement in awareness sessions, intelligence gathering, and patrolling. A short documentary on BaNP's biodiversity and cultural heritage, produced in Year 1, continued gaining traction with over 7,000 views through weekly broadcasts on Youth Media Hub and platforms like YouTube and Facebook (6.8K views on Avenues Television's Facebook, 133 views on the Avenues Khabar YouTube channel, and 88 views via a local media YouTube channel). To enhance visual communication, the project exceeded its Year 2 target for **Indicator 4.1.2**, installing 37 signboards, including 2D wooden carved boards, 7 boards on captive elephants, and 3 detailing prohibited activities (Act 4.2.1, Annex 4.47). Additionally, 36 mounted posters were distributed to homestays, hotels, and BZUC offices, promoting diversity in tourism (Act 4.2.2, Annex 4.48). Awareness programming expanded significantly, with 7 school events (Act 4.3, Annex 4.49) reaching 467 students (56% girls), and 59 community sessions engaging 1,931 participants (72% women), exceeding annual targets under **Indicator 4.1.1** and contributing to **Output Indicator 4.3**. Community dialogue was also strengthened through major conservation days, with 183 stakeholders (Act 4.5, Annex 4.51.1), supporting **Indicator 4.1.3** and **Output Indicator 4.3**, tracked through meetings with BZUCs, BaNP, and local government. These documented results show measurable progress toward achieving project milestones under Output Indicators 4.1 and 4.3 by Y3.

Over the two years, 19 patrolling events (Y1: 6, Y2: 13) were carried out by CBAPUs in the Hattidamar Ghuiyabari and Rapti BZUC buffer zones (Act 4.8.1, Annex 4.53), contributing to the target of Indicator 4.2.2. Teams covered an average of 6 kilometers monthly, engaging 105 members (Act 4.8.1, Annex 4.53.6), reflecting progress against Indicator 4.2.1. During these patrols, one illegal fishing incident was reported to the National Park authority (Act 4.8.1), supporting **Output Indicator 4.2** by Y3. Additionally, 11 quarterly meetings between CBAPUs and BZUCs (with 90 members, 74% women and 64 % indigenous and disadvantages group) were held to maintain operational sustainability (Act 4.8.2, Annex 4.54), ensuring the teams' ongoing effectiveness under **Indicator 4.2.1**.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

While the assessment of outcome indicators is scheduled for Year 3, substantial progress has been made across all four output areas by Year 2, indicating that the project is on track to achieve its intended outcomes. Under Output 1, the addition of new members to the respective ALGs has brought the total to 94 members by Year 2 (**Ind 1.1**) nearing the target for **Indicator 1.1.1** (Sec 3.2). These members have actively engaged in nature-based income-generating activities, which they find to be profitable (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1, Annex 4.9). The ALG seed funds have continued to grow (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1.4), with members contributing savings and repaying their soft loans with interest, enabling the fund to grow larger, support an increasing number of beneficiaries throughout the project's duration and beyond. Furthermore, skills-based livelihood training reached an additional 65 youths (40% women, 65% disadvantaged) (Sec 3.1, Ind 1.1.2, Act 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5, Annex 4.13–4.15, 4.24), with nature-based tourism through advanced guide training. With boosted confidence gained via different training among ALG members, lead to the disbursement of NPR 1.2M in soft loans, 91% were women, 72% from marginalized groups (Sec 3.2, Ind 1.1.3). This contributed to **Outcome Indicator 0.1**, with a clear trajectory of improving household well-being by Year 3.

In Y2, the restoration of the Khairiphanta wetland (Sec 3.1, Act 2.4.2, Annex 4.34) and the deployment of 79 camera traps across 50 sites (Sec 3.1, Act 2.1.2, Annex 4.30) documented a marked increase in herbivore activity at waterholes during the dry season (Sec 3.1, Ind 2.1.2, Ind 2.2.3), supporting **Indicator 0.2**. Grassland management efforts exceeded target, with 83 hectares managed over two years (Sec 3.1, Ind 2.1.3), while fire line clearance efforts reached 9.9 km (Sec 3.2, Ind 2.2.1), protecting nearly 500 hectares of forest (Sec 3.1, Act 2.7.3, Annex 4.39). Additionally, 33 frontline staff were trained by Y2 in fire response and equipped with necessary tools, demonstrating the park's preparedness for fire-related challenges (Sec 3.2, Ind 2.2.2). These activities have laid a solid foundation for continued progress toward the **Outcome Indicator 0.2**.

In support of **Outcome Indicator 0.3**, integrated HWC mitigation interventions within the project community were implemented such as 125 PPCs were constructed (Y1: 30, Y2: 95) (Sec 3.2, Ind 3.1.1), safeguarding 942 goats (Sec 3.1, Act 3.1, Annex 4.40, 4.41) and rural asset worth approximately NPR

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<sup>2</sup> One household is equal to 4.6 individual per house (national average household size)

10,362,000 / £360,953, which is contributing to **Outcome indicator 0.1**. Additionally, 2,450 meters of mesh fencing protected 39 ha. of farmland (Sec 3.2, Ind 3.2.1). Other efforts included the distribution of 4,769 non-palatable crop seedlings (Sec 3.1, Act 3.3, Annex 4.43), stall-feeding training (Sec 3.1, Act 3.5, Annex 4.44), and the installation of 49 solar/electric lights (25 in Y1, 24 in Y2), Six solar lights (3 in Y1, 3 in Y2) (Sec 3.1, Act 3.6, Annex 4.45), all of which further reduced HWC exposure, contributing to **Indicator 3.3** (Sec 3.2). These comprehensive HWC mitigation efforts are directly supporting **Outcome Indicator 0.3**.

Outreach and education efforts expanded significantly, with 59 community events engaging 1,931 participants and 467 students reached through seven targeted school outreach programs (Sec 3.2, Ind 4.1.1, Ind 4.3). A documentary showcasing the rich biodiversity of BaNP and the unique cultural heritage of local communities was broadcast widely, attracting over 7,000 views (Sec 3.1, Act 4.1.2, Annex 4.46). Key conservation messages were disseminated with 37 new signboards and 36 posters installed in strategic locations across buffer zone communities (Sec 3.1, Ind 4.1.2, Act 4.2, Annex 4.47, 4.48). These materials acted as constant reminders, helping to reinforce the importance of protecting biodiversity and supporting a shift in local attitudes toward biodiversity conservation (Output Indicator 4.1, Ind 4.3). CBAPUs conducted 19 foot-based patrols over two years (Y1: 6, Y2: 13), covering 6 km per month in Year 2 with 105 members, reporting one illegal fishing incident (Sec 3.2, Ind 4.2.1, Ind 4.2.2). Regular CBAPU-BZUC coordination meetings ensured functionality, supporting **Output Indicator 4.2** and contributing to **Outcome Indicator 0.4**. Together, these interventions underscore the project's strong trajectory toward achieving its outcome targets by Year 3, with measurable improvements in household resilience, ecological integrity, and collaborative conservation in Banke National Park.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

#### ***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***

Assumption 1: Banke National Park remains a priority area in the Western Terai Landscape for biodiversity conservation for the Government of Nepal.

Comments: Still holds true. Terai Arc Landscape Strategic and Action Plan (2015-2025) is still active.

Assumption 2: The park is willing to shift from protection-centric approach to management-centric approach to address various nuances arising in the park and its buffer zones.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 3: Communities living in the project sites are willing to participate in project activities.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 4: Meaningful engagement of communities remains an important tool to promote positive relationship between park and people.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 5: Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict continues to be the primary concern for buffer zone communities.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 6: The park is willing to provide its staff to participate in project activities.

Comments: Still holds true.

#### ***Output 1:***

Assumption 7: Project site residents are willing and able to engage in livelihood strengthening activities.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 8: Community banks can be managed in a way that minimizes risks and meets all regulatory requirements.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 9: Authorities are receptive to revision of forest plans.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 10: Improving livelihoods results in reduced forest dependency.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 11: Tourists find Banke NP an attractive destination and 'spread the word'.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 12: Significant proportion of revenue from tourism goes to local communities: the set-up, e.g. homestays, community-run rafting trips, is designed to ensure that.

Comments: Still holds true.

#### ***Output 2:***

Assumption 13: Habitat requirements are a limiting factor for the growth of wildlife species in Banke NP.

Comments: Still holds true.

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<sup>3</sup> 1£ is equivalent to NPR 170



Assumption 14: Management and/or creation of key habitats within the park is a priority for improved tiger prey numbers.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 15: Forest fires are a critical challenge within the park and its buffer zones.

Comments: Still holds true.

### **Output 3:**

Assumption 16: Human-Wildlife Conflict will continue to be a major problem in the buffer zones of Banke NP if mitigation methods are not implemented.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 17: Community members are willing to offer in kind support (labour, materials) to construct PPCs.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 18: Costs of livestock and crop depredations can be calculated from HWC rates and typical market values.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 19: Funds from local government towards the construction of mesh wire fencing can be leveraged.

Comments: Still holds true. No travel bans or lock downs imposed by government this year.

### **Output 4:**

Assumption 20: Laying the foundations for biodiversity-friendly production forests now will ensure the community-forest corridor is supported to provide connectivity into the future as timber harvests are made. Information boards and mounted posters help reinforce and extend the message promoted during the school and community programmes.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 21: Education and outreach programmes motivate youths in BZUC to participate in monitoring activities.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 22: Outreach work and community participation in dialogues and community-based anti-poaching units results in improved attitudes to the park and its wildlife.

Comments: Still holds true.

Assumption 23: The reduction in HWC (Output 3) will also contribute to improved attitudes to the park and its wildlife.

Comments: Still holds true.

## **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction**

**Impact:** The future of globally significant 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.

The project is making substantial contributions to higher-level impacts on both biodiversity conservation and human development in BaNP landscape. On the conservation front, ecosystem restoration and wildlife protection have progressed significantly. The restoration of the Khairiphanta wetland and active grassland management (83 hectares over two years), coupled with 9.9 km of fire line clearance, forest management trainings have strengthened habitat quality and resilience. The deployment of 79 camera traps across 50 sites has documented increased herbivore activity, especially around waterholes in the dry season—an encouraging progress towards the **Outcome Indicator 0.2**. Furthermore, the training and equipping of 33 frontline staff for fire response showcases a proactive approach to mitigating climate and fire risks, contributing to long-term ecological stability.

The project has made a marked impact on poverty reduction and household resilience. The addition of new members to Alternative Livelihood Groups (ALGs) has brought total membership to 94 by Year 2, with members actively engaged in profitable, nature-based income-generating activities. The revolving seed fund model has proven sustainable and inclusive—NPR 1.2 million in soft loans has been disbursed to 45 members, 91% of whom are women and 72% from marginalized backgrounds. These funds have enabled income diversification, increased savings, and improved financial stability, directly contributing to **Outcome Indicator 0.1**. Skills-based training, particularly for youth and disadvantaged individuals, further enhances employability and sustainable income opportunities, including in nature-based tourism. Moreover, the project's strategic outreach efforts through community events, school programs, signage, and a widely viewed documentary on BaNP's biodiversity and cultural richness—have fostered greater public awareness and support for conservation. Complemented by widespread outreach, these efforts have also fostered greater awareness and positive attitudes toward biodiversity conservation, reinforcing the project's long-term impact across both ecological and socio-economic dimensions.

#### 4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

**National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP):** The project is contributing to Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) through various aligned activities. For instance, the renovation of two waterholes and 83ha of grassland (Y1: 5ha, Y2: 78ha), along with 9.9km of fire line (Y1: 3.5km, Y2: 6.4km) (Ind 2.1.2, 2.1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 2.4, 2.5, 2.6), supports the "improvement in protected areas habitats and connectivity (PA-C)" strategy. Revisions to the four BZUCOPs (Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1-Act 1.6) contribute to the "improvement in conservation of biodiversity in community-managed forests (FB-C)" strategy. Engaging CBAPUs in activities like patrolling (Ind 4.2, Sec 3.1-Act 4.8), with 80% women participation, contributes to "preparing community-based organizations for conservation-friendly management of their forests, focusing on women and disadvantaged or indigenous groups (CE-A)." With 61% women and 47% indigenous and disadvantaged groups engaged across project activities, the project supports "empowering women and other disadvantaged groups through financial and technical capacity building for conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits (GSI-B3)." The project also addresses significant gaps in NBSAP regarding women and indigenous participation in conservation, directly contributing to Nepal's achievement of Aichi Targets 1, 5, 7, 11, and 15.

**Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Strategic and Action Plan: 2015-2025:** The project aligns with the TAL strategy, which aims to "conserve the ecosystems of the Terai and Churia hills to ensure the integrity of ecological, economic, and sociocultural systems and communities." This year, significant contributions were made to several strategies, including managing degraded habitats (two waterholes, 5ha of grassland) (Ind 2.1.2, 2.1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 2.3.2, 2.4.1 & 2.6.3), supporting "protect, restore, and manage critical habitats (Strategy 1)"; revising four BZUCOPs (Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1-Act 1.6), contributing to "strengthen and promote sustainable forest management (Strategy 10)"; and establishing two women-led community banks for livelihood activities (Ind 1.1, Sec 3.1-Act 1.1), supporting "provide local communities with innovative, sustainable economic incentives linked to forest and river conservation (Strategy 16)".

**Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):** The project is contributing to four SDG goals. Establishment of two women women-led community banks for livelihood activities (Ind 1.1, Sec 3.1-Act 1.1) and engagement of 67% women and 65% indigenous and disadvantaged groups in overall project activities is contributing to 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). Management of habitats (two waterhole, 83 ha of grassland, 9.9km of fire line) (Ind 2.1.2, 2.1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 2.4, 2.5, 2.6) is contributing to 15: Life on Land (through improving habitats for threatened wildlife and plants).

**Other National Policies and Plan:** Revisions to four BZUCOPs (Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1- Act 1.6) is contributing to the National Forest Policy 2019. Management of habitats (two waterhole, 83ha of grassland, 9.9km of fire line) (Ind 2.1.2, 2.1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 2.4, 2.5, 2.6) is contributing to the targets around the "Restoration of Habitats and Strengthening Ecological Connectivity for Wildlife" of Nepal's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). All project activities are in line with the Banke National Park and its Buffer Zone Management Plan (2023).

#### 5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project is working with two communities i.e., Ryang of Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC and Gabar of Rapti BZUC. This year, the project added 17 members, making a total of 94 members (94% women and 72% indigenous and marginalized group) in the ALG formed in Y1 (Ind 1.1.1). Seed fund of were handed over to Fulbari ALG at Kalimati Rural Municipality-7, Ryang, Salyan under Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1, Annex 4.11.1) while seed fund of was provided to Milijuli ALG at Rapti BZUC in Y1. In addition to the seed fund provided by project, community bank members themselves raised funds locally through monthly savings. By the end of March 2025, Fulbari ALG have raised a total of whereas Milijuli ALG have raised (Source: Community bank record of ALG). Altogether as of the Y2, these ALGs have ) (Fulbari ALG: Milijuli ALG: against the project supported seed fund) which is 7% increase (9% increase in Fulbari ALG, 4% increase in Milijuli ALG) (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1.4). Out of 94 members, 48% (91% women, 73% indigenous and marginalized group) have accessed soft loan from their respective ALG to initiate the income generation activities of their interest which was sorted via livelihood ranking matrix (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1.4). Apart from ALG support, 65 youths were trained on CTEVT-certified vocational courses in Level 2 electrical work (12 youths), mobile phone repair (12 youths), and plumbing (7 youths). Additionally, 14 youths completed a 10-day advanced nature guide training, enhancing capacity for nature-based tourism, while 20 participants (trained in Year 1) benefited from hospitality training to support ecotourism initiatives (Sec 3.1, Act 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4). Importantly, start-up toolkits were provided to bridge the gap between learning and earning, ensuring that training translated into real income opportunities (Sec 3.1, Act 1.3).

The project has also directly improved economic security and wellbeing for 416 households through Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation interventions i.e., households i.e. 1914 community people. These included 95 HHs from PPC (Ind 3.1, Act 3.1.1), 72 HHs from Mesh wire fencing (Ind 3.2.1, Act 3.2), 118 Hhs from non-palatable crops (Ind 3.2, Act 3.3) and 131HHs from community streetlights;135 (Ind 3.3, Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report Template 2025 16

Act 3.6). PPC supported households collectively rear 942 goats (avg. 7 per household), representing a secured rural asset worth approximately NPR 10,362,000 / £ 60,953, with potential to scale up livestock numbers, creating further income opportunities while 30 hectares of protected crop land can experience food security and generate marketable products. These interventions not only reduce exposure to shocks such as crop and livestock loss but also diversify and stabilize household income streams, contributing to long-term resilience. Through these interconnected interventions, the project is addressing the multiple dimensions of poverty economic, social, and environmental by empowering marginalized communities.

## 6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	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.	
<b>Empowering</b>	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	<b>X</b>
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

In Year 2, the project maintained its strong commitment to inclusive engagement and equitable access to opportunities across all interventions. We prioritized reaching individuals and households that are often underrepresented in development initiatives, including women, indigenous communities, and economically disadvantaged groups, ensuring that their voices were heard and supported. Demographic data, disaggregated by GESI principles, allowed us to assess gender equity and social inclusion throughout implementation. The expansion of ALGs to 94 members (94% women, 72% from marginalized communities) demonstrated successful GESI integration (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1). Half of the members accessed soft loans to start income-generating activities. A locally designed livelihood ranking tool was utilized to ensure that the initiatives addressed the specific needs of each group, enhancing both relevance and participation while reinforcing GESI integration. The project also placed a strong emphasis on women, indigenous, and disadvantaged groups in capacity-building events. Of all the training sessions and capacity-building activities (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 1.5.2, 1.7.1, 4.3, 4.4), 68% of participants were women, and 73% were from indigenous and marginalized groups, ensuring broad and diverse representation. To bridge the gap between training and income generation, toolkits were distributed, which increased the likelihood of long-term self-employment for vulnerable groups (Sec 3.1, Act 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.4, and 1.3.5). Moreover, the project contributed to household resilience through conflict mitigation interventions that supported over 400 families. These included the installation of protective infrastructure such as predator-proof corrals, fencing, and solar lighting (Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6). By reducing risks to livestock and crops, these interventions strengthened household economies, particularly for those with limited capacity to recover from losses. Overall, the project made significant progress in embedding GESI principles, leading to greater resilience and equitable community engagement in conservation and development.

## 7. Monitoring and evaluation

In Year Two, ZSL Nepal continued implementing the project through a two-tiered structure: the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) at the central level, providing strategic oversight and guidance, and the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the local level, responsible for effective on-ground implementation. A key milestone was the finalization of the project's baseline report, which now informs the project logframe (Annex 1, Annex 2). The report consolidates data on biodiversity, socio-economic conditions, and institutional capacities, serving as a reference point for measuring progress (full report available upon request).

Progress tracking was enhanced through improved database management and technical support from the Results Monitoring Officer (RMO), complemented by regular in-person and virtual meetings with partners to sustain momentum toward Y2 targets (Annexes 4.6.1, 4.6.2). Field-level monitoring continued through

BaNP, in collaboration with buffer zone representatives, local communities, and partners (Annex 4.5.3). Updates were also shared with the Deputy Director General and PCC coordinator (Annex 4.5.3).

Regular monitoring of ALG groups was conducted through the project team participation in their monthly meetings (Annex 4.10), and water hole usage by the wildlife was tracked continuously via camera traps. Engagement with local governments was ensured through planning and progress-sharing meetings (Annexes 4.5.1, 4.5.2) which increased the collaboration with local government evident by match funding (Sec 3.1, Act 3.6). An annual review and planning workshop was convened with implementing partners at the end of the Y2 including ENRUDEC and NTNC, to assess progress, reflect on lessons learned, and collaboratively plan the next steps (Annex 4.7).

## **8. Lessons learnt**

Institutionalizing the Community Bank (Livelihood Group) with local government has built a strong foundation for sustainability and co-financing. Skill-based vocational training, such as electrician, plumbing, and mobile repair, along with toolkit support, has empowered local youth by creating employment opportunities.

Internal, PCC, and PMU monitoring tracked project progress, reducing resource duplication and ensuring effective conservation efforts. Quarterly reviews and coordination with partners addressed challenges and ensured project outcomes.

While eco-tourism shows potential as a conservation financing mechanism, its benefits have not yet fully reached BaNP communities. Continued stakeholder engagement and eco-tourism promotion have led to a slight increase in tourism flow, with ongoing efforts needed to build capacity and infrastructure.

Locally led awareness campaigns, like behavior change programs in schools and communities, have proven effective in promoting human-wildlife coexistence. Sustaining these efforts with strong local participation will enhance their impact.

## **9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

The reviewer's feedback has been addressed during the half yearly report in October 2024 (*Annex 4.57*).

## **10. Risk Management**

No risk has evolved in the last 12 months

## **11. Scalability and durability**

The project was co-developed with key partners, including BaNP authorities, buffer zone institutions, local governments, and community-based organizations. From the planning phase, these stakeholders helped identify priority issues and shape interventions, ensuring alignment with local needs. This participatory approach has fostered strong local ownership, critical for long-term sustainability and potential replication.

Supporting to the project's sustainability, alternative livelihood groups have been formally registered under the local government's group formation and mobilization guideline, ensuring that they receive official recognition, support, and oversight. This alignment with government policy frameworks strengthens the likelihood of institutional support beyond the project's duration. Further strengthening the project's scalability and long-term impact, local governments have contributed match funding to support key activities. This co-investment demonstrates strong local ownership and commitment to sustaining interventions beyond the project's direct funding. Building upon the fire risk assessment conducted in Year One, the project team prepared and submitted a scientific manuscript titled "Fire Dynamics and Tiger Conservation" to the peer-reviewed journal *Global Ecology and Conservation*. By contributing to the scientific literature, the project not only advances academic understanding but support policy advocacy and promote evidence-based conservation approaches within BaNP and similar contexts.

## **12. Darwin Initiative identity**

The Darwin Initiative has been mentioned in each agreement signed with partners. The guidelines on use of the Darwin Initiative logo were briefed to project partners during the inception meeting before the start of implementation. The Darwin Initiative logo, along with the partners logo, has also been placed on banners, information boards and communication products. The project will continue placing the Darwin Initiative logo on hoarding boards and any other communication materials. In general, the wildlife conservation community in Nepal is familiar with the Darwin Initiative through previously supported projects. However, this project has particularly publicised the Darwin Initiative in BaNP through engagement with local communities, local government, line agencies and BaNP, through project inceptions and stakeholder meetings and consultations.

## **13. Safeguarding**

## **14. Project expenditure**

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Costs (£)	Darwin	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)					
<b>TOTAL</b>	£222,120.00				

**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 (£)			Zoological society of London and DNPWC
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

## 15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In Year Two, the project finalized its baseline study, establishing initial values for key indicators across biodiversity, community livelihoods, and institutional capacity. These baseline values have been systematically integrated into the project's logical framework, detailed in Annexes 1 and 2. This integration ensures a structured approach to monitoring and evaluation, allowing for consistent tracking of progress and impact over time.

## 16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

*I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds 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).*

In Y2, a flagship achievement has been the revitalization of the Nature Guide Associations, which have emerged as key actors in promoting sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation.

Although formally registered with the District Administration Office in January 2011, the association had remained largely inactive for years. Recognizing its potential to contribute to both conservation and local employment, the project prioritized its revival. Through focused technical and institutional support, the association was brought back into operation. A major milestone in this process was the delivery of a 10-day advanced training program designed to strengthen the guides' ecological understanding, interpretive skills, and confidence. The training empowered participants with the tools needed to offer meaningful, conservation-oriented visitor experiences, reigniting their motivation to engage in field activities. Following the training, the association took a significant step by establishing a dedicated contact office to formalize its operations and enhance accessibility. To support this renewed momentum, the project also provided official guide licenses, ID cards, and training certificates, along with essential field equipment such as binoculars and key reference materials. These resources have not only enhanced the professionalism of the guides but also improved the association's overall visibility and functionality. Today, the revitalized Nature Guide Association stands as a strong pillar of community-led ecotourism in and around Banke National Park. Their active participation is already contributing to improved visitor services, increased tourism interest, and greater local ownership of conservation efforts. Furthermore, the initiative has opened new avenues for sustainable income generation for local youth, thereby reinforcing the socio-economic fabric of the region.

Looking forward, the association offers a scalable model for expanding community involvement in conservation-linked tourism. Continued support and partnership will be vital to build on this momentum ensuring long-term sustainability, stronger conservation outcomes, and enhanced livelihoods for communities that depend on the natural resources of Banke National Park.

<b>File Type (Image / Video/ Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
Image	New opened Nature Guide Association Contact Office	New opened Nature Guide Association Contact Office		Yes
Image	Participants observing the landscape during Nature guide training	Participants observing the landscape during Nature guide training		Yes
Image	Certification of the participants	Certification of the participants		Yes



## 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><b>Impact:</b> The future of globally significant 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</p>	<p>During the second year, project scale up the foundation set in year 1. Project activities mainly focused on livelihood enhancement, habitat management, safeguarding communities from human wildlife conflict through construction of PPC's and mesh wire fencing. Total of 31 local youths trained on CTEVT certified vocational training in electrician/wiring, plumbing and mobile repairing and provided toolkit for practical implications of the training. Additionally, 14 local youths residing in fringe area of BaNP trained on advanced nature guide training to promote eco-tourism and developed as brand ambassador of conservation. Likewise, two water hole have been continuously monitored, 83 ha of grassland have been managed, 9.9 km of fire line maintained to secure the habitat of wildlife. Construction of PPC (n=125), Mesh wire fencing (n=2450meter) has further catalyst to improve the coexistence in the project buffer zone communities.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome:</b> 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.</p>		
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.1:</b> Improvement in the well-being index of the participating households 155 households (HHs) by 25% by the end of the project</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0.55 wellbeing index (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 0.68 wellbeing index</p>	<p>94 HHs (Fulbari;57 and Milijul; 37) of the project sites engaged in community bank, of which 86% and 59%, respectively, belong to women and indigenous and disadvantaged groups (Act 1.1, Annex 4.9.1). 45 members of CB (48% of the total member engaged in ALG by Y2) (<b>Ind 1.1.3</b>), primarily women (91%) and indigenous and marginalized group (72%) accessed soft loans totalling NPR 1,219,000/£7,170), used predominantly for goat farming (66%), followed by poultry, pig farming, and small businesses (Source: Community bank records).</p> <p>Under <b>Indicator 1.1.2</b>, the project trained 31 youths on market-relevant skills to enhance livelihood opportunities (Act, 1.2.2-1.2.4, Annex 4.13–4.15). These included CTEVT-certified vocational courses in Level 2 electrical work (12 youths), mobile phone repair (12 youths), and plumbing (7 youths). Additionally, 14 youths completed a 10-day advanced</p>	<p>Periodic meeting with CB to monitor the loan mobilization and promote agroforestry practices through training.</p>

	nature guide training, enhancing capacity for nature-based tourism (Act 1.5.2, Annex 4.24).	
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.2:</b> 10% increase in tiger number and density of prey species (sambar deer, spotted deer) by the end of the project (baseline from 2022 tiger survey data).</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 25 tigers and prey density 32.6 animals/km<sup>2</sup> (source. National Tiger Survey report, Nepal, 2022).</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 28 tigers and prey density 35.86 /animals km<sup>2</sup>.</p>	<p>The baseline has been retrieved from the National Tiger Survey 2022, i.e., 25 tigers and prey density are 32.6 animals/km<sup>2</sup> (Line transect). To achieve the target of 10% increase in tiger number and density of prey species, various targeted activities such as waterhole management (one at Khairi Phanta), 78 ha of grassland managed (74 ha at Khairi Phanta and 4 ha Obhary Phanta), 1800 meter mesh wire fencing (1000 meter at Rapti and 800 meter at Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC) (Act 3.2.1, Annex 4.42), 6.44 km fire line maintenance (Act 2.7.3, Annex 4.39). Also to monitor the tiger and prey species, camera trap has been deployed at strategic location such as waterholes, safari route and animal trails (Act 2.1.2, Annex 4.30).</p>	<p>Activities such as management of grassland, fire line maintenance, camera trap will be deployed at strategic location as well as provided support to the Banke National Park for National Tiger survey 2026.</p>
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.3:</b> Economic costs from Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) decrease by 30% in the participating households (120 HH from Predator Proof Corrals and 1112 HH from other HWC reduction measures) (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of the project.</p> <p><b>Baseline: NRs. 50122.58 per HH</b></p> <p>NRs. 18787.1 (Crop loss per HH)</p> <p>NRs. 31335.48 (Livestock loss per HH)</p> <p><b>Target: NRs. 35,085.83 per HH</b></p> <p>NRs. 13150.97 (Crop loss per HH)</p> <p>NRs. 21928.83 (Livestock loss per HH)</p>	<p>95 predator proof coral has been constructed (47 in Rapti and 48 in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC) (Act 3.1.1, Annex 4.40, Annex 4.41), 3 solar outdoor lamps benefitting 70 households installed at Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC and 24 streetlights benefitting to 61 households installed at Rapti BZUC to prevent potential encounters with wildlife during night (Act 3.6, Annex 4.45).</p>	<p>No PPC construction activity for Y3 however we will continue to monitor its effectiveness.</p>
<p><b>Outcome indicator 0.4:</b> 0.4 60% increase in positive attitude of buffer zone communities in the project sites towards conservation by the end of the project.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Positive attitude (Low–98.7, Moderate-1.3 and High-0.0) (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Positive attitude (Low–39.48, Moderate-2.08 and High-60)</p>	<p>The progress towards the activities aligned to achieving the indicator has been in progress. Video documentary to produce to promote wildlife tourism has been broadcasted through different platform such as YouTube and Facebook with more than 7,000 views (6.8K views on Avenues Television's Facebook page, 133 views on the Avenues Khabar YouTube channel, and 88 views via a local media YouTube channel) (Act 4.1.2, Annex 4.46).</p> <p>Total of 7 school awareness were carried out to orient 467 students of the project community. Similarly, community based anti-poaching unit members (change agent) carried out a total of 59 community awareness reached to 1931 buffer zone</p>	<p>Video documentary will be continued to broadcast via local tv channels, You Tube, BaNP website for wider reach in promoting tourism in BaNP. Behaviour change campaign both at community and school will be carried out frequently. Exposure visits will be conducted for the community members. Further, CBAPU will continue to patrol and carry out meetings with</p>

	<p>community people (Ind 4.1, Act 4.3, 4.4, Annex 4.49, Annex 4.50). Installation of 37 sign boards (2D wooden carved boards, 7 boards detailing information of captive animals and 3 boards with information about prohibited activities inside the park), 36 mounted posters of varying sizes were developed to promote biodiversity awareness of BaNP to promote the diversity of tourism experiences in Banke (Ind 4.1.2, Act 4.2.1, Act 4.2.2, Annex 4.47 &amp; 4.48). Community dialogue was reinforced through participation in major conservation days (e.g., Global Tiger Day, Wetland Day), attended by 183 stakeholders including park staff, army personnel, and local residents (Ind 4.3, Act 4.5, Annex 4.51) promoting collaboration for biodiversity conservation among BZUCs, BaNP and local government.</p> <p>Furthermore, CBAPU carried out 13 patrols and 11 meeting were carried between CBAPU, BZUC and BaNP for coordination, information flow and enhanced combined efforts to curb illegal activities in buffer zone (Ind 4.2, Act 4.8.1, Annex 4.53, Act 4.8.2, Annex 4.54)</p>	<p>stakeholders for sharing information. Preparation and installation of hoarding board and mounted posters will continue. Engage local communities and promote dialogues between them and the park in conservation during national and international conservation days will continue.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>		
<p><b>Output indicator 1.1:</b> 155 HHs (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) benefit from livelihood interventions by the end of Y3, with</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><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 155 HHs by Year 3</p> <p>1.1.2 Additional 40 HHs (youths) trained in skill development and hospitality training by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 40 youths trained on skill development.</p> <p>1.1.3 At least 35% of the participating HHs operate enterprises through soft loans by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 35% (55 individuals) of the participating 155 HHs operate enterprises through soft loans by the end of Y3.</p>	<p>1.1 94 members out of which 98% are women and 76% indigenous and disadvantage group) (Act 1.1) are engaged in community banks.</p> <p>1.1.1 Two community bank established in Y1 i.e., Fulbari Jibikoparjan Samuha at Hattidamar BZUC, Ryang and Milijuli Baikalpik Aayearjan Samuha in Rapti BZUC, Gabar-Sikta, with increased members 94 by the end of Y2, out of which 98% are women and 76% indigenous and disadvantage group) (Sec 3.1, Act 1.1)</p> <p>1.1.2 Under <b>Indicator 1.1.2</b>, in Year 2, total of 45 youths (36% women, 71% from indigenous and marginalized communities) with market-relevant skills to enhance livelihood opportunities (Act, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, Annex 4.13–4.15). These training included CTEVT-certified vocational courses in Level 2 electrical work (12 youths), mobile phone repair (12 youths), plumbing (7 youths), 10-day advanced nature guide training (14 youths) (Act 1.5.2, Annex 4.24). These interventions contribute directly to improved income opportunities for youth</p>	<p>1.1 Remaining members of CB will access soft to initiate locally appropriate livelihood interventions.</p> <p>1.1.1 Beneficiaries will be added in the community bank as a member.</p> <p>1.1.3 Remaining members of Community bank will access soft loan form the community bank.</p>

	<p>and align with the project's goal of inclusive, skills-based livelihood development.</p> <p>1.1.3 45 members of CB (48% of the total member engaged in ALG by Y2) (<b>Ind 1.1.3</b>), primarily women (91%) and indigenous and marginalized group (72%) accessed soft loans totalling NPR 1,219,000/£7,170), used predominantly for goat farming (66%), followed by poultry, pig farming, and small businesses.</p>	
<p><b>Output indicator 1.2:</b> Six BZUC/BZCF operation plans within the two project sites updated to improve conservation and governance by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Six BZUC/CF operation plan updated</p>	<p>1.2 Four BZUC OP i.e., Hattidamar, Rapti, Madhyabindu, and Dhakeri BZUCs prepared with the technical support of Banke National Park officials in Y1 reviewed, endorsed by BZUC and approved by Senior conservation officer of BaNP in Y2. Additionally, 4 bylaws (bidhan) of BZUC i.e. Hattidamar, Rapti, Madhyabindu, and Dhakeri BZUCs prepared (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 1.6.2, Annex 4.27.1, 4.27.2</i>). Additionally, in consultation with BZUC, there was no operational plans of BZCF that need to be revised. For this activity, conducted one day training/orientation regarding to the different provision of operational plan of BZCF targeting to the buffer zone community forests associated with Rapti and Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC (<i>Act 1.6.1, Annex 4.26.1, 4.26.2</i>). Total of 44 BZCF representatives (17 in Rapti BZUC and 27 in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC), out of total 36 % are female and 59 % belong to indigenous and disadvantage group.</p>	No activity plan for Y3
<p><b>Output indicator 1.3:</b> 12% reduction in forest resource dependency (baseline to be established in Y1) of the project beneficiaries by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 95.5 % (<i>Source: Baseline Survey, 2024</i>)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 84%.</p>	<p>1.3 The progress towards the activities aligned to achieving the indicator has been in progress, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two stall-feeding training sessions were conducted involving 67 participants—61% women and 64% from disadvantaged communities. These sessions emphasized balanced livestock nutrition, use of nutritious grasses, and sustainable fodder cultivation (<i>Act 3.5, Annex 4.44.1, 4.44.2</i>), enhancing long-term mitigation of HWC.</li> <li>To promote sustainable land use and reduce pressure on forest resources, two training events (one in each site) were conducted at project sites. Total of 85 participants were participated in 2 training events, 59 % were female and 69 % belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged group (<i>Act 1.7.1, Annex 4.28.1, 4.28.2</i>).</li> </ul>	1.3 Support Stall feeding through grass distribution, behaviour change campaigns planned.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote agroforestry practices 2,900 fodder and fruits seedlings were distributed among the 99 households (HHs) (Act 1.7.2, Act 1.7.3, Annex 4.29.1-4.29.3). Out of 99 HHs who received support from the project 45 % are female and 57 % are indigenous and disadvantaged group. These seedlings will be helpful to initiate agroforestry practices and contributing to livestock fodder availability in project sites.</li> <li>Total of 59 community awareness reached to 1931 buffer zone community people (Ind 4.1, Act 4.4, Annex 4.50).</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output indicator 1.4:</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 317 Tourists (Source: DNPWC AR 2079/80).</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 365 Tourists</p>	<p>1.4 in FY 2081/82, total 546 tourist visited BaNP (Source: BaNP, Report) and following activities has been conducted to achieve indicator;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Video documentary to produce to promote wildlife tourism has been broadcasted through different platform such as YouTube and Facebook with more than 7,000 views (6.8K views on Avenues Television's Facebook page, 133 views on the Avenues Khabar YouTube channel, and 88 views via a local media YouTube channel) (Act 4.1.2, Annex 4.46).</li> <li>10-day advanced nature guide training provided to 14 youths (Act 1.5.2, Annex 4.24).</li> <li>Workshop was organized with relevant stakeholders of Bank district to discuss issues and challenges of tourism in BaNP (Sec 3.1, Act 1.5.3). Total of a total of 102 individuals (Male:95, Female :7) including 37% participants from indigenous and disadvantage groups participated the event (Annex 4.25)</li> </ul>	<p>1.4 Documentary will be continuing to broadcast in local tv channels, You Tube and Facebook for publicity. Tourism stakeholders meeting with stakeholder will be carried out to discuss on progress issues and challenges to tourism in BaNP.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>		
<p><b>Output indicator 2.1:</b> Key habitat for ungulate species within Banke NP improved by end of Y3, with</p> <p>2.1.1 Site-specific grassland and wetland conditions assessed with guidelines produced based on expert consultations about plant and animal species dynamics by the end of Y2.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Camera traps were deployed in the wetlands and managed grasslands. The data will be analysed and produced report in Y3.</p> <p>2.1.2 Under this activity, 79 (Bushnell®, Trophy Cam models 119436, 119446, 119456) camera were placed at 50 sites (25 at waterholes and 25 at pathways, which includes fire lines, n=11; safari routes trails, n=9; and animal trails, n=5) to</p>	<p>2.1.2 Deployment of cameras in the strategic priority areas within the Banke NP (Natural and artificial waterholes)</p> <p>2.1.3. Grassland management activities will take place</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 end of Y2.</p> <p>2.1.3 15 ha of grassland managed within core of the park by end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 15 ha of grassland</p>	<p>observe the seasonal and spatial patterns of wildlife utilization of waterholes and pathways in Banke National Park (BaNP) (Act 2.1.2, Annex 4.30.1). During the study it was found that herbivores like Rhesus Monkeys, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, Four-Horned Antelope, and Wild Boar showed a marked increase in waterhole visits during the dry season for hydration and heat dissipation (Act 2.1.2, Annex 4.30.2,4.30.3).</p> <p>2.1.3 Total of 78 hectare (Khairi Phanta-74 hectare and Obhary Phanta-4 hectare) has been managed through project support (Act 2.5.1, Annex 4.35).</p>	
<p><b>Output indicator 2.2:</b> 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><b>2.2.1</b> 7 km of fire line managed by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 7km fire line managed</p> <p><b>2.2.2</b> Fire-fighting unit of the park trained and equipped by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>2.2.3</b> 10% increase in density of key prey species (sambar deer, spotted deer) within the park by the end of Y3 (baseline to be set during 2022 tiger survey).</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 32.6 animals/km<sup>2</sup>an density of prey (Source: National Tiger Survey, Nepal, 2022).</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 35.86 animals/km<sup>2</sup> prey density</p>	<p>2.2 Approximately 78 ha of forest was secured from forest fire (Sec 3.1, Act 2.6.3, Annex 4.28.1 &amp; 4.28.2)</p> <p>2.2.1 Total of 6.44 Km fire line at Khairi (4.34 KM) and Obhary Phanta (2.1 KM) was maintained directly securing around 78 ha of forest area from forest fire (Sec 3.1, Act 2.7.3, Annex 4.39.1).</p> <p>2.2.2 16 front line staff such as Senior game scout and game scout of BaNP were trained on fire-fighting techniques and were equipped with a sets of grass/haze cutter, mower (1), Fire Swatter (5 pieces), Rake hoe (5 pieces), Rake (5 pieces), Dangri FR (5 pieces), Safety Shoe (20 pairs), Helmet (20 pieces), Gloves (20 Pairs), Search Light (5 pieces), Hand Lamp with Sensor ((10 pieces), Stretcher (2 pieces), Shovel (10 pieces), Axe (10 Pieces), Chain shaw (5 pieces), Gumboot 15 inches (10 pairs) and Fire extinguisher (5 pieces). Additionally, project has provided 15 bicycles to Banke National Park for strengthen patrolling event to curb illegal activities within the national park (Act 2.6.3, Annex 4.37 Act 2.7.2, Annex 4.38).</p> <p>2.2.3 % increase in prey density will be measured during National Tiger survey,2026 by Y3.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Support BaNP for Fireline maintenance.</p> <p>2.2.3 Support Banke National Park in conducting the National Tiger Survey 2026 in Banke.</p>
<p><b>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 people.</b></p>		
<p><b>Output indicator 3.1:</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 47.7 % (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p>	<p>3.1 The progress towards the activities aligned to achieving the indicator has been in progress, such as:</p> <p>3.1.1 95 PPC's constructed in two project community i.e., 48 PPC in Hatitidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC and 47 PPC in Rapti BZUC in Y2. In total the project constructed a total of 125</p>	<p>3.1.1 No activity planned for PPC construction for Y3, however we will continue to monitor its effectiveness.</p>



<p><b>Target:</b> 38.16%</p> <p><b>3.1.1</b> 120 Predator Proof Corrals distributed by the end of Y2.</p>	<p>PPCs across the two years (30 in Year 1 and 95 in Year 2), distributed between Rapti BZUC (61 PPC) and Hattidamar Ghuiyabari BZUC (64 PCC). Approximately, 942 goats were secured worth of approx. NPR 10,362,000/£60,953 (<i>Act 3.1.1, Annex 4.40, 4.41</i>).</p>	
<p><b>Output indicator 3.2:</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 83.9 % (<i>Source: Baseline Survey,2024</i>)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 67.12%</p> <p>3.2.1 35 ha of crop land secured with 2000 m mesh wire fencing by the end of Y2.</p>	<p>3.2 The progress towards the activities aligned to achieving the indicator has been in progress, such as</p> <p>3.2.1 39 hectares of agricultural land secured through installation of 2,450-meter mesh wire in Y1 (650 meter in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC) and Y2 (1000 meter in Rapti BZUC and 800 meter in Hattidamar-Ghuiyabari BZUC).</p>	<p>3.2.1 No activity planned for mesh wire construction for Y3, however we will continue to monitor its effectiveness.</p>
<p><b>Output indicator 3.3:</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 40.6 % <i>Source: Baseline Survey,2024</i>)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 30.45%</p>	<p>3.3 40.6 % deaths/injuries from tiger/leopard and other wildlife species in the project site has been reported in baseline and final result will be measured by Y3 in endline survey</p>	<p>3.3 Will be measured via Endline Survey</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>		
<p><b>Output indicator 4.1:</b> At least 250,000 people exposed to outreach programmes in buffer zone by the end of Y3, with</p> <p><b>4.1.1</b> 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><b>4.1.2</b> 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><b>4.1.3</b> At least 75% of focal community HHs are represented in local conservation dialogue meetings/for a</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 75%</p>	<p>4.1 Video documentary broadcasted in Y2, 22 times throughout the Year through Avenues television. Additionally, this documentary broadcasted through Aveneus television Facebook page, You Tube channel and Youth Media Hub Facebook Page. Total 7,000 views (6.8K views on Avenues Television's Facebook page, 133 views on the Avenues Khabar YouTube channel, and 88 views via a local media YouTube channel).</p> <p>4.1.1 Total 7 school awareness session conducted, engaging 467 students (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 4.3, Annex 4.49</i>).59 behaviour change campaign has been conducted at community level reaching to 1931 buffer zone community people (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 4.4, Annex 4.50</i>).</p> <p>4.1.2 Installation of 37 sign boards (27-2D wooden carved boards, 7 boards detailing information of captive animals and 3 boards with information about prohibited activities inside the</p>	<p>4.1 Video documentary will be continued to broadcast via local tv channels, You Tube, BaNP website for visibility outreach to wider people intended for tourism promotion as well as message of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>4.1.1 Total 4 school and 4 community awareness programs will be conducted to facilitate behavioural change for kids/adults.</p> <p>4.1.2 Information boards and mounted posters will be installed</p>

	<p>park), 36 mounted posters of varying sizes were developed to promote biodiversity awareness of BaNP to promote the diversity of tourism experiences in Banke (<i>Ind 4.1.2, Act 4.2.1, Act 4.2.2, Annex 4.47 &amp; 4.48</i>).</p> <p>4.1.3 % increment in community HH representing in local conservation dialogue will be measured by Y3.</p>	to disseminate awareness message on wildlife conservation
<p><b>Output indicator 4.2:</b> 25% increase in intelligence re illegal activities received by the park (<b>baseline to be set in Y1</b>) from the two project BZUCs by the end of Y3, with</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 25% increase</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><b>Baseline:</b> 0.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 60 monitoring mission by Y3.</p>	<p>4.2 % increase in intelligence regarding illegal activities received by park will be measured by Y3.</p> <p>4.2.1 CBAPU members were trained and equipped in Y1 and CBAPU related training will be conducted on Y3</p> <p>4.2.2 Total of 19 patrolling (Y1-6, Y2-13) patrolling events carried out (<i>Act 4.8.1, Annex 4.53.1-4.53.6</i>) by CBAPU members on buffer zone.</p>	<p>4.2.1 Refresher training to CBAPU members will be conducted.</p> <p>4.2.2 Patrolling will be continued through the Y3 with information sharing to the relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>Output indicator 4.3:</b> 60% of direct participants of the awareness programmes reporting improved positive attitude towards biodiversity conservation by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Positive attitude (Low-66.5, Moderate-33.2, High-1.3) (<i>Source: Baseline Survey, 2024</i>)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Positive attitude (Low-26.7, Moderate-53.12, High-2.08)</p>	<p>4.3 Out of 155 HH's survey, 66.5 % surveyed household had low positive attitude towards biodiversity conservation. % improved in attitude towards biodiversity will be measured by Y3.</p>	<p>4.3 Activities such as awareness session for kids and adults, direct involvement of local community on conservation day celebration, installation of Information boards and mounted posters highlighting the importance of biodiversity conservation will be carried out.</p>

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
<b>Impact:</b> The future of globally significant 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			
<b>Outcome:</b> 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.	<p><b>0.1</b> Improvement in the well-being index of the participating households 155 households (HHs) by 25% by the end of the project (baseline for the participating HH established by the end of Year 1).</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0.55 wellbeing index (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 0.68 wellbeing index</p> <p><b>0.2</b> 10% increase in tiger number and density of prey species (sambar deer, spotted deer) by the end of the project (baseline from 2022 tiger survey data).</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 25 tigers and prey density are 32.6 animals/km<sup>2</sup> (source. National Tiger Survey report, Nepal, 2022).</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 28 tigers and 35.86 animals/km<sup>2</sup> prey density.</p> <p><b>0.3</b> Economic costs from Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) decrease by 30% in the participating households (120 HH from Predator Proof Corrals and 1112 HH from other HWC reduction measures) (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of the project.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> NRs. 50122.58 per HH</p> <p>NRs.18787.1(Crop loss per HH)</p> <p>NRs. 31335.48 (Livestock loss per HH)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> NRs. 35,085.83 per HH</p> <p>NRs.13150.97(Crop loss per HH)</p>	<p>0.1 Pre and post project well-being surveys</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>0.4 Pre and post project attitude surveys</p>	<p>Banke National Park remains a priority area in the Western Terai Landscape for biodiversity conservation for the Government of Nepal.</p> <p>The park is willing to shift from protection-centric approach to management-centric approach to address various nuances arising in the park and its buffer zones.</p> <p>Communities living in the project sites are willing to participate in project activities.</p> <p>Meaningful engagement of communities remains an important tool to promote positive relationship between park and people.</p> <p>Mitigation of human-wildlife conflict continues to be the primary concern for buffer zone communities.</p> <p>The park is willing to provide its staff to participate in project activities.</p>

	<p><i>NRs. 21928.83 (Livestock loss per HH)</i></p> <p><b>0.4</b> 60% increase in positive attitude of buffer zone communities in the project sites towards conservation by the end of the project.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Positive attitude (Low–98.7, Moderate-1.3 and High-0.0) (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Positive attitude (Low–39.48, Moderate-2.08 and High-60)</p>		
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> 155 HHs (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) benefit from livelihood interventions by the end of Y3, with</p> <p><b>1.1.1</b> two community banks (CB) established with 100 HHs by the end of Y1, growing to 115 HHs by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 155 HHs by Year 3</p> <p><b>1.1.2</b> Additional 40 HHs (youths) trained in skill development and hospitality training by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 40 youths trained on skill development.</p> <p><b>1.1.3</b> At least 35% of the participating HHs operate enterprises through soft loans by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 (HH's received soft loans) 70.01%-seeking soft loan to operate own business (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 35% (55 individuals) of the participating 155 HHs operate enterprises through soft loans by the end of Y3.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> BZUC records, bylaws and constitution of CBs, pre and post project social survey reports, photographs, project reports, skill development training minutes and photographs.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> BZUC records, park records, BZUC/BZCF operation plans, meeting minutes and photographs.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> BZUC records, park records, pre and post project social surveys.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Park records, district tourism board records, project reports, workshop minutes, photographs.</p>	<p>Project site residents are willing and able to engage in livelihood strengthening activities.</p> <p>Community banks can be managed in a way that minimizes risks and meets all regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Authorities are receptive to revision of forest plans.</p> <p>Improving livelihoods results in reduced forest dependency.</p> <p>Tourists find Banke NP an attractive destination and 'spread the word'.</p> <p>Significant proportion of revenue from tourism goes to local communities: the set-up, e.g. homestays, community-run rafting trips, is designed to ensure that</p>

	<p><b>1.2</b> Six BZUC/BZCF operation plans within the two project sites updated to improve conservation and governance by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Six BZUC/CF operation plan updated</p> <p><b>1.3</b> 12% reduction in forest resource dependency (baseline to be established in Y1) of the project beneficiaries by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 95.5 % (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 84%.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 317 Tourists (Source: DNPWC AR 2079/80).</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 365 Tourists</p>		
<p><b>Output 2</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Key habitat for ungulate species within Banke NP improved by end of Y3, with</p> <p><b>2.1.1</b> Site-specific grassland and wetland conditions assessed with guidelines produced based on expert consultations about plant and animal species dynamics by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>2.1.2</b> Monitoring underway for water source use and predator/prey dynamics related to management at two water sources within core of the park by end of Y2.</p> <p><b>2.1.3</b> 15 ha of grassland managed within core of the park by end of Y2.</p>	<p>2.1 Park records, park annual reports, project reports, training reports, pre and post project biological survey reports, pre 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</p>	<p>Habitat requirements are a limiting factor for the growth of wildlife species in Banke NP.</p> <p>Management and/or creation of key habitats within the park is a priority for improved tiger prey numbers.</p> <p>Forest fires are a critical challenge within the park and its buffer zones.</p>

	<p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 15 ha of grassland</p> <p><b>2.2</b> 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><b>2.2.1</b> 7 km of fire line managed by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 7km fire line managed</p> <p><b>2.2.2</b> Fire-fighting unit of the park trained and equipped by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>2.2.3</b> 10% increase in density of key prey species (sambar deer, spotted deer) within the park by the end of Y3 (baseline to be set during 2022 tiger survey).</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 32.6 animals/km<sup>2</sup>an density of prey (Source: National Tiger Survey, Nepal, 2022).</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 35.86 animals/km<sup>2</sup> prey density.</p>		
<p><b>Output 3</b></p> <p>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 people.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 47.7 % (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 38.16%</p> <p><b>3.1.1</b> 120 Predator Proof Corrals distributed by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 83.9 % (Source: Baseline Survey,2024)</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>	<p>Human-Wildlife Conflict will continue to be a major problem in the buffer zones of Banke NP if mitigation methods are not implemented.</p> <p>Community members are willing to offer in kind support (labour, materials) to construct PPCs.</p> <p>Costs of livestock and crop depredations can be calculated from HWC rates and typical market values.</p> <p>Funds from local government towards the construction of mesh wire fencing can be leveraged.</p>



	<p><b>Target:</b> 67.12%</p> <p><b>3.2.1</b> 35 ha of crop land secured with 2000 m mesh wire fencing by the end of Y2.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> 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><b>Baseline:</b> 40.6 % <i>Source: Baseline Survey,2024)</i></p> <p><b>Target:</b> 30.45%</p>		
<p><b>Output 4</b></p> <p>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><b>4.1</b> At least 250,000 people exposed to outreach programmes in buffer zone by the end of Y3, with</p> <p><b>4.1.1</b> 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><b>4.1.2</b> 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><b>4.1.3</b> At least 75% of focal community HHs are represented in local conservation dialogue meetings/for a</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 75%</p> <p><b>4.2</b> 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,</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 25% increase</p> <p>With, <b>4.2.1</b> Two 10-membered Community Based Anti-Poaching Units</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 attitude survey, project report.</p>	<p>Information boards and mounted posters help reinforce and extend the message promoted during the school and community programmes.</p> <p>Education and outreach programmes motivate youths in BZUC to participate in monitoring activities.</p>

	<p>operational (trained and equipped) in the two project sites by Y1.</p> <p><b>4.2.2</b> Each CBAPU conducting a total of 30 monitoring missions in their respective buffer zones by the end of Y3.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 60 monitoring mission by 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><b>Baseline:</b> Positive attitude (Low-66.5, Moderate-33.2, High-1.3) (Source: Baseline Survey, 2024)</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Positive attitude (Low-26.7, Moderate-53.12, High-2.08)</p>		
<p><b>Activities</b> (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)</p> <p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>1.1 Set up two community banks within the project sites.</p> <p>1.2 Conduct skill development trainings for community members from the project sites.</p> <p>1.3 Provide tools for beneficiaries of Act 1.2 to facilitate uptake of the livelihood skills.</p> <p>1.4 Establish education fund within two higher secondary schools to support wildlife victim and/or other vulnerable families for education.</p> <p>1.5 Provide ecotourism support and facilitate tourism stakeholders to promote Banke NP as a tourist destination.</p> <p>1.6 Strengthen operation plans of Buffer Zone Community Forest and Buffer Zone User Committees to encourage good governance and commitment to conservation.</p> <p>1.7 Promote agro forestry within the project sites.</p> <p><b>Output 2</b></p> <p>2.1 Conduct tiger and prey hotspot monitoring in priority areas within Banke NP.</p> <p>2.2 Conduct site specific wetland and grassland mapping and profiling.</p> <p>2.3 Conduct workshop for result sharing and expert consultations to produce guidelines for habitat management.</p> <p>2.1 Support the management of two waterholes within the core of Banke NP.</p> <p>2.5 Support the management of 15 ha grassland within the core of Banke NP.</p> <p>2.6 Provide equipment for grassland, wetland and fire line maintenance to Banke NP.</p> <p>2.7 Provide support to improve understanding of the dynamics of forest fire and manage it within the park.</p> <p>2.8 Conduct exposure visit to Manas NP (India) for park staff to learn best practices in habitat management.</p>			

**Output 3**

- 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.

**Output 4**

- 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.

## 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 <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> 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 <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	