# Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

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

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

**Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025**

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## Darwin Initiative Project Information

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|---|---|
| Scheme (Main or Extra) | Main |
| Project reference | 30-011 |
| Project title | Living with large carnivores – Integrative coexistence through community empowerment |
| Country/ies | India & Nepal |
| Lead Organisation | North of England Zoological Society- Chester Zoo (NEZS) |
| Project partner(s) | National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) |
| Darwin Initiative grant value | £ 5,85,712 |
| Start/end dates of project | April 2023 – March 2026 |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | April 2024 – March 2025<br>Annual Report 2 |
| Project Leader name | Mayukh Chatterjee |
| Project website/blog/social media | https://www.chesterzoo.org/news/living-with-large-carnivores/ |
| Report author(s) and date | Disha Sharma, Mayukh Chatterjee, Subrat Behera, Rishi Subedi, Samir Sinha, 30th April, 2025 |

## 1. Project summary

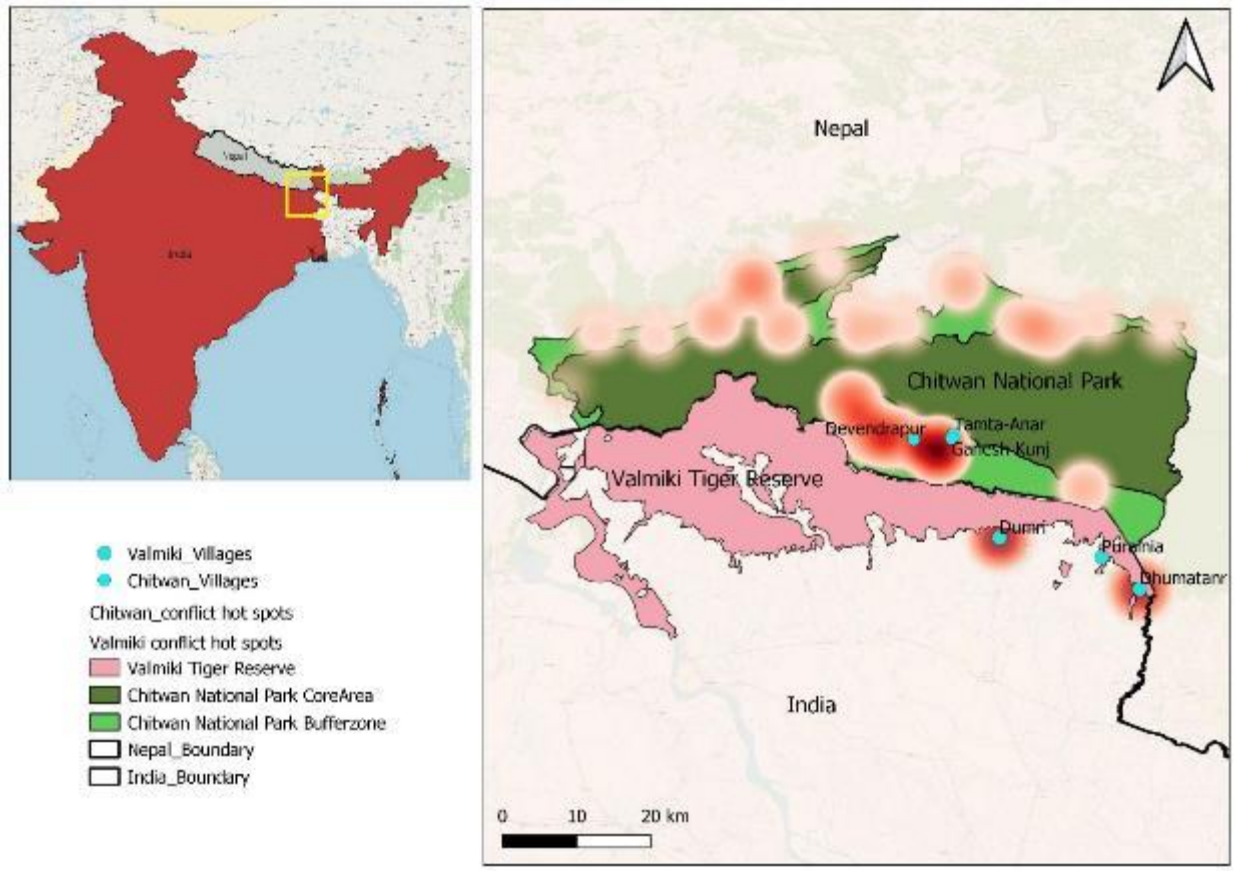
Escalated human-wildlife conflict risks are highly relevant for biodiversity conservation, because today such conflicts are recognised as a major cause of species decline and extinction, as well as habitat destruction, across the globe. Human wildlife conflicts are then not just relevant for conservationists and wildlife managers, but also local communities living alongside wildlife populations, as they are the immediate benefactors of these natural ecosystems which are maintained by the thriving biodiversity therein.

The key challenge related to human-large carnivore conflicts, are preventing the negative impacts such as livestock losses or human deaths and injuries, arising out of negative interactions between people and wild large carnivores. Although losses are generally not proportional to retaliation and conflicts, the challenge itself is relevant because persistent unmanaged losses, catalyse stronger retaliation by local people, jeopardising long-term conservation efforts. Furthermore, losses of property such as livestock, or human death and injuries can have severe consequences for people's socioeconomic situations, food security, as well as their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

In the project landscape many of these problems, such as increasing frequency of livestock losses, and its socioeconomic implications, were identified based on previous long-term work by NEZS, WTI and NTNC in this landscape.

Negative interactions between local people and large carnivore species are not a new phenomenon but have been visibly on the rise in many parts of the world. India and Nepal have both seen a significant increase -almost doubling their tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) populations over the last decade. Harbouring significant populations of tigers and co-predators, also expectedly increases negative interactions with local people. Despite such negative interactions today, a situation of co-existence persists in many of the parts of this landscape, although this is very rapidly denuding and risks turning into a more volatile landscape of human-large carnivore conflicts, as in some other regions of the *Terai*.

There is ample literature that suggest the criticality of working with local communities who face the brunt of these negative interactions with wildlife, before their tolerance levels drop and their perceptions crystallise into negative ones, giving rise to a landscape of acute human-wildlife conflict. Such escalation then severely undermines and threatens all conservation efforts. It is with this understanding the project was formulated to begin working with local communities in a region where human-wildlife conflicts are only now beginning to arise, to prevent it from aggravating into a widespread situation of human-wildlife conflict. The project location is in the eastern most part of the Terai region of the Himalayan foothills, mainly in the state of Bihar in India and Chitwan region of Nepal. Here, The Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Valmiki Tiger Reserve in India constitute a large swathe of contiguous wildlife haven that is also protected by the respective national legislations. Both these parks also have a very large human population in and around it, which interact with wildlife species on a regular basis. The project focusses on six villages which have since the past experienced significantly high levels of negative interactions with large carnivores.




*Map 1: Map of project area showing location of transboundary landscape on Indian subcontinent (inset), and the two contiguous Protected Areas in Nepal and India, along with prevalent conflict hotspots (circles with darker brown shades depict relatively higher conflict hotspots), and project villages.*

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

NEZS, NTNC and WTI co-developed this project to further support and bolster the work done as part of previous projects, such as Living with Tigers (Darwin Initiative grant no. 23-013) in Nepal and the Terai Tiger Project (supported by USFWS's and Chester Zoo) in India.

NEZS has been instrumental in conceptualising this project and providing in-house expertise, spanning biological and social sciences, for designing various components of this project. Development was however in close collaboration and over multiple consultations with on-ground partners, local community members as well as other organisations. For instance, in October 2022, NEZS team undertook a series of follow up consultations with the local communities living around Chitwan National Park (CNP), which together with the project leader's previous extensive experience from the Indian Terai regions gave rise to the current concept, which was then discussed with different stakeholder groups and partner organisations to build upon.

On-ground implementation is carried out by NTNC & WTI teams, and NEZS manages the project teams' activities through its in-country project manager, who regularly interacts with in-country teams and undertakes field travels intermittently. The project team members convene every quarter (through hybrid meetings) to review project progress, and in other meetings and workshops to develop activity assessment

frameworks or other needs of the project. The project leader also participates in all meetings and undertakes travel to field sites to further monitor and evaluate the projects' activities. Additionally, the project manager also carries out independent monitoring and evaluation through a random sample survey of beneficiaries of the project, interviewing them using a structured interview guide.

One of the challenges in the project has been to plan particular aspects of the project, such as mental health and wellbeing assessments, for which expertise within the project team was absent. To overcome this, the project garnered the expertise from three subject experts outside of the immediate project teams Please see section 2 of previous Annual report for details of advisors.

For media workshops held in year one (Y1) of the project, external media experts such as Mr. Ananda Bannerjee from Outlook India, were invited as key resource people, besides relevant forest department officials, etc., and in year two (Y2) Mr Virat Singh conducted two media workshops each in India and Nepal. In Y2 the project collaborated with Ms Buddhimaya Ghale of the *BM Hastakala Prashichyan Udhyog* (BM Handicrafts Training Industry) in Nepal to train and engage fifty women from project villages in the skill of wool spinning, while, in India, the project collaborated with Ms Savini Sonavaria, founder of *PashooPakshee* to train women in the project villages in India in handicrafts manufacture. In several of the activities related to capacity development the project has continued to facilitate skill exchanges across the two countries.

This year, the project team from WTI, along with 12 community representatives (6 women & 6 men) travelled to Chitwan in Nepal to learn more about the wool spinning initiative, predator proof pens (PPP) and community-based mushroom farming. Similarly, the NTNC team along with 8 community representatives travelled to project sites in India to witness fuel efficient cookstoves in use, learn more about the nursery management training initiative as well as the mushroom farming initiative undertaken by women beneficiaries in India *(Please see Evidence File: Project stakeholders/partners)*. The project aims to continue such skill and knowledge exchanges across borders, as well as engagement of other expert agencies as relevant to different activities to enhance the quality of the projects' outputs.

Lastly, the project site was also visited by representatives of DEFRA and the British embassy of Nepal in November 2024, where they were briefed about the various interventions being carried out and the way they have been carried out.

## 3. Project progress

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**Output: 1**. A network of community volunteers trained, equipped and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape.

*1.1: Conduct Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and individual interviews (using snowball sampling) for past data on human-tiger & human-leopard conflicts in project region.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in Annual Report 1 (AR1).

*1.2: Conduct community consultations in project villages and other adjoining conflict prone villages to explain the need and function of Primary Response Teams and accrue volunteers.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*1.3: Conduct an induction workshop for all volunteering PRTs in India and Nepal to introduce basics of the role and assess various competencies.*
*1.4: Provide equipment to enlisted PRT members and conduct specialized training each year to develop capacity of PRTs*
*1.5: Inform and guide PRT members to successfully address conflict situations that are reported in and around their respective villages.*

For activities 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5: In Y2, ten new members (5 women and 5 men) and nine new members (4 women and 5 men) have voluntarily joined the PRTs in India and Nepal, respectively. At present, the project has a total of 34 (8 women and 26 men) PRT members in India and 24 (4 women and 20 men) in Nepal.

The project partners also conducted meetings and training workshops for PRT members. On the 14th of September 2024 in Nepal, 24 PRT members received training along with field apparel *(Please see Evidence file: Activities 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5)*, while snake-rescue equipment and protective gloves were given to 2 members with experience of rescuing snakes. PRTs rescued and treated a rhino attack victim in this

reporting period, besides carrying out maintenance of solar fences, documenting livestock losses crop damage due to wild animals, and supporting victims to file compensation/relief applications.

In India, PRTs were provided with metal chests for safe keeping previously received field equipment. On the 7th & 8th of September'24, First Aid training workshops were attended by 17 PRT members (F - 7, M - 10). All attending PRT members were certified (Level 3) to administer first aid *(Please see Evidence file: Activities 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5)*. Two human fatalities (adult men) due to attacks by tigers were reported from nearby villages in addition to fifteen livestock deaths and injuries due to predation attempts by tigers were reported in project villages (5 incidents) and vicinities (10 incidents). PRT members responded by visiting the incident sites, offering support and assistance to the bereaved to help with documentation for government ex-gratia, and raising awareness to prevent such incidents in the future. As recently as 27th March'25, an incident of a tiger entering a villager's hut in the project village of Dhumatand-Jasauli was recorded. The PRT members of this village mobilised *(Please see Evidence file: Activities 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5)* to alert other villagers of tiger presence ensuring villagers maintained safe distance while allowing the tiger to leave the site and retreat into the forests without needing capture and removal. No fatalities were reported during this incident. The PRT members continued patrolling along with the forest department staff in the following days. The PRTs organised and conducted awareness campaigns, engaging 127 villagers on 29th July (Int. Tiger Day), and 125 villagers on 7th October during International Wildlife Week, including women and children. *(Please see Evidence file: Activities 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5)*

*1.6: Conduct annual evaluation workshop to assess functioning of PRTs, celebrate success, promote peer and community support and cohesion, and recognize and reward strongly performing members.*

NTNC organised day long training and discussion events for two PRT groups in Nepal on the 11th and 12th of March, respectively. These programs, (attended by 17 men and 4 women), aimed to strengthen the capacity of local communities in manage human-wildlife interactions, combating wildlife poaching, enhancing conservation efforts, and promoting sustainable practices. The event brought together PRT (CBAPU) members, local conservation experts, and stakeholders to share knowledge, discuss challenges and develop actionable strategies for wildlife protection. The session focused on capacity building, human-wildlife conflict, conflict management and mitigation, and the use of technology in anti-poaching efforts *(Please see Evidence File: Activity 1.6)*.

A meeting for the PRT members was organised on 29th March'25 and was attended by 18 PRT members (14 men and 4 women) of which one woman and six men were felicitated for their outstanding contribution towards mitigation of human-wildlife conflict *(Please see Evidence File: Activity 1.6)*. All attending PRT members received rechargeable torches. PRT members were also given a presentation of the different human- large carnivore interactions addressed by felicitated PRT members, to encourage others to also undertake similar actions to prevent conflicts.

**Output: 2.** Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow.

*2.1: Conduct household surveys to assess livestock ownership, grazing preferences etc. in all project villages, to assess priority need for interventions and willingness to participate.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1, although data for an additional 369 households in Chitwan landscape were keyed in and analysed.

*2.2: Organize consultative workshops in each project village to apprise potential beneficiaries of various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, record beneficiaries' choices and accrue formal consent.*
*2.7. Conduct workshop with volunteering livestock owners to apprise about the initiative, its need, the need for a systematic assessment, explain method of data logging, etc.*
*2.10. Conduct workshop to apprise volunteering cattle owners in project villages on breed improvement and benefits of stall feeding and accrue consent from at least 50% of cattle owners in each village*.

For activities 2.2, 2.7 & 2.10: Although these activities were primarily scheduled for and conducted in Y1, project partners in India and Nepal have continued outreach activities with locals as part of ongoing efforts to disseminate information on various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, carry out the eye-cow experiment, and for promotion of improved cattle varieties, to encourage greater participation.

*A* livestock farming practice workshop was held in India in May 2024 with 50 participants (5 women and 45 men) to promote benefits of improved livestock breeds, stall feeding and good manure management

where six livestock farmers consented to adopting improved livestock breeds. In a similar workshop held in September 2024, attended by 62 potential beneficiaries (2 women and 60 men), Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, veterinarian -Valmiki Tiger Reserve, delivered a detailed talk on the benefits of adopting improved livestock breeds *(Please see Evidence File: Activities 2.2, 2.7 & 2.10)*.

The two PRT members trained in artificial insemination (AI) techniques for livestock, and livestock care, received their certification along with necessary equipment at the event *(Please see Evidence File: Activities 2.2, 2.7 & 2.10)*. Three additional workshops were organised between 24th and 26th March'25 in all 3 project villages to promote A.I practices for improved livestock, benefits of Azolla (mosquito fern) farming and feeding of mineral mixture to livestock for improved immunity, to boost milk production and for strengthening reproductive health. These workshops were attended by 84 (61 men & 23 women) participants *(Please see Evidence File: Activities 2.2, 2.7 & 2.10)*.

*2.3: Organize workshop using select previous Living With Tigers (LWT) project beneficiaries to train beneficiaries in manufacture and maintenance of Predator Proof Pens (PPP).*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*2.4: Support the building of predator proof pens in all volunteering beneficiary households in villages by mid-year 2.*

In Nepal, 200 (172 men and 28 women) beneficiaries were provided necessary building materials for building of predator proof pens (PPP). Each household received Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) sheets, metal meshes, and additional building materials such as nails, door latches and locks.
Similarly, in India, 344 (55 men and 289 women) beneficiaries received support for building *PPPs (Please see Evidence file: Activity 2.4).*

*2.5: Conduct annual assessment of PPPs built through random house visits in at least 30% of beneficiary households and through maintenance logs.*

Field teams in India and Nepal have been conducting beneficiary house visits to assess the PPPs built, throughout the year, visiting older and new builds. Once the building material is distributed in allotments, the field teams visited all households soon after the PPPs are built so the design and quality of build can be assessed prior to putting the pens to use *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 2.5)*.

We are happy to report that 230 PPPs in Nepal, and 344 PPPs in India have been constructed in Y2. Since last year, a total of 754 households have built PPPs across project villages in India and Nepal and all beneficiaries are actively maintaining them.

*2.6. Prepare methodological framework for assessing eye-cow effectiveness in reducing livestock depredation and train field team.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*2.8: Carry out livestock 'eye-cow' camp for all beneficiaries enlisting in the eye-cow initiative to imprint ''eyes' on all their livestock.*

Field teams visited each individual household of enlisted beneficiaries (people who agreed to have their cattle stamped as part of the experiment) where they gathered information about their livestock and carried out the stamping *(Please see Evidence File: Activity 2.8)*. This also allowed the beneficiaries to voice any concerns or ask further questions which the field teams addressed. Details of the stamping are as follows:-

| Country | Number of households | Number of cattle stamped* | Stamped (X) | Stamped (Eye) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| India | 27 | 59 | 38 | 21 |
| Nepal | 75 | 152 | 73 | 79 |

*2.9: Monitor and collect data logs from each beneficiary on livestock grazing frequency and time, location, livestock loss, etc., on a monthly basis.*

In Nepal, the schedule for first stamping of 'eyes' and 'Xs' has been completed in March'25 while this was delayed in India and the first stamping is ongoing at the time of compiling this report. As per the developed methodology, initial baseline data has been collected on number and type of livestock in each participating household and recording of previous injuries to the livestock, at the time of first stamping, from 27 households in India and 75 households in Nepal.

Earlier last year when the field teams conducted trials to check the longevity of paints used, it was noted that the stamp imprints faded in about 15 – 20 days from cattle and in about seven days from buffaloes. Therefore, the field teams will be revisiting households with cattle and buffaloes accordingly to ensure that the stamp does not become completely faded *(Please see Evidence File: Activity 2.9)*. The methodology was adapted to record the number and type of livestock at the time of restamping along with details of any animals which were predated or injured by large carnivores. In such instances, field teams will log details in the data sheet as evidenced in *Evidence file, Activity 2.9*.

*2.11: Train local volunteers (select PRT members) in artificial insemination of cattle through state animal husbandry department or private agency and provide equipment to carry out artificial insemination of cattle in consenting households.*

As stated above, under *Activities 2.2,2.7 & 2.10,* during a workshop held in September 2024 two PRT members were trained in artificial insemination (AI) techniques for livestock, and livestock care at Patna Animal Development (Pvt) Ltd. They have now received their certification along with necessary equipment to promote AI in village households to improve livestock varieties and promote stall feeding *(Please see Evidence File: Activities 2.2, 2.7 & 2.10).*

*2.12: Carry out assessment of AI breeding improvement success and stall feeding practice through a rapid survey at the end of project year.*

Although this activity will be assessed at the end of project year, we can report that a total of 75 cattle and buffaloes have been artificially inseminated this year and 188 beneficiary households have adopted stall feeding their goats *(Please see Evidence File: Activity 2.12)*.

**Output: 3**. At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection.

*3.1: Conduct household surveys to gather primary information to create baselines on forest resource dependency and identify potential beneficiaries for 'green' livelihood and cooking fuel adoption.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*3.2: Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisals with potential beneficiaries to finalize interventions for reduction of forest dependency and conflict incidences and accrue consent from them for different interventions.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*3.3: Train local women to manufacture and repair fuel efficient cookstoves and involve them in manufacturing and installing these in all consenting beneficiary homes in project villages.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*3.4: Carry out ICS installations in beneficiary households through trained women volunteers.*

The 29 trained women volunteers from our project villages in India have completed installation of 428 improved cookstoves this year in project and neighbouring villages *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.4)*. Cumulative earnings of these trained women for this year were Rs. 102500 (£ 986, approximately).
Biogas for ICS was adopted by 5 (3 men & 2 women) consenting beneficiaries in India. Construction of 3 bio-gas units has been completed this year *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.4).*

As stated in AR1, *(Activity 3.3*) it was decided to distribute prefabricated LPG cookstoves to identified beneficiaries in Nepal. In Y2, LPG cylinders & cookstoves, gas connection pipes and cookstove lighters have been distributed to 337 beneficiary households *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.4).*

*3.5: Conduct training on different alternative livelihood options selected by beneficiaries, using appropriate resource persons from allied government and private sector institutions.*

In India, the beneficiaries practicing mushroom farming in the Indian project villages experienced a failed crop due to poor care and maintenance during summers. In September'24, a refresher training programme

was organised to discuss the issues with Mr. Paras Nath Singh, of the Yuva Chetna Kendra in *Deoria*, Uttar Pradesh, who guided 12 women beneficiaries on cultivation practices to avoid future failures in mushroom farming *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.5).* Mr. Singh revisited beneficiaries from *Dumari* village in December 2024, to follow up on progress made and advised on corrective measures where necessary. Around, twenty kilograms of mushroom were harvested collectively in *Dumari* which the women beneficiaries took for personal consumption and distributed to friends and family *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.5)*. A smaller group of women sold around 1.5 kilograms of mushroom for INR 300 (approximately £ 3.0).

In Y2, additional 4 beneficiaries (all men) underwent a weeklong training at the *Jai Krishi Udyog*, West Champaran, Bihar. Under the tutelage of Mr. Vinay Pandey, a veteran in agricultural innovation, the candidates learned about nursey management and beekeeping *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.5)*.

In Nepal, six training programmes, were organised, where scientific goat farming practices along with benefits and methods of building predator proof pens for safe keeping, was imparted *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.5)*. These training programmes were voluntarily attended by a total of 280 villagers (117 men & 163 women).

This year the project also provided wool spinning training to 50 women beneficiaries selected from the Panchpandav BZUG. Two groups of 25 women each, received this training in 2 ten-day long workshops, held in November and December 2024 *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.5)*. The training was delivered by Ms Buddhimaya Ghale of the *BM Hastakala Prashichyan Udhyog* (BM Handicrafts Training Industry) and her team of trainers. At the end of the training, a nine-member management committee was constituted to oversee the supply of raw material and collection of spun wool from the trained beneficiaries. Wool spinning is an activity that these women from the community, can undertake in their spare time to supplement their incomes at the rate of NPR 180 (£ 1.2) per kilo of spun wool. In the initial phase, they collectively spun 147 kilograms of wool since they were trained, earning NPR 26460 (£ 165.0).

Similarly, in India an agreement has been signed with *PashooPakshee(an indigenous company that trains and markets local handicrafts at fair price)* to train women in the project villages to manufacture local handicrafts for wider marketing. This training is due to begin in the first quarter of year 3.

*3.6: Provide technical and financial support to consenting beneficiaries to setup new 'green' livelihood options*

In addition to trainings, in Y2 32 beneficiary households (9 men & 23 women) received a total of 64 goats. We also received request for supporting duck farming in households which did not have the space or means to undertake goat farming. Two hundred and fifty ducks were distributed to 50 beneficiary households (6 men & 44 women) in Nepal *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.6)*.
All 50 beneficiaries trained in wool spinning received a spinning wheel *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.6)*. The raw wool is supplied by *BM Hastakala Prashichyan Udhyog* and they buy and collect the spun wool at regular intervals.
In efforts to encourage farmers to adopt improved breed livestock, we have donated a milk analyser machine to the *Sani Triveni* Milk Production Co-operative Limited, located in the project village of *Devendrapur*, Nepal *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.6)*. The co-operative collects milk from 110 (65 men & 45 women) dairy farmers from *Devendrapur* and adjoining villages.

Forty kilograms of mushroom spawn was provided to 20 beneficiaries (all women) practicing mushroom farming in India, who agreed to continue farming mushrooms out of the 37 women it was introduced to. To further support the mushroom farmers in *Dumari* village, the project identified and acquired land in the village where a mushroom farming unit is being established. Additionally, land for establishing nurseries, one each in *Dumari* and *Dhumatand-Jasauli* have been agreed upon with written consent from landowners *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.6)*.
Day long goat deworming and vaccination camps were organised in 2 project villages and 3 adjoining villages in India (over five days). This was carried out with support from the hospital staff of *Gaunaha* Veterinary Hospital. and the project's Artificial Insemination technicians and trained para-vets, 1319 goats belonging to 368 families were dewormed and 1490 goats of 413 families were vaccinated against *Peste Des Petits Ruminants* virus *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 3.6)*.

*3.7: Establish a bi-annual self-reporting system with beneficiaries to monitor use ICS and different GLs adopted, as well as forest dependency, and collect self-reported data.*

We found it difficult to implement a self-reporting system as most beneficiaries had a busy life tending to their livelihoods and family matters, to provide complete information on the use of ICS, the different adopted green livelihoods and their forest dependencies, on a regular basis in a structured manner. Hence, our field teams now rely on regular visits to all project beneficiary households to collect data and carry out one-on-one interactions to assess the use of ICS, maintenance of PPPs, etc. Once the beneficiaries become more accustomed to and understand the need for self-reporting, we can have this data collected via phone or a local PRT member.

**Output: 4.** Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers.

*4.1: Conduct media report analysis on past reportage covering human-large carnivore conflicts in the project region, to segregate dominant narratives and tailor training and subsequent awareness.*

The data collection on media coverage was completed this year and around 1232 newspaper articles have been scanned from 4 Hindi, 2 English and 2 Nepali newspapers spanning across last 4 years. One of the key findings of the analysis is that the articles tended to have a strong tilt towards sensationalism and policy narratives but lacked depth and balance. Articles about negative human-wildlife interactions dominated the Indian publications with 30.72% of those using sensational framing and while one-third of the articles from Nepali publications addressed negative human-wildlife interactions, there was no reporting on human-wildlife co-existence. The detailed media analyses report will be included in the final project report, but screenshots of specific highlights have been added in the annexed evidence file *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.1)*.

*4.2: Survey of relevant forest department staff at various levels to assess knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on human-wildlife conflicts in the region.*

A survey of 45 staff members of the forest department/department for wildlife protection including forest guards and wardens/rangers, was carried out to assess their level of knowledge and understanding of HWC issues. A detailed report has been generated and sections of it have been added to the evidence file *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.2*). The complete report will be added to the final project report. Currently the findings are being utilised to plan future trainings and any scale up required to address issues highlighted by the staff who were interviewed.

*4.3: Create a master list of all print media personnel relevant to project region and contact them to apprise of the project and accrue consent for further engagement and capacity development.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*4.4: Conduct annual capacity development workshop for media personnel and selected Forest Department officers.*

In India, various veterinary medical equipment was provided to the Forest Range for management of conflicts *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.4)*. An event was organised to demonstrate some of these equipment and their uses especially during instances of human - large carnivore conflict. Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, veterinarian, Valmiki Tiger Reserve conducted this demonstration to the Forest Department staff present.

A two day First-Aid training workshop was conducted on 7th and 8th September'24 where 14 forest department staff (all men), received Level 3 certification for administering first-aid *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.4)*.

Workshops on 'Impactful reporting on dynamics of human-wildlife interactions in conservation' were organised for media personnel, in Nepal and India on 20th February and 8th March'25, respectively. These workshops were attended by 22 media personnel from 19 media houses/publications in Nepal, and 20 media personnel from 17 media publications in India *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.4)*.

Similarly, on 21st February and 9th March'25, workshops on 'Co-operation between media and forest staff towards effective communication on human-wildlife interactions' were organized for national park staff in Nepal and forest department staff in India. These workshops were designed to be both informative and interactive where mock scenarios for forest department staff and group discussions amongst media personnel yielded insightful information on roles and responsibilities of each group to ensure delivery of

accurate, scientific and non-sensational news regarding human-wildlife interactions *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.4)*.

These workshops were conducted by Mr. Virat Singh, a communications and media specialist and an advisor to the project. A total of 42 forest department staff from India, 3 forest department staff and 6 BZUGC staff in Nepal attended these workshops.

*4.5: Organize a 'media for wildlife conservation' event to foster trained media personnel to pledge to voice issue pertaining to wildlife through fact-based reporting.*

This activity is not planned for Y2.

*4.6: Carry out post assessment of FD officers and media reports at the end of project period.*

This activity is not planned for Y2.

**Output: 5.** A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities.

*5.1: Formulate methodology to assess mental health and wellbeing across project villages, especially for most vulnerable groups and train survey consultants and field team.*

This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1.

*5.2: Survey project villages and adjoining ones to assess mental health and wellbeing of villagers and the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on it.*

The mental health survey was started in February'25 in Nepal where 100 households have been surveyed in the project and adjoining villages. To ensure due diligence and capture the participant's responses accurately, the survey was undertaken by Mr. Mohan Pokhrel, a mental health worker who has been working independently in the Madi region of Nepal for the past 10 years. The data is being collated and organized for analysis.

The mental health survey has been delayed in India as the previously selected surveyors left the project on short notice. New surveyors have been identified, and we aim to finish the survey before the onset of monsoons this year.

*5.3: Conduct consultative meetings with village elders, representatives of forest department, media agencies, local NGO's, and other government agencies to discuss results of the assessment and formulate strategies to address mental health and wellbeing.*

This activity is not planned for Y2.

*5.4: Draft and disseminate strategic action plan to tackle mental health and wellbeing in relation to human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife conservation in the project region.*

This activity is not planned for Y2.

## 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

**Output: 1**. A network of community volunteers trained, equipped, and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape.

The project landscape did not have a community-based primary response mechanism in place till date to manage negative interactions between people and wildlife. There is therefore significant progress towards this output, with 34 community volunteers in India and 24 community volunteers in Nepal having been inducted into the project as PRT members. They have also been equipped with essential gear and apparel, as well as introductory and advanced trainings on their role and responsibilities, ways to tackle negative interactions with wildlife, and providing support to vulnerable families experiencing damages due to large carnivores. Some PRT members have already started working on incidents of negative interactions as well as other wildlife emergencies. In India for instance, PRTs amicably resolved a case of a tiger accidentally entering a village home, while PRT members in Chitwan in Nepal rescued three people from potential attacks by different wildlife species. Till now, PRT members have already attended to 32 incidents (17 in India and 15 in Nepal), and helped resolve seven of them successfully preventing any untoward incident

and not requiring the animals to be captured and removed. It must be understood however that such initiatives require extensive handholding and continuous capacity development for it to become effective, widespread, and sustainable. The output will be measured by the number of volunteers the project is able to induct, train and functionalise, and ultimately through the number of incidents of human-wildlife negative interactions the PRT members attend to and help resolve, by the end of the project period and beyond.

**Output: 2.** Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow.

While this output will not be measured quantitatively until Y3, the project has made significant progress towards this output. 754 households have fully protected their medium to small sized livestock using predator proof pens, which constitutes about 74.8%% of the beneficiaries who were reliant on goats as a primary source of livelihood in the six project villages. Additionally, 188 households have been supported to promote stall feeding of goats by providing them goat feeding stalls.

Several households have already volunteered to adopt stall-fed cattle varieties with improved milk yield through Artificial insemination (AI) of their existing cows, of whom 75 households have already been catered to. The success of these measures will however be assessed after the project ends and beyond because of the time required to produce these new breeds and rear them to adulthood. To make this initiative sustainable a veterinary care centre in Chitwan has been supported to cater to these and other households, while in Valmiki in India, two PRT members have been formally trained and equipped to cater to households willing to adopt improved stall-fed varieties of cattle through artificial insemination.

Furthermore, 102 households have volunteered around 211 cattle to be stamped as part of the eye-cow experiment and are currently being monitored. No predation attempts have been recorded on these cattle till now.

Lastly and most importantly, livestock depredation as a whole has significantly reduced in the project villages. In the reporting period, 5 livestock depredation cases each from the project sites in India and Nepal were recorded, indicating a significant reduction from 29 and 16 depredations on average per year, in Nepal and India, respectively before the project started. This however being the first annual measure after the interventions were made, it needs to be continually recorded across multiple years going forward, to be sure that this is a consistent trend as a likely output of the project interventions, rather than a chance occurrence.

**Output: 3**. At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection.

The project beneficiaries, who were given support to develop 'green' livelihoods, and their average earnings per month is provided in the table below,

| Type of Green Livelihood (Number of beneficiaries actually earning) | Average Earnings Increase / Month / Beneficiary | Remarks |
|---|---|---|
| Mushroom Farming (20 women) | [redacted] | |
| Manufacture and maintenance of Improved Cookstoves (29 women) | | |
| Para vets (12 women) | | |
| Wool Spinning (50 women) | | |
| Goat farming (32 households) | | The project will measure once goat kids have matured and are sold |
| Duck farming (50 households) | | The project will measure once ducks have matured and lay eggs or are sold |
| Artificial Insemination technicians (2 Men) | | This is in the initial week after successfully completing their trainings |
| Nursery gardeners for indigenous fodder varieties for livestock (4 Men) | | In initial stages of development |

Further, independent sampled surveys carried out across the beneficiary groups as part of the new monitoring and evaluation framework provides comparisons against the baseline information collected across these local communities at the project sites.

For beneficiaries receiving LPG support, sampled beneficiaries did not show a marked change in their reduction of forest usage for fuelwood. Only about 15.8% of sampled beneficiaries responded saying they do not go into the forest now. This is expected on the short run as people are not used to cooking on modern LPG cookstoves and typically start utilising these alongside their traditional wood based cookstoves for smaller cooking jobs. Over time it is expected however that people will gradually shift to using LPGs as their predominant cooking medium simply because of the easy accessibility and less effort required. In India, the improved cookstoves did not directly curb forest usage for fuelwood extraction, although it significantly reduced the time people spend in collection of fuelwood. Baseline surveys suggested that on average, a villager dependent on forest-based fuelwood undertakes 16.8 ± 11.2 trips per months for fuelwood collection from forests. This has now been reduced to 3.9 ± 1.2 trips per month as per the responses received from 13 randomly selected beneficiaries. The average hours spent per average trip to collect fuelwood however remained the same at around 4 hours.

With beneficiaries receiving 'green' livelihoods, 35.3% of the sampled beneficiaries reported having reduced their visits to the forests, 32.4% of them reported to not go to the forest at all, and the remaining 32.3% of beneficiaries did not reduce or stop their dependence on forests yet. This is gain expected as it has only been about a year into their new livelihood streams and the project needs to continue these measures to be assured that the trajectory is in the right direction as envisaged in the project plan.

**Output: 4.** Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers.

This output is also set to be measured in Y3. However, in the reporting period the project has conducted a workshop each for media personnel and wildlife managers (Forest Department staff) in both countries, focussing on building their knowledge and capacity to promote human-wildlife coexistence. Like the PRT initiative, this is anticipated to show visible signs of positive change only over the long-term. Within the project performance period however, this will be measured through the number of media personal volunteering and pledging to be associated with this initiative and helping change the narrative though their respective efforts. Similarly, for wildlife managers, it is expected to be a slow change, and the positive efforts they put into their regular work will be used as a proximate indicator of success.

**Output: 5.** A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities.

This output will also be measured in Y3. A methodological framework had already been developed in consultation with project advisors and partners. The study has been implemented in the project villages in Nepal where a hundred households have been surveyed and the survey initiation in India has been delayed, although it is expected to start shortly, and will be completed over the next few months. After this the information will be analysed and an action plan developed (depending upon the findings), which will be fine-tuned based on local community members' inputs and is expected to lay the foundation for building actionable work for the betterment of mental health and wellbeing of local stakeholders.

## 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project outcome aims to reduce the negative impact of human-large carnivore interactions effectively in the project villages. In the reporting period 10 livestock depredation cases were recorded in the project sites of India and Nepal, marking a significant reduction from 45 incidents of livestock depredation at the same sites (29 in Nepal and 16 in India) in an average year before the interventions were made (measured over 3 years).

The project also started a participatory approach of managing negative interactions between people and wildlife species by setting up Primary Response Teams, who today have actively started managing situations and preventing escalation of conflicts. For instance, in Nepal the PRT teams in the project villages rescued three people in separate incidents from wild animals while allowing the animals safe passage.

Furthermore, the project invested towards capacity development to 618 individual beneficiary households (34 for improved cook stoves including biogas, 37 for mushroom farming, 7 for nursery management, 476

for goat and other livestock farming, 50 for wool spinning and 12 for para-veterinary services, 2 for livestock breed improvement services).

Around 434 of these beneficiary households also directly received support through the project until now (34 for improved cookstoves including biogas, 37 for mushroom farming, 4 for nursery and bee keeping, 295 for goat and other livestock farming, 50 for wool spinning 12 for para-veterinary services and 2 for livestock breed improvement services)

This constitutes around 17% of total households in the project villages and around covers 100% of the total households (n = 389) dependent directly on forests for their livelihoods based on NTFPs or grazing of livestock in the project villages. The project therefore directly reduced their vulnerability to attacks by large carnivores as their new livelihood ventures affect a reduced time spent in forests for their traditional livelihoods. Towards this the independent monitoring and evaluation suggests around 35.3% of beneficiary households reporting significant reduction in their dependence on forests, while a further 32.4% reported not be using forests at all.

Lastly, with all these beneficiaries being either economically and/or socially marginalised, the project has directly catered to them becoming more resilient to protect themselves from negative interactions with large carnivores, and to withstand any negative impacts that this may bring about. While the metrics suggest an apparent improvement in the project villages, they need to be continuously monitored over next few years to allow for linking the change directly to project interventions more confidently. Also, in the given short duration of the project it is almost impossible to affect a landscape level change but does provide a tested template successful scale up to cater to more communities in the landscape, and to make a bigger visible impact on both people and wildlife.

## 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

**Outcome**

**Assumption 1**: Development driven change in community aspirations will not negatively impact the overall goal of increasing tolerance for losses amongst local communities and their willingness for continued participation.

**Comments:** While this has not been triggered at the moment, it is anticipated that over a long period of time this is likely to impact tolerance of people and therefore drive more conflicts to a more acute level. It is therefore crucial that this project continues to develop and expand its initiatives to reach out to a critical mass of people in the landscape, and bolster coexistence.

**Assumption 2:** Major policy changes in either of the countries will not render futile any or all of the project's outputs.

**Comments:** Not triggered at the moment. A policy change in Nepal has led to bettering of motorable roads in the project area, which may bring in a new dimension of human-wildlife interactions in the form of wildlife collisions with vehicles.

**Output: 1.**

**Assumption 1:** Majority of enlisting volunteers will all contribute their services throughout the project period and beyond and suitable succession/recruitment will ensure teams remain in capacity.

**Comments:** The true outcome of this assumption will be realised over time but the current engagement and participation levels from volunteers, has been encouraging as volunteers have enthusiastically carried interventions and mitigation measures towards resolution of human-wildlife conflict.

**Assumption 2:** Trained volunteers will have regular opportunities to address HWC situations as HWC incident hotspots can spatially shift over time, or momentarily cease at certain hotspots.

**Comments:** Assumption has not held as several PRT members are visibly making efforts to attend cases even when it is not in the vicinity of their villages.

**Assumption 3:** Volunteers are managed effectively to ensure continued engagement and enthusiasm about their roles and pro-active response, to report and attend to all cases within their respective areas.

**Comments:** Assumption is not triggered at the moment, but project team continue to engage the PRT members actively.

**Output: 2.**

**Assumption 1:** Communities are willing to speak about livestock depredation freely before and after the project.

**Comments:** The baseline data suggests that community members have been freely speaking about livestock depredation and all aspects related to it even when they have not received any support from local authorities.

**Assumption 2:** Compensation records from government bodies will be shared for data analysis of livestock depredation.
**Comments:** This assumption has been triggered as the government does not maintain this information in a standardised manner. We however have carried out, door-to-door surveys in project villages, and thus have recorded more accurate estimates of livestock depredation over last three years. It also needs to be understood that some parts of the landscape were devoid of predators for a significant period (~30 years) of time and thus negative were almost non-existent as well and are only now beginning to emerge as large carnivores like tigers and leopards repopulate these landscapes.

**Assumption 3**: Communities will want PPPs and will maintain them.
**Comments:** Well in advance of collecting baseline data, local communities have actively been engaging with the project teams to gain insights into Predator-Proof Pens (PPPs) and request assistance for their construction. Moreover, our experience from the Living with Tigers project indicates a noteworthy expansion in the adoption of PPPs in the project area of Nepal, extending well beyond the initial project beneficiaries. Even individuals from neighbouring villages, who could afford it, have embraced this practice.

**Output 3.**
**Assumption 1:** Communities are willing to speak to the project team about forest-based resource collection and income from it openly.
**Comments:** The baseline data suggests that community members have freely conveyed this information to surveyors including their forest resource dependencies, earnings from them, and all other aspects related to it even when they have not received any support from local authorities.

**Assumption 2:** Communities are willing to adopt the use of improved cookstoves as well as a 'green livelihood' option.
**Comments:** While the selected beneficiaries and volunteers for distribution of improved cookstoves and 'green livelihood' options have readily adopted these interventions, the feedback from the community at large is encouraging as more members of the community are keen to be included in the project's activities.

**Assumption 3:** After adopting improved cook stoves and non-forest-based fuels, beneficiaries will completely cease fuelwood collection for other purposes (additional cook stove, for heating water for bathing, etc.).
**Comments:** This is triggered currently, especially in Nepal where people have been provided LPG systems. A significant number of beneficiaries continue to utilise their fuelwood based cookstoves alongside their LPG systems. The usage of fuelwood based cookstoves however is largely for bulk heating purposes like heating of water for bathing. For day to day cooking however the LPG systems are primarily being used. In India, since the alternative is an improved fuelwood based cookstove, the assumption does not apply.

**Assumption 4:** Beneficiaries would significantly reduce their dependence on forest resources after adoption of sustainable 'green' livelihoods.
**Comments: T**his assumption has been triggered partially for beneficiaries who have been provided support and training or goat rearing as a non-forest-based livelihood as this is now visibly making several of these beneficiaries forest dependent for fodder for the goats.

**Assumption 5:** Beneficiaries will be transparent in self-reporting on their forest visits post adoption of Improved cook stoves and GLs.
**Comments:** Assumption has not been triggered as the project has adopted a different approach for monitoring and evaluation and is not reliant on self-reporting by beneficiaries.

**Output 4.**
**Assumption 1:** Media representatives are willing to take part in the workshops.
**Comments:** The media workshops held by project partners saw a total participation of 42 media representatives. The workshop was attended by representatives of both regional and national media houses. The media representatives actively participated in group exercises, mock interviews and writing exercises to assess the impact of knowledge sharing by the media specialist during the workshops.

**Assumption 2:** Media representatives despite engagement are free from pressures to negatively sensationalise news pieces, and will continue to publish fact-based, non-sensationalised stories.

**Comments:** It is too early to test this assumption, although past experiences have shown that continuous engagement and opening of communication channels significantly boost fact-based reporting. It must be acknowledged here that this change does require several years to become measurable, and therefore tested in a valid manner.

**Assumption 3**: Forest Department officials will be open to changed practices and behaviours and will be willing to partake in the workshops.
**Comments:** Workshops conducted by both partner organisations saw participation of 59 forest staff who are locally deployed in the VTR and CNP. It is also encouraging that the project is in-line with the prescriptive framework of the government's human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy, and therefore is in line with an already on-going change in practices and behaviours of Forest Department staff. The project initiatives engaging with this stakeholder group is thus complementing the national strategies and helping further them. Like, for, media however, visible and measurable change can only be expected after several years of continued engagement and capacity development, which this project has initiated in this landscape. It is worth mentioning here that the heads of local forest and wildlife divisions – Dr. Ganesh Pant, Chief Warden, Chitwan National Park, and Dr Neshamani. K, Field Director, Valmiki Tiger Reserve have both been aware of the project objectives and its various initiatives and have also been present at different workshops conducted under this project. *(Please see Evidence file: Activity 4.4).*

**Output 5.**
**Assumption 1:** Local communities are conscious and cognizant about poor mental health and wellbeing and are willing to talk about it freely.
**Comments:** Not triggered as initial impression from survey suggests people are quite willing to talk about mental health and wellbeing issues.

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

The project impact aims at 'Successful conservation of large carnivore populations in the transboundary landscape of Nepal and India by bolstering human-large carnivore coexistence through community empowerment and wellbeing'.

The increased tiger and other large carnivore populations in the project regions of India and Nepal have inevitably led to increase in negative interactions with people leading to removal of animals from their natural population by authorities either by capture or by elimination. Such removal when carried out consistently over time can negatively impact the source populations. Moreover, retaliation by people as a result of incessant negative interactions and damages can lead to undermining of, and reduced support for, ongoing conservation initiatives. During the project period no animals were captured or eliminated from the project area. Constituted PRT members have instead begun actively facilitating the resolution of negative interactions with wildlife species in a much more amicable way, which indicates that alternative ways of resolving problems have had a positive uptake by the beneficiary population. In the reporting period 22 PRT members have successfully resolved 7 incidents of human-wildlife negative interactions. Moreover, the other initiatives supported nearly 434 households equating to around 15% of total village households and more than 100% of the households directly dependent on forests for livelihood-based resources. This directly reduces their vulnerability to large carnivore attacks, while also developing their financial resilience and improving their wellbeing. All these interventions converge to create a broader landscape of coexistence which expectedly will allow the increased population of large carnivores and other wildlife to thrive despite certain levels of negative interactions with people.

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

| Activities/Outputs | Contributes to which national policies | Contributes to which international policies |
|---|---|---|
| 770 households provided with ICS to reduce forest-based fuelwood dependence and reduce exposure time to wild large carnivores | Goals 6 & 7of the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-26), India<br><br>Outputs 3.4 and 3.5 of the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2023 – 2032), Nepal | target 1.5 of SDG goal, to reduce poverty by building resilience of the poor.<br>targets 2.1 & 2.3 of SDG Goal 2 to reduce hunger and increase food security<br>target 3.9 of SDG goal 3 aiming to enhance healthy lifestyles and wellbeing of people.<br>SDG goal 15 to foster sustainable land-use, management of forest and its |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | resources leading to reduced land degradation. |
| 158 households provided and supported with non-forest-based livelihood options to reduce vulnerability to wild large carnivore attacks and increase financial and food security, | Outputs 3.4 and 3.5 of the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2023 – 2032), Nepal<br><br>Goals 6 & 7 of the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-26), India<br><br>strategic action (1.3) to enhance human-wildlife coexistence under Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 | target 1.5 of SDG goal, to reduce poverty by building resilience of the poor.<br>targets 2.1 & 2.3 of SDG Goal 2 to reduce hunger and increase food security<br>target 3.9 of SDG goal 3 aiming to enhance healthy lifestyles and wellbeing of people.<br>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 to foster partnerships in achieving its remaining goals. |
| Livestock protection (PPP) provided to 574 beneficiaries bolstering financial and food security | Outputs 3.4 and 3.5 of the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (2023 – 2032), Nepal<br><br>Goals 6, 7 & 8 of the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2021-26), India<br><br>strategic action (1.3) to enhance human-wildlife coexistence under Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 | target 1.5 of SDG goal, to reduce poverty by building resilience of the poor.<br>targets 2.1 & 2.3 of SDG Goal 2 to reduce hunger and increase food security<br>target 3.9 of SDG goal 3 aiming to enhance healthy lifestyles and wellbeing of people.<br>Target 4 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (which itself supports the SDGs)<br>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 to foster partnerships in achieving its remaining goals. |
| Livestock breed improvement avenues introduced to entire villages in project area catering to 75 households in total in both countries. | | Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 to foster partnerships in achieving its remaining goals. |
| 19 primary response team members enlisted, trained and operationalised, enhancing community participation in response | strategic action (1.3) to enhance human-wildlife coexistence under Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 | Target 4 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (which itself supports the SDGs)<br><br>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 to foster partnerships in achieving its remaining goals. |
| Zero retaliation in project villages due to reduced negative interactions with local communities | strategic action (1.3) to enhance human-wildlife coexistence under Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025 | CITES, by indirectly enhancing the protection of the Bengal tiger, Asiatic Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*), and the Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), all of which are in schedule 1 of the convention |

## 5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project integrally focusses on poverty reduction besides biodiversity conservation, and the local communities in the project villages earn very meagre profits through multiple occupations. Wage labouring is the major occupation besides farming and livestock rearing, for most people in the project villages. The project beneficiaries are all residents of the project villages, and based on our baseline estimations, sections of them who are the poorest, the most vulnerable, and with experience of negative interactions with wild large carnivores have been prioritised to receive direct support through the project. Final selection of type of support received is based on actual need and their willingness to receive it. For instance, support towards predator proofing their livestock pens was provided to only those people who had small and medium livestock, had lowest of per-capita income and had experienced livestock depredation in the past. Livestock, equates to a financial instrument that can be liquidated in times of need in these villages. The

project till date has provided resources and trainings to build and maintain PPPs in around 754 households in both project sites, amounting to around £ 60,000.0 in just materials. This provides safety from livestock predation and therefore financial losses. More importantly loss of livestock and therefore investments lead directly to poorer mental health and wellbeing. Being able to successfully protect livestock through predator proof pens, directly contributes to lowering of worries of losing livestock and bearing subsequent financial losses.

Furthermore, the project also works towards increasing the profitable household income for a significant proportion of the poorest and most needy sections of the community within the targeted project villages and also provides capacity development to several of these beneficiaries so they can support others in need, within their own as well as neighbouring villages. This also works towards improving their social standing in their villages. In the first year the project trained 79 people in different income generation avenues, investing around £ 7000.0 in training and resources. Similarly, around £ 42000.0 were invested in resources and training of 351 project beneficiaries during the second year. Lastly, 29 women trained to manufacture fuel efficient cookstoves in villages on the Indian side have collectively manufactured and installed ICSs in additional 428 households and collectively earned around £985.0 in the reporting period. The project will be measuring their change in profitable income more consistently over the course of Y3.

The project also impacts the health and wellbeing of targeted community members, especially women, in yet other ways. The 985 households to whom the project has catered improved cook stoves (LPG and ICS) till now, it has conferred a cleaner cooking environment reducing risks of respiratory diseases and other health problems, that can levy financial burdens as well as impair wellbeing. They also provide faster cooking times through efficient burning of fuels, thereby freeing up time for homemakers to undertake other household work or spending quality family time. Several of these women beneficiaries have therefor also taken up additional livelihood sources such as wool spinning through the project. Spinning wool in their free time now provides additional financial income to them, further bolstering their household economy and personal wellbeing.

As experienced from earlier field projects proliferation of knowledge on various ‘safer’ and more lucrative income generation sources often has a ripple effect and spreads significantly beyond the scope of the project. For instance, in the earlier Darwin Initiative project, introduced practices such as predator proof pens, horticulture techniques etc have all proliferated beyond the project villages, with many people in adjoining villages adopting these to increase their income and improve their lives.

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

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

The project has adopted a strong gender and social inclusion framework from the outset, ensuring equal participation through consultative meetings and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) exercises. These activities were designed to provide a platform for all—men, women, and marginalized communities—to voice their ideas and concerns. Women constituted most participants, and special efforts were made to elicit input from less outspoken individuals.

Beneficiary selection was based on unbiased baseline data, prioritizing underprivileged groups with low per capita income, limited resources like livestock, and a history of negative interactions with large carnivores. A significant portion of the project's material and financial aid was directed toward women, who often represented their entire household. For instance, 548 improved cookstoves were distributed to women, with 29 of them trained to produce and maintain the stoves, providing a new income stream. Similarly, 59.5% of LPG systems were received by women; for the rest, male recipients accepted them on behalf of the household, with women as primary users due to their roles in kitchen management.

Women also comprised 92% of recipients in alternative livelihood programs (out of 434 total beneficiaries). In the traditionally male-dominated Primary Response Teams (PRTs), female membership increased from 6 to 15, and one woman was formally recognized for her outstanding contribution—encouraging others to participate.

Most women beneficiaries are linked to Self-Help Groups under JEEViKA, and some are part of specialized groups like Pashu Sakhis and Mushroom Groups. Their prior experience with community-based organizations has strengthened project implementation and sustainability. Many trained women are now extending services, such as ICS manufacturing and para-veterinary care, to nearby non-project villages, turning these into supplementary livelihoods.

All residents of project villages belong to indigenous groups, typically living in hamlets organized by caste or social group. The project has ensured equitable representation from all hamlets, with no evidence of marginalization. Beneficiary selection has remained inclusive and data-driven.

Finally, women are also well-represented in partner organizations, occupying leadership roles such as trustees and department heads, thereby reinforcing gender equity internally and externally across project interventions.

## 7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project's monitoring and evaluation framework is based on the log frame approved at Stage 2 and later revised following feedback from BCF (see Annexe 2 for indicators and measures). This includes clearly defined outcome and output indicators, alongside a project timeline developed by the project lead with inputs from technical advisors and partners.

Activities have been broken down into sub-activities, enabling quarterly assessments of progress. At the end of each quarter, online review meetings were convened where project partners presented updates on planned activities as per the log frame. These meetings also served as a platform for partners to discuss their implementation experiences, share challenges, and identify solutions.

In addition to quarterly reviews, the in-country project manager maintained regular communication via telephone and field visits to monitor implementation and gather updates. Field trips were also used to evaluate progress, resolve issues, and support planning. The project lead, along with Chester Zoo's in-country manager and project teams, also undertook visits to project villages for on-site evaluations and stakeholder engagement.

Responsibility for monitoring and evaluation was shared between in-country project leads and implementation coordinators. Coordinators were tasked with overseeing on-ground implementation and reporting progress monthly.

In response to reviewer feedback on the last annual report, a more systematic and independent evaluation process has been introduced. Using an interview guide, randomly selected beneficiaries are visited and interviewed by the in-country project manager (see Evidence File: Monitoring and Evaluation) every quarter. The interview guide covers discussion points on the type of support received, satisfaction levels, and perceived shortcomings. This longitudinal evaluation approach offers deeper insights into intervention success from beneficiaries' perspectives.

Notably, the in-country project manager is a woman, which has encouraged open communication with predominantly female beneficiaries, contributing to a more balanced and transparent evaluation process, alongside the more methodical monitoring process using the frame and the timeline (workplan).

## 8. Lessons learnt

The uptake of the project activities and potential envisioned impact on the project region by the local communities and stakeholders continues to be positive. As the planned activities took more substantial shape, we were able to closely analyse which of our interventions were eagerly adopted by which faction of our beneficiaries and how we can improve on them. For example, last year the project trained 37 women

in mushroom farming across the 3 Indian project villages. This year 20 women from *Dumari* village wished to continue despite the failure of harvest in summer. While discontinuation by some potential beneficiaries was expected, beneficiaries from two villages entirely discontinuing this activity due to the first crop failure was not expected. Despite this, the situation as quickly to quickly reevaluated, and available resources were redirected to the 20 women from one village who voluntarily wished to continue this livelihood and take it forward as a collective. A mushroom farming unit is presently being established with the aim of training these women to farm and manage it on their own.

In Nepal, owing to regulatory and logistical hurdles, instead of training local individuals in artificial insemination techniques, the project supported an existing veterinary care centre with equipment required for artificial insemination to promote improved breed livestock *(Please see Evidence file: Lessons Learnt).* We have since recorded 71 cattle and buffaloes that have been artificially inseminated. While in India, despite training 2 local individuals, we have found that the uptake for improved breed livestock has been slow which warranted the need for continued meetings with livestock owners. We know from experience where an artificial insemination technician outside of our project area, trained as part of a different project by WTI, is now thriving after successfully adopting this alternative livelihood and regularly called upon for carrying out artificial insemination. We recognise that the uptake of this activity may go beyond the project timeline and recommend making provision for supporting local government veterinary centres in addition to training local technicians.

Goat farming as an alternative green livelihood was taken on board after several community consultations. Goat meat is popular in this region and can fetch up to NPR 1500.0 per kilogram of meat. While some beneficiaries can provide fodder for their goats from vegetation on their farmlands, there are several beneficiaries who are now forest dependent for fodder for their goats. To counter this, stall feeding was promoted in around 188 beneficiary households who previously owned goats or had received goats for breeding based on their choice of ‘green’ livelihood option. This will be promoted across all households who have goats and are reliant on forest-based fodder.

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

One of the key points raised by the reviewer was around gender and social inclusion. The project from its outset has made sure that beneficiary selection is based on actual data rather than imposed biases, such as recommendations from village councils. Most household-based support towards livelihood improvement has been directed at women specifically, but also to those women who come from marginalised sections of the community and are therefore unable to address the issues they face.

**Reviewers’ Comment 1**: Gender and Social Inclusion – the quality besides percentage of participation could be considered. Also, consideration and inclusion of marginalised groups

We have added more explanation in section 6 above to assure that women are not simply participating but are free to voice, choose and provide agency to others, through various initiatives of the project. We have also because of this feedback, relooked at how we monitor and evaluate the project and brought in a new aspect to the M&E framework, where in the in-country project manager personally meets with beneficiaries independent of in-country project personnel and interviews them regarding the various interventions they have partaken in.

**Reviewers’ Comment 2**: Reference to Exit Strategy in question 10 on Sustainability

We have corrected this and referenced the exit strategy in the relevant section on scalability and sustainability. Towards this, as mentioned in the exit strategy, the project for its various alternative livelihood initiatives has already tied up with local entrepreneur for dovetailing them into their own endevours to promote community driven business. For instance, 50 women have been tied up with local entrepreneur Ms. Budhimaya Ghale who has setup a small cottage industry for production and supply of locally sourced wool yarns to the national and international carpet industry. In India the project tied up with a private company (*PashooPakhshee*) promoting the production and sale of local handicrafts from all across India and will not only train many of the volunteering beneficiaries but will also buy their products at a fair price.

Further as mentioned in the exit strategy the project has gradually changing the understanding of local PRT volunteers on how to handle negative interactions with large carnivores and other wildlife species, especially that capture and translocation are not lasting solutions. The uptake and spread of this understanding, however, has been variable although not unpromising. In India the uptake has been rather swift with local PRT member already beginning to deal with such situations more compassionately and in the recent months ameliorated a situation involving a tiger that had sought refuge in a village home, without needing for it to be captured and relocated. They also ensured no one was injured in this interaction. In

Nepal however, the long-standing practice of capture and relocation by the government will expectedly take time to change and the 3 years of the project is too small. The project however has successfully inducted the PRT members into evaluating alternative courses of action in such situations.

Effectively though the project appears to have lowered the frequency of negative interactions with large carnivores, especially of livestock depredation. This is being brought to the fore in public meetings and consultations in the project to ensure that local community members realise that with specific adaptations negative interactions can be minimised, and coexistence fostered more deeply.

**Reviewers' comment 3**: Group formation by women beneficiaries.

This was unclear in our last report, but we have emphasised on this in the current report, especially in section 6, where we have mentioned that women beneficiaries are mostly part of existing groups. Where they are not, the project endevours to form cooperatives so they can collectively setup enterprises out of the 'green' livelihood initiatives. For example, the ICS trainees have all collectively as a self-help-group, provided services to villages building and maintaining cookstoves and generating income by the entire group. Similarly, now the women who have agreed to form a collective to grow and sell mushrooms are being supported with a mushroom nursery.

**Reviewers' comment 4:** Monitoring – how does the project integrate the activities it does with the timeline for monitoring.

The project workplan/timeline has been provided in the evidence file *(Please see Annexed: Project Implementation Timetable)* as requested. As can be seen, most of the planned activities have been completed in time despite initial delays. Along with monitoring using the log frame and timeline, the project has now also setup an additional way to evaluate the projects' initiatives. The in-country project manager independently interviews randomly selected beneficiaries using an interview guide. This provides more nuanced and richer qualitative feedback from the community members, especially from the women who are generally keener to speak more openly to another woman (in-country project manager).

## 10. Risk Management

NTNC being a quasi-government agency is governed by its own internal policies and principles in-line with Nepalese government's rules and regulations. After a set number of years, NTNC staff are eligible for promotions and are most often transferred to facilitate this elevation. Ms. Rachan Shah has been transferred to Kathmandu as the nodal scientific officer and continues to oversee this project. But due to the distance between the field sites and Kathmandu (5 hr drive away), Mr. Anil Prasai has been brought in to manage the day-to-day affairs of the project from the Chitwan NTNC office. Going forward then, Ms. Rachana Shah's salary will be partly provided to Mr. Anil Prasai (as he has a lower designation than Ms. Shah). In addition to this, Mr. Raju Chaudhary is planned to be brought in to dedicatedly spend 10% of his time overseeing the financials of this project.

During an internal financial audit conducted by NEZS with NTNC, it was realised, since the financial books were being maintained by NTNC finance staff in Kathmandu it was causing delays in planning expenditures at the field level. For this reason, we suggested that Mr. Chaudhary who is based out of NTNCs Chitwan office (the field site), should be looking at the expenditures and maintaining of records more closely. His part remuneration will be adjusted with the salary budgeted for Ms. Rachana Shah.

The risk of beneficiary dropout was anticipated since the beginning of project implementation. As detailed in Section 8, while we have experienced this, it also allows us to concentrate our efforts on beneficiaries who have wholeheartedly adopted the project's non-forest dependent livelihood activities.

## 11. Scalability and durability

As mentioned in the exit plan, the project has been designed with long-term sustainability and scalability at its core, integrating livelihood-based solutions with conflict mitigation strategies to address the needs of over 100% of the targeted households in the project villages. Its broader aim to develop model 'brightspots' seeks not only to enable local people to withstand the impacts of human-large carnivore interactions but also to shift their perceptions and increase tolerance towards large carnivore species.

For 'green' livelihoods, the project has proactively tied up with existing local entrepreneurial endeavours. In Nepal, wool spinning beneficiaries have been linked with a local cottage industry that supplies raw materials, trains them, and buys the finished yarn at fair prices. In India, women Self Help Groups have been linked to a local company that trains and markets locally produced handicrafts at fair value, ensuring

sustainability beyond the project period. Similarly, for ICSs, the project has developed skillsets in two Self Help Groups of 29 women, equipping them to produce and repair ICSs across and beyond project villages.

For livestock-related interventions, local youth and women have been trained and equipped in breed improvement and veterinary care to deliver services and generate income. LPG distribution has leveraged existing subsidies, while PPPs were developed with minimal costing and flexibility in design, encouraging long-term maintenance and replication.

To shift harmful conflict responses, the project established Primary Response Teams (PRTs) to promote non-lethal, community-level interventions. These have been integrated into Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units in Nepal and Eco-Development Committees in India.

A management committee comprising local community members and in-country partners is being formalised to continue initiatives for expansion and upscaling. The project has also reached out to other in-country organisations, who with select committee members are currently in the process of developing scale-up plan for broader implementation across the Chitwan-Valmiki-Parsa landscape.

## 12. Darwin Initiative identity

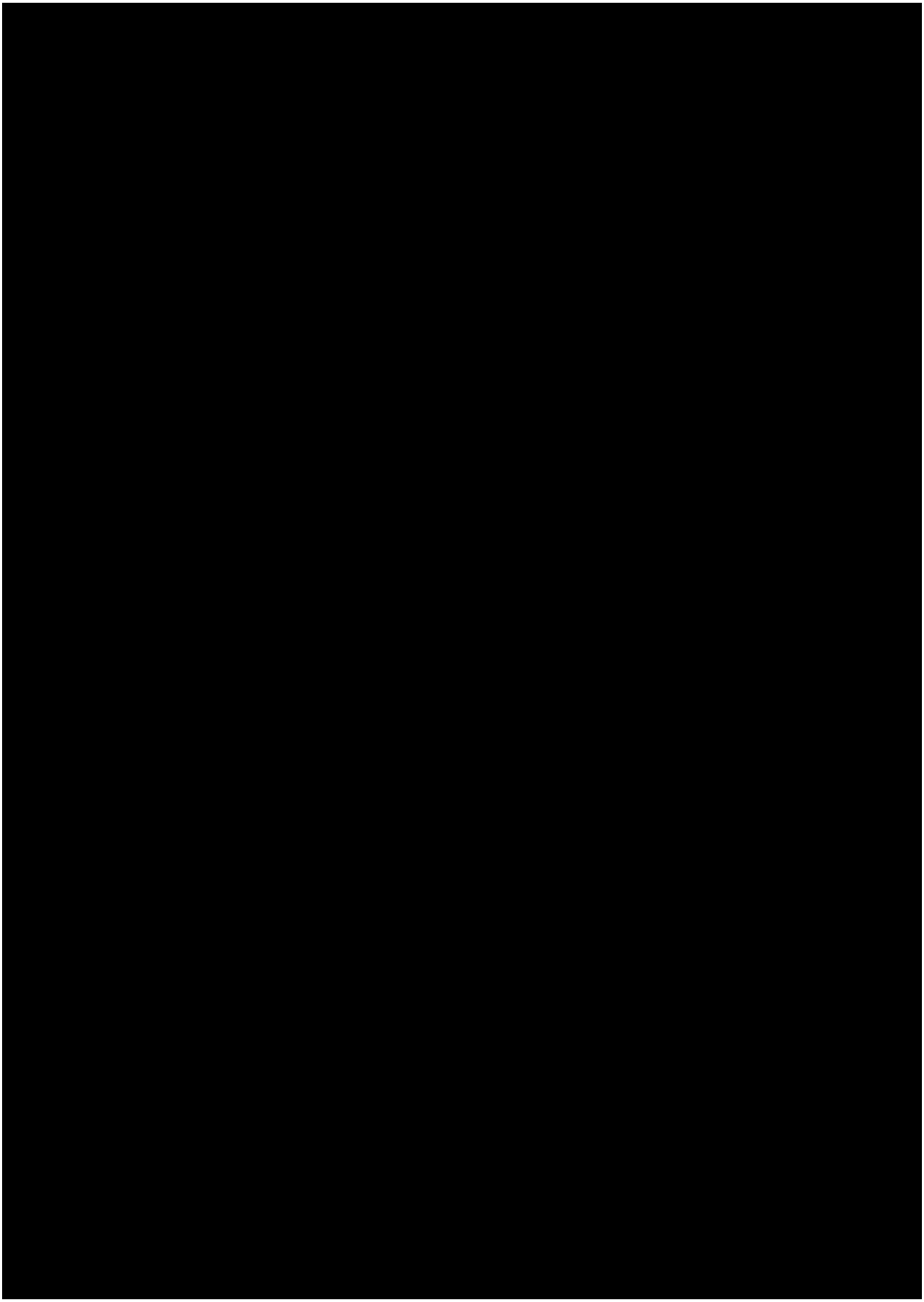
The project has been highlighted on NEZS's website as an independent project supported by DEFRA. Social media posts were also done around the start of the project tagging in relevant embassies/consulates as well as the required tags/handles of Darwin Initiative / Biodiversity challenge funds, on X (Twitter)/LinkedIn/Meta (Facebook) and Instagram *(Please refer to Annual report 1, Section: Darwin Initiative identity)*

In addition to this, local newspapers have reported on the initiation of this project based on updates provided by the state forest departments. Darwin Initiative is well known in both India and Nepal, however in the more remote locations of the project sites it is not well known, and the current project is helping familiarise people through the project signage, wherein the Darwin Initiative logo is prominently placed *(Please see evidence file: Darwin Initiative Identity section)*.

The support provided under the Darwin Initiative by DEFRA is also strongly emphasised in regular meetings with all stake holders and in day-to-day communications *(Please see evidence file: Darwin Initiative Identity section)*.

## 13. Safeguarding

[redacted]



## 14. Project expenditure

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

| Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report | 2024/25 Grant (£) | 2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | [redacted] | | | |
| Consultancy costs | | | | |
| Overhead Costs | | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | |
| Capital items (see below) | | | | |
| Others (see below) | | | | |
| **TOTAL** | **2,32,162.21** | **2,30,163.76** | **1%** | |

A change request form had been submitted in December 2024 and approved by the Darwin Initiative for an amount of £11,650.0. The change in Operating Costs have been highlighted in the above table.

**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 (£) | [redacted] | [redacted] | Chester Zoo |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | None | None | |

## 15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

All aspects of the project progress have been captured in this report.

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

We have no outstanding achievement of progress to report on at this stage of the project

## 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 |
|---|---|---|
| ***Impact***<br><br>Large carnivore populations are successfully conserved in the transboundary landscape of Nepal and India by bolstering human-large carnivore coexistence through community empowerment and wellbeing | The project till date has developed a participatory framework for managing conflicts that may arise, by inducting and training 58 local community volunteers as Primary responders, 22 of whom already address 7 cases of wildlife emergencies, including one on the Indian side involving a tiger, preventing any negative interactions, and ensuring the tiger also was not killed or captured. The project also engaged with and supported 434 beneficiary households which are directly dependent on forests for livelihood-based resources, to improve their supplementary income thereby positively bettering their economic situation, while 476 beneficiaries were provided training on livestock practices and management to reduce their dependence on forest-based resources, thereby reducing both forest degradation and people's vulnerability to negative interactions with large carnivores in forests. All of this allows for the increased large carnivore populations to thrive, by preventing conflict driven removal of animals from the population. | |
| ***Outcome:*** Negative impacts of human-large carnivore interactions significantly reduced in six 'model' villages around Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape across India and Nepal, through participatory conflict management, poverty alleviation and behaviour change. | | |
| Outcome indicator 0.1<br><br>By end of year 3 at least 40% cases addressed by Primary Response Team (PRT) members are resolved amicably preventing further loss of human lives and injuries; death/injury of the wild animal involved; or the need for the animal's removal into captivity. | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress till date: A total of 32 incidents involving large carnivores were reported in this period form the project villages of both India and Nepal. Of these, 4 incidents have been resolved by newly formed PRT members, which is around 12.5% of reported cases. Over the next year this is expected to significantly increase with additional trainings and skill building to support the PRT members. | |
| Outcome indicator 0.2<br><br>By end of year 3 livestock depredation by large carnivores reduced by at least 75% in all model villages where targeted interventions are implemented. (DI-D15) | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress till date: In the reporting period, there was an observed reduction in livestock depredation cases that were recorded. Compared to previous annual averages of 29 and 16 incidents per year in the same project villages in Nepal and India, respectively, this reporting period witnessed only 10 cases of livestock depredation. This suggests a 82% decline in project villages in Nepal and 68.8% decline in project | |

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| | villages in India. The consistency of this reduction over time however will however be stronger evidence of the impact of the projects' interventions affecting this change. | |
| Outcome indicator 0.3<br><br>By end of year 3, the average frequency of trips to forests by beneficiaries reduced by 60%. (DI-B09) | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress Update: In the current reporting period, 15.8% of the sampled beneficiaries who received LPG support responded saying they do not go into the forest now. Baseline surveys suggested that on average, a villager dependent on forest-based fuelwood undertakes 16.8 ± 11.2 trips per months for fuelwood collection from forests. This has now been reduced to 3.9 ± 1.2 trips per month as per the responses received from 13 randomly selected beneficiaries. This cumulatively indicates a reduction in forest dependence by 76.8% for clean energy beneficiaries. With beneficiaries receiving 'green' livelihoods, 35.3% of the sampled beneficiaries reported having reduced their visits to the forests, 32.4% of them reported to not go to the forest at all, and the remaining 32.3% of beneficiaries did not reduce or stop their dependence on forests yet. | |
| Outcome indicator 0.4<br><br>By end of year 3, loss of income from reduced forest resource dependence amongst at least 75% of beneficiaries of the programme is offset 100% with the income generated from adopted 'green' livelihoods (DI-D16) | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress Update: Baseline data suggested around 1037 households in project villages dependent upon different forest resources at varying levels. Of these, 414 households dependent upon forests for wild vegetable, mushrooms and aquatic lifeforms, earning on average £73.3 – £167.8 as profits per year. The alternative livelihoods that are being introduced (e.g. goat farming, para veterinary service providers, mushroom farming, etc.), are expected to provide a higher per capita profitable income to each participating household and while also being a more assured and risk-free source of income than forest resources. As of now, while the project is seeing signs of consistent income for many beneficiaries, several others are requiring more support and handholding to stabilise their new livelihoods. The project will monitor earnings over last year and more confidently report on this indicator. | |

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| Outcome indicator 0.5<br><br>By end of year 3, at least 25% of local media reports by 60% of the media personnel engaged, covering human-large carnivore conflicts, are fact based and neutral (DI-C15) | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress update: Till date the project has engaged with 92 media personnel (Y1 – 48, Y2 – 44), conducting workshops on impactful reporting on dynamics of human-wildlife interactions in conservation. | |
| Outcome indicator 0.6<br><br>At least 30% of cases addressed by the park and wildlife managers are resolved without capture and translocation of the large carnivore involved. | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress Update: Currently the project is continuing to collect data in real time on different cases that occur and how they are addressed by the forest department. Before the project 100% of cases were being addressed by the forest department through capture translocation. On the Indian side, in two separate instances, tigers were allowed safe passage due to the efforts of the PRT working with the forest department. A more comprehensive assessment will be carried out at the end of the project year to report on this indicator. | |
| Outcome indicator 0.7<br><br>By end of year 3, impacts of varying dimensions of human-wildlife conflicts on people's mental health and wellbeing in rural communities in the project area assessed, and a detailed strategic plan is produced and shared with all relevant stakeholders. | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress Update: Survey has been initiated, and 100 responses have been recorded in Nepal. | |
| **Output 1:** A network of community volunteers trained, equipped and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape. | | |
| Output indicator 1.1<br><br>By end of year 1, at least 25 people each in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Parsa NP and Chitwan NP inducted, trained and equipped as PRT members providing coverage across all project villages and adjoining areas (DI-A01) | Progress Update: 58 PRT volunteers have been trained and equipped. 17 PRT members additionally received First aid training (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 1.3,1.4 & 1.5). | Mega awareness event planned for Y3. |
| Output indicator 1.2<br><br>By end of year 3, at least 60% of all trained PRT members will actively respond and/or partake in efforts to mitigate human wildlife conflict (HWC) and resolve at least 40% of attended cases without capture of animals involved (DI-B05). | Progress Update: Till now, PRT members have already attended to 32 incidents and helped resolve them successfully. In India, PRTs amicably resolved a case of a tiger accidentally entering a village home, while PRT members in Chitwan in Nepal rescued three people from potential attacks by different wildlife species. (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 1.3,1.4 & 1.5). | Continued capacity building and handholding at the time of ongoing and emergent HWC situations. |
| **Output 2:** Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow. | | |

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| Output indicator 2.1.<br><br>Baselines for livestock ownership, grazing preferences amongst project village households completed, and potential beneficiaries identified, and consent accrued, by mid of year 1(DI-C16). | This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1, although data for an additional 369 households (control village) in Chitwan landscape were keyed in and analysed. | |
| Output indicator 2.2.<br><br>By mid-year 2, at least 25% of beneficiaries practicing livestock rearing actively build, maintain, and use PPPs (DI-A04). | Progress update: 574 PPPs were built in Y2. The project has supported 754 households with PPPs, reducing vulnerability of 74.8% beneficiaries reliant on goats as a primary source of livelihood. | Continued support to beneficiaries with technical advice. |
| Output indicator 2.3.<br><br>By year 3 end, at least 90% of PPPs built still maintained and used. | To be measured at end of Y3. | Inspection and reporting on PPP usage and maintenance by beneficiaries.<br><br>Providing support to beneficiaries who are unable to maintain structural upkeep of PPPs |
| Output indicator 2.4<br><br>By end of Year 3, at least 25% of consenting beneficiaries begin stall feeding their improved cattle stocks (DI-D02). | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress update: The project has supported 75 households in developing improved breed livestock, via artificial insemination. The efficacy of this will be measured next year. Additionally, 188 households have been supported to promote stall feeding of goats by providing them goat feeding stalls. | |
| Output indicator 2.5<br><br>By end of year 3, eye-cow method of livestock protection tested rigorously with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards (DI-C01). | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress update: 102 households have volunteered around 211 cattle to be stamped as part of the eye-cow experiment and are currently being monitored. The study is on-going. | Informing and accruing consent from selected beneficiary households for placing ‘eye’ and ‘X’ markings on their livestock as well as from beneficiaries whose livestock will be used as control i.e., with no markings.<br><br>Putting in place and monitoring a reporting system with all participating households. |
| **Output 3:** At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from ‘green livelihoods (GL)’, improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection. | | |

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| Output indicator 3.1<br><br>Baselines on forest dependence of households for extraction of forest resources including fuelwood assessed for all project villages, and shortlisting of beneficiaries and accrual of consents completed by mid-Year 1 (DI-C16). | This activity was completed in Y1 and reported on in AR1, although data for an additional 369 households (control village) in Chitwan landscape were keyed in and analysed. | |
| Output indicator 3.2<br><br>By end of year 2, 75% of prioritised beneficiaries in all project villages adopt an alternative fuel source and adopt a 'green-livelihood' (GL) (DI-B10). | Progress update: This year 158 beneficiaries have received training and support for adoption of 'green livelihoods' such as nursery raising, wool spinning, duck farming (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 & 3.6). In Nepal 337 LPG cookstoves & cylinders were distributed while fuelwood efficient improved cookstoves were adopted by 428 households in India. | |
| Output indicator 3.3<br><br>By end of year 3, average trips to collect forest resources are reduced to at least 60% amongst 75% of targeted beneficiaries. | To be measured at end of Y3.<br><br>Progress update: As per sampling survey, 15.8% of the sampled beneficiaries who received LPG support responded saying they do not go into the forest now. Baseline surveys suggested that on average, a villager dependent on forest-based fuelwood undertakes 16.8 ± 11.2 trips per months for fuelwood collection from forests. This has now been reduced to 3.9 ± 1.2 trips per month as per the responses received from 13 randomly selected beneficiaries. With beneficiaries receiving 'green' livelihoods, 35.3% of the sampled beneficiaries reported having reduced their visits to the forests, 32.4% of them reported to not go to the forest at all, and the remaining 32.3% of beneficiaries did not reduce or stop their dependence on forests yet | |
| Output indicator 3.4<br><br>By end of year 3, 80% of beneficiaries engaged with a 'green' livelihoods', successfully sustain their new livelihood (DI-B10). | To be measured at end of Y3. | |
| **Output 4:** Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers. | | |
| Output indicator 4.1<br><br>By end of Year 1, Baseline created of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them (DI-C16). | Progress Update: Reports on surveys to record baselines of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them have been prepared (Please see Evidence File: Activity 4.1 & 4.2). | |

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| Output indicator 4.2<br><br>By end of Year 2, at least 70% of consented media personnel across all print dailies of region, and concerned wildlife managers and rangers of the Protected Areas (PA) attend workshops. | Progress Update: Two workshops, focussing on building their knowledge and capacity to promote human-wildlife coexistence have been conducted for media personnel and forest department staff, each in India and Nepal. These workshops were attended by 51 forest department staff and 42 media personnel in Y2. (Please see report section 3.1, Activity 4.4) | |
| Output indicator 4.3<br><br>By end of year 3, at least 60% of media personnel who have attended workshops pledge to act as the voice of both wildlife species and people and print fact-based reports non-sensationalized reports (DI-C15). | To be measured at end of Y3. | Continued engagement with media personnel on a biannual basis in Y3.<br><br>Workshops conducted for media personnel who print fact-based non-sensationalised reports, acting as voice of both people and wildlife. |
| Output indicator 4.4<br><br>By end of year 3, at least 50% of trained wildlife managers and rangers exhibit a clear understanding of human-large carnivore issues in their landscape and can tackle at least 30% of the situations they address without needing to capture and translocate the animals involved (DI-A07). | To be measured at end of Y3. | Continued engagement with wildlife managers and rangers via workshops. |
| **Output 5:** A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities. | | |
| Output indicator 5.1<br><br>By end of year 2, baselines for mental health and wellbeing vis-à-vis its drivers established for people of project villages (DI-C16). | Project update: Mental health survey initiated, and 100 responses have been recorded. | Complete the mental health survey, data entry and analysis. |
| Output indicator 5.2<br><br>By end of year 3, a co-planned and co-developed detailed strategic plan to foster better mental health and wellbeing is drafted and shared with all relevant stakeholders including peer communities. | To be measured at end of Y3. | |

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

### A. Project Logical framework

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Impact:** Large carnivore populations are successfully conserved in the transboundary landscape of Nepal and India by bolstering human-large carnivore coexistence through community empowerment and wellbeing | | | |
| **Outcome:** Negative impacts of human-large carnivore interactions significantly reduced in six 'model' villages around Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape across India and Nepal, through participatory conflict management, poverty alleviation and behaviour change. | 0.1: By end of year 3 at least 40% cases addressed by Primary Response Team (PRT) members are resolved amicably preventing further loss of human lives and injuries; death/injury of the wild animal involved; or the need for the animal's removal into captivity.<br><br>0.2: By end of year 3 livestock depredation by large carnivores reduced by at least 75% in all model villages where targeted interventions are implemented. (DI-D15)<br><br>0.3: By end of year 3, the average frequency of trips to forests by beneficiaries reduced by 60%. (DI-B09)<br><br>0.4: By end of year 3, loss of income from reduced forest resource dependence amongst at least 75% of beneficiaries of the programme is offset 100% with the income generated from adopted 'green' livelihoods (DI-D16)<br><br>0.5: By end of year 3, at least 25% of local media reports by 60% of the media personnel engaged, covering | 01: Details of cases attended by PRTs in the landscape, as well as qualitative analyses of different interventions made vis-à-vis outcome of the intervention, and comparison with previous years' baseline of outcome of conflict situations.<br><br>0.2: Comparison with baselines on past 3 years' average livestock depredation numbers in the project villages, as well as control villages from survey results and compensation records.<br><br>0.3: Comparison of self-reported data collected annually, against baselines on fuelwood collection and use created through sample survey at beginning of project<br><br>0.4: Comparison against baselines collected at beginning of project on time-spent in forests and per-capita earnings from forest resources<br><br>0.5.1: Content analysis of targeted media reports over course of project compared against content analysed for past 2-3 years of reportage.<br><br>0.5.2: Comparative analyses of post-survey results, with baselines on past decisions and mitigation techniques employed by Wildlife management in the Protected Areas. | 1. Development driven change in community aspirations will not negatively impact the overall goal of increasing tolerance for losses amongst local communities and their willingness for continued participation.<br><br>2. Major policy changes in either of the countries will not render futile any or all of the project's outputs. |

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| | human-large carnivore conflicts, are fact based and neutral (DI-C15)<br><br>0.6: At least 30% of cases addressed by the park and wildlife managers are resolved without capture and translocation of the large carnivore involved.<br><br>0.7: By end of year 3, impacts of varying dimensions of human-wildlife conflicts on people's mental health and wellbeing in rural communities in the project area assessed, and a detailed strategic plan is produced and shared with all relevant stakeholders. | 0.6: Analysed survey results in published report and action plan. | |
| **Output 1**<br><br>A network of community volunteers trained, equipped and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape. | 1.1: By end of year 1, at least 25 people each in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Parsa NP and Chitwan NP inducted, trained and equipped as PRT members providing coverage across all project villages and adjoining areas (DI-A01)<br><br>1.2: By end of year 3, at least 60% of all trained PRT members will actively respond and/or partake in efforts to mitigate human wildlife conflict (HWC) and resolve at least 40% of attended cases without capture of animals involved (DI-B05). | 1.1: Database on human-tiger and human leopard conflicts and interventions, in and around project villages<br><br>1.2: Training attendance and report.<br><br>1.3: Case registers maintained by PRT members and field project team | 1.Majority of enlisting volunteers will all contribute their services throughout the project period and beyond and suitable succession/recruitment will ensure teams remain in capacity.<br><br>2.Trained volunteers will have regular opportunities to address HWC situations as HWC incident hotspots can spatially shift over time, or momentarily cease at certain hotspots.<br><br>3. Volunteers are managed effectively to ensure continued engagement and enthusiasm about their roles and pro-active response, to report and attend to all cases within their respective areas. |
| **Output 2**<br><br>Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and | 2.1: Baselines for livestock ownership, grazing preferences amongst project village households completed, and potential beneficiaries identified, and | 2.1.1. Raw and analysed baseline information on types and number of livestock owned by households in project villages. | 1.Communities are willing to speak about livestock depredation freely before and after the project. |

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| tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow. | consent accrued, by mid of year 1(DI-C16).<br><br>2.2. By mid-year 2, at least 25% of beneficiaries practicing livestock rearing actively build, maintain, and use PPPs (DI-A04)<br><br>2.3. By year 3 end, at least 90% of PPPs built still maintained and used.<br><br>2.4. By end of Year 3, at least 25% of consenting beneficiaries begin stall feeding their improved cattle stocks (DI-D02).<br><br>2.5. By end of year 3, eye-cow method of livestock protection tested rigorously with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards (DI-C01). | 2.1.2: Beneficiary lists and signed consent forms<br><br>2.2. Physical verification of PPPs built and used.<br><br>2.3. All Physical verification and through beneficiary feedback.<br><br>2.4.1: Artificial insemination (AI) training course attendance and certificates<br><br>2.4.2. Consent forms from beneficiaries, data on stall-fed varieties of cattle birth and survival.<br><br>2.5: Enumeration of livestock killed by tigers and leopards (especially of marked and unmarked livestock) through self-reporting by beneficiaries, government records and opportunistic in-field verification of kills. | 2.Compensation records from government bodies will be shared for data analysis of livestock depredation.<br><br>3.Communities will want PPPs and will maintain them.<br><br>4. The eye-cow methods tested successfully with African lions and African leopards will work with similar efficacy with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards.<br><br>5. There will be enough fodder supply available for all stall-fed cattle and will not lead to increased fodder collection from forests.<br><br>6.Communities will adhere to the designated eye-cow protocol so that results can be analyzed for effectiveness. |
| **Output 3**<br><br>At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection | 3.1. Baselines on forest dependence of households for extraction of forest resources including fuelwood assessed for all project villages, and shortlisting of beneficiaries and accrual of consents completed by mid-Year 1 (DI-C16).<br><br>3.2. By end of year 2, 75% of prioritised beneficiaries in all project villages adopt an alternative fuel source and adopt a 'green-livelihood' (GL) (DI-B10).<br><br>3.3. By end of year 3, average trips to collect forest resources are reduced to at least 60% amongst 75% of targeted beneficiaries. | 3.1.1: Raw and analyzed baseline data on forest resource extraction by households of project villages and their per capita income from various resources.<br><br>3.1.2: Beneficiary lists and written participation consents from all beneficiaries.<br><br>3.2: Implementation reports and data from self-reporting on use and maintenance of cookstoves, as well as of GLs and earnings from it. | 1.Communities are willing to speak to the project team about forest-based resource collection and income from it openly.<br><br>2.Communities are willing to adopt the use of improved cookstoves as well as a 'green livelihood' option.<br><br>3. After adopting improved cook stoves and non-forest-based fuels, beneficiaries will completely cease fuelwood collection for other purposes (additional cook stove, for heating water for bathing, etc.). |

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| | 3.4: By end of year 3, 80% of beneficiaries engaged with a 'green' livelihoods', successfully sustain their new livelihood (DI-B10). | 3.3. Self-reporting by beneficiaries on income generated, as well as data from satisfaction survey across all beneficiaries in project villages.<br><br>3.4: Self reporting on income generated per unit time by beneficiaries. | 4.Beneficiaries would significantly reduce their dependence on forest resources after adoption of sustainable 'green' livelihoods,<br><br>5. Beneficiaries will be transparent in self-reporting on their forest visits post adoption of Improved cook stoves and GLs. |
| **Output 4**<br><br>Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers. | 4.1: By end of Year 1, Baseline created of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them (DI-C16).<br><br>4.2: By end of Year 2, at least 70% of consented media personnel across all print dailies of region, and concerned wildlife managers and rangers of the Protected Areas (PA) attend workshops.<br><br>4.3: By end of year 3, at least 60% of media personnel who have attended workshops pledge to act as the voice of both wildlife species and people and print fact-based reports non-sensationalized reports (DI-C15).<br><br>4.4: By end of year 3, at least 50% of trained wildlife managers and rangers exhibit a clear understanding of human-large carnivore issues in their landscape and can tackle at least 30% of the situations they address without | 4.1.1 Analysed report on print media content from project region on HWC and other wildlife issues.<br><br>4.1.2: Survey results on knowledge and perceptions of Forest Department staff<br><br>4.2: Consent forms & Workshop attendance registers.<br><br>4.3: Signed pledge board/card and media posts on event.<br><br>4.4: Pre-and Post-test results and comparison of cases addressed and resolved before and after capacity development. | 1.Media representatives are willing to take part in the workshops.<br><br>2. Media representatives despite engagement are free from pressures to negatively sensationalise news pieces, and will continue to publish fact-based, non-sensationalised stories.<br><br>3. Forest Department officials will be open to changed practices and behaviours and will be willing to partake in the workshops.<br><br>4. Despite increased awareness Forest Department will be free from political and social pressures to take proactive decisions on the ground. |

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| | needing to capture and translocate the animals involved (DI-A07). | | |
| **Output 5**<br><br>A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities. | 5.1: By end of year 2, baselines for mental health and wellbeing vis-à-vis its drivers established for people of project villages (DI-C16).<br><br>5.2: By end of year 3, a co-planned and co-developed detailed strategic plan to foster better mental health and wellbeing is drafted and shared with all relevant stakeholders including peer communities. | 5.1. Raw and analysed qualitative and quantitative data on mental health and wellbeing from systematic survey across project and adjoining villages.<br><br>5.2. Strategy document | 1. Local communities are conscious and cognizant about poor mental health and wellbeing and are willing to talk about it freely.<br><br>2. Local people share concerns of mental health issues being a pertinent problem that needs addressing and there are not already cultural mechanisms in place to address any issues, if any. |

**Activities**

1.1: Conduct Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and individual interviews (using snowball sampling) for past data on human-tiger & human-leopard conflicts in project region.

1.2: Conduct community consultations in project villages and other adjoining conflict prone villages to explain the need and function of Primary Response Teams and accrue volunteers

1.3: Conduct an induction workshop for all volunteering PRTs in India and Nepal to introduce basics of the role and assess various competencies.

1.4: Provide equipment to enlisted PRT members and conduct specialized training each year to develop capacity of PRTs

1.5: Inform and guide PRT members to successfully address conflict situations that are reported in and around their respective villages.

1.6: Conduct annual evaluation workshop to assess functioning of PRTs, celebrate success, promote peer and community support and cohesion, and recognize and reward strongly performing members.

2.1: Conduct household surveys to assess livestock ownership, grazing preferences etc. in all project villages, to assess priority need for interventions and willingness to participate.

2.2: Organize consultative workshops in each project village to apprise potential beneficiaries of various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, record beneficiaries' choices and accrue formal consent.

2.3. Organize workshop using select previous Living With Tigers (LWT) project beneficiaries to train beneficiaries in manufacture and maintenance of Predator Proof Pens (PPP).

2.4. Support the building of predator proof pens in all volunteering beneficiary households in villages by mid-year 2.

2.5. Conduct annual assessment of PPPs built through random house visits in at least 30% of beneficiary households and through maintenance logs.

2.6. Prepare methodological framework for assessing eye-cow effectiveness in reducing livestock depredation and train field team

2.7. Conduct workshop with volunteering livestock owners to apprise about the initiative, its need, the need for a systematic assessment, explain method of data logging, etc.

2.8. Carry out livestock ‘eye-cow’ camp for all beneficiaries enlisting in the eye-cow initiative to imprint ‘’eyes’ on all their livestock.

2.9. Monitor and collect data logs from each beneficiary on livestock grazing frequency and time, location, livestock loss, etc, on a monthly basis.

2.10. Conduct workshop to apprise volunteering cattle owners in project villages on breed improvement and benefits of stall feeding and accrue consent from at least 50% of cattle owners in each village.

2.11: Train local volunteers (select PRT members) in artificial insemination of cattle through state animal husbandry department or private agency and provide equipment to carry out artificial insemination of cattle in consenting households.

2.12: Carry out assessment of AI breeding improvement success and stall-feeding practice through a rapid survey at the end of project year.

3.1: Conduct household surveys to gather primary information to create baselines on forest resource dependency and identify potential beneficiaries for ‘green’ livelihood and cooking fuel adoption

3.2: Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisals with potential beneficiaries to finalize interventions for reduction of forest dependency and conflict incidences and accrue consent from them for different interventions.

3.3: Train local women to manufacture and repair fuel efficient cookstoves and involve them in manufacturing and installing these in all consenting beneficiary homes in project villages.

3.4: Carry out ICS installations in beneficiary households through trained women volunteers.

3.5: Conduct training on different alternative livelihood options selected by beneficiaries, using appropriate resource persons from allied government and private sector institutions.

3.6: Provide technical and financial support to consenting beneficiaries to setup new ‘green’ livelihood options

3.7: Establish a bi-annual self-reporting system with beneficiaries to monitor use ICS and different GLs adopted, as well as forest dependency, and collect self-reported data.

4.1: Conduct media report analysis on past reportage covering human-large carnivore conflicts in the project region, to segregate dominant narratives and tailor training and subsequent awareness.

4.2: Survey of relevant forest department staff at various levels to assess knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on human-wildlife conflicts in the region.

4.3: Create a master list of all print media personnel relevant to project region and contact them to apprise of the project and accrue consent for further engagement and capacity development.

4.4: Conduct annual capacity development workshop for media personnel and selected Forest Department officers.

4.5: Organize a ‘media for wildlife conservation’ event to foster trained media personnel to pledge to voice issue pertaining to wildlife through fact-based reporting.

4.6: Carry out post assessment of FD officers and media reports at the end of project period.

5.1: Formulate methodology to assess mental health and wellbeing across project villages, especially for most vulnerable groups and train survey consultants and field team.

5.2: Survey project villages and adjoining ones to assess mental health and wellbeing of villagers and the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on it.

5.3: Conduct consultative meetings with village elders, representatives of forest department, media agencies, local NGOs, and other government agencies to discuss results of the assessment and formulate strategies to address mental health and wellbeing.

5.4: Draft and disseminate strategic action plan to tackle mental health and wellbeing in relation to human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife conservation in the project region.

## B: Project Workplan/Timeline

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (23/24) | | | | Year 2 (24/25) | | | | Year 3 (25/26) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Output 1 | A network of community volunteers trained, equipped, and functionalised as Primary Response Team in project areas of Valmiki-Chitwan-Parsa landscape. | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Conduct Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and individual interviews (using snowball sampling) for past data on human-tiger & human-leopard conflicts in project region. | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2 | Conduct community consultations in project villages and other adjoining conflict prone villages to explain the need and function of Primary Response Teams and accrue volunteers | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 | Conduct an induction workshop for all volunteering PRTs in India and Nepal to introduce basics of the role and assess various competencies | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4 | Provide equipment to enlisted PRT members and conduct specialized training each year to develop capacity of PRTs | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 | Inform and guide PRT members to successfully address conflict situations that are reported in and around their respective villages. | 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (23/24) | | | | Year 2 (24/25) | | | | Year 3 (25/26) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 1.6 | Conduct annual evaluation workshop to assess functioning of PRTs, celebrate success, promote peer and community support and cohesion, and recognize and reward strongly performing members | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Output 2 | Livestock depredation in project villages significantly reduced through promotion of two tried and tested initiatives Predator Proof Pens (PPP) and promotion of stall-fed cattle, as well as a new experimental novel method, the eye-cow. | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Conduct household surveys to assess livestock ownership, grazing preferences etc. in all project villages, to assess priority need for interventions and willingness to participate. | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 | Organize consultative workshops in each project village to apprise potential beneficiaries of various techniques to reduce livestock depredation, record beneficiaries' choices and accrue formal consent | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.3 | Organize workshop using select previous Living with Tigers (LWT) project beneficiaries to train beneficiaries in manufacture and maintenance of Predator Proof Pens (PPP). | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4 | Support the building of predator proof pens in all volunteering beneficiary households in villages by mid-year 2. | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.5 | Conduct annual assessment of PPPs built through random house visits in at least 30% of beneficiary households and through maintenance logs. | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (23/24) | | | | Year 2 (24/25) | | | | Year 3 (25/26) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 2.6 | Prepare methodological framework for assessing eye-cow effectiveness in reducing livestock depredation and train field team | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.7 | Conduct workshop with volunteering livestock owners to apprise about the initiative, its need, the need for a systematic assessment, explain method of data logging, etc. | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.8 | Carry out livestock 'eye-cow' camp for all beneficiaries enlisting in the eye-cow initiative to imprint ''eyes' on all their livestock. | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.9 | Monitor and collect data logs from each beneficiary on livestock grazing frequency and time, location, livestock loss, etc, on a monthly basis. | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.10 | Conduct workshop to apprise volunteering cattle owners in project villages on breed improvement and benefits of stall feeding and accrue consent from at least 50% of cattle owners in each village. | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.11 | Train local volunteers (select PRT members) in artificial insemination of cattle through state animal husbandry department or private agency and provide equipment to carry out artificial insemination of cattle in consenting households. | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.12 | Carry out assessment of AI breeding improvement success and stall-feeding practice through a rapid survey at the end of project year. | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Output 3 | At least 75% of targeted forest-dependent beneficiary communities in each of the 6 project villages benefit from 'green livelihoods (GL)', | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (23/24) | | | | Year 2 (24/25) | | | | Year 3 (25/26) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| | improved cookstoves, and/or sustainable cooking fuels, and significantly reduce their time spent in forest for natural resource collection | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Conduct household surveys to gather primary information to create baselines on forest resource dependency and identify potential beneficiaries for 'green' livelihood and cooking fuel adoption | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Conduct Participatory Rural Appraisals with potential beneficiaries to finalize interventions for reduction of forest dependency and conflict incidences, and accrue consent from them for different interventions | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.3 | Train local women to manufacture and repair fuel efficient cookstoves and involve them in manufacturing and installing these in all consenting beneficiary homes in project villages | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4 | Carry out ICS installations in beneficiary households through trained women volunteers | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Conduct training on different alternative livelihood options selected by beneficiaries, using appropriate resource persons from allied government and private sector institutions | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.6 | Provide technical and financial support to consenting beneficiaries to setup new 'green' livelihood options | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.7 | Establish a bi-annual self-reporting system with beneficiaries to monitor use ICS and different GLs adopted, as well as forest dependency, and collect self-reported data | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (23/24) | | | | Year 2 (24/25) | | | | Year 3 (25/26) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Output 4 | Current narratives of human-large carnivore conflicts significantly altered to promote coexistence, through focussed capacity and knowledge building of local media personnel and wildlife managers. | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Conduct media report analysis on past reportage covering human-large carnivore conflicts in the project region, to segregate dominant narratives and tailor training and subsequent awareness | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.2 | Survey of relevant forest department staff at various levels to assess knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions on human-wildlife conflicts in the region | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.3 | Create a master list of all print media personnel relevant to project region and contact them to apprise of the project and accrue consent for further engagement and capacity development. | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.4 | Conduct annual capacity development workshop for media personnel and selected Forest Department officers. | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.5 | Organize a 'media for wildlife conservation' event to foster trained media personnel to pledge to voice issue pertaining to wildlife through fact-based reporting. | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.6 | Carry out post assessment of FD officers and media reports at the end of project period. | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Output 5 | A comprehensive understanding of mental health and wellbeing among the local communities established and a co-planned strategy to address impacts of HWC on mental | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (23/24) | | | | Year 2 (24/25) | | | | Year 3 (25/26) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| | health and wellbeing of people formulated for the project communities. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 | Formulate methodology to assess mental health and wellbeing across project villages, especially for most vulnerable groups and train survey consultants and field team | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.2 | Survey project villages and adjoining ones to assess mental health and wellbeing of villagers and the impact of human-wildlife conflicts on it. | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.3 | Conduct consultative meetings with village elders, representatives of forest department, media agencies, local NGO's, and other government agencies to discuss results of the assessment and formulate strategies to address mental health and wellbeing. | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.4 | Draft and disseminate strategic action plan to tackle mental health and wellbeing in relation to human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife conservation in the project region. | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# Annex 3: Standard Indicators

## Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DI - A01 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training.<br>*(Project Indicator - 1.1: By end of year 1, at least 25 people each in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Parsa NP and Chitwan NP inducted, trained and equipped as PRT members providing coverage across all project villages and adjoining areas.)* | People | Number of local stakeholders/ community members inducted, trained & equipped as PRT members | 39 | 19 | | 58 | 50 |
| DI - A04 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.<br>*(Project Indicator 2.2. By mid-year 2, at least 25% of beneficiaries practicing livestock rearing actively build, maintain, and use PPPs)* | People | Number of local stakeholders/ community members who actively build and use PPPs | 180 | 574 | | 754 | 200<br>(25% of total 800 beneficiaries targeted) |
| DI - A07 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues.<br>*(Project Indicator 4.4: By end of year 3, at least 50% of trained wildlife managers and rangers exhibit a clear understanding of human-large carnivore issues in their landscape and can tackle at least 30% of the situations they address without needing to capture and translocate the animals involved)* | Government institutions | Trained wildlife managers and rangers | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | 0 | 15<br>(50% of wildlife managers currently trained. This figure may increase with subsequent trainings) |
| DI - B05 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).<br>*(Project Indicator 1.2: By end of year 3, at least 60% of all trained PRT members will actively* | People | PRT members actively partaking in HWC mitigation. | 5 | 22 | | 27 | 30<br>(60% of a minimum 50 PRT members planned to be trained and functionalised) |

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *respond and/or partake in efforts to mitigate human wildlife conflict (HWC) and resolve at least 40% of attended cases without capture of animals involved.)* | | | | | | | |
| DI - B10 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities.<br>*(Project Indicator 3.2. By end of year 2, 75% of prioritised beneficiaries in all project villages adopt an alternative fuel source and adopt a 'green-livelihood')* | People/ Households | Number of beneficiaries adopting 'green fuel' | 220 | 770 | | 990 | 600<br>(75% of 800 beneficiaries targeted for adopting cleaner fuel based or reduced fuelwood based cookstoves) |
| DI - B10 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of individuals / households reporting an adoption of livelihood improvement practices as a result of project activities.<br>*(Project Indicator 3.4: By end of year 3, 80% of beneficiaries engaged with a 'green' livelihoods', successfully sustain their new livelihood)* | People/ Households | Beneficiaries successfully sustaining livelihood improvement practice - | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | 0 | 240<br>(80% of 320 targeted beneficiaries to receive training for additional livelihood support) |
| DI - C01 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.<br>*(Project Indicator 2.5. By end of year 3, eye-cow method of livestock protection tested rigorously with Bengal tigers and Asian leopards)* | Number | Publication of Eye-cow methodology after rigorous testing in field | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | 0 | 1 |
| DI - C15 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of Media related activities.<br>*(Project Indicator 0.5: By end of year 3, at least 25% of local media reports by 60% of the media personnel engaged, covering human-large carnivore conflicts, are fact based and neutral)* | Number | Local media reports | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | 0 | 43 |

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DI - C15 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of Media related activities.<br>*(Project Indicator 4.3: By end of year 3, at least 60% of media personnel who have attended workshops pledge to act as the voice of both wildlife species and people and print fact-based reports non-sensationalized reports)* | Number | Internet/Print/Radio/Television, and sub-national/national/international | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | 0 | 26<br>(60% of media personnel who have attended workshops. This figure may increase with subsequent engagements) |
| DI - C16 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases.<br>*(Project Indicator 2.1: Baselines for livestock ownership, grazing preferences amongst project village households completed, and potential beneficiaries identified, and consent accrued, by mid of year 1)* | Number | Number of livestock owners & their grazing preferences added to database | 2763 | 369 | | 3132 | 3132 |
| DI - C16 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases.<br>*(Project Indicator 3.1. Baselines on forest dependence of households for extraction of forest resources including fuelwood assessed for all project villages, and shortlisting of beneficiaries and accrual of consents completed by mid-Year 1)* | Number | Number of forest dependant households added to database | 2763 | 369 | | 3132 | 3132 |
| DI - C16 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases.<br>*(Project Indicator 4.1: By end of Year 1, Baseline created of print media narrative on human-large carnivore conflicts, as well as of forest department's knowledge and understanding of human-large carnivore conflicts, and mitigation measures employed by them)* | Number | Recorded number of media and forest department's narrative and understanding of HWC | 65 | | | 65 | 80 |
| DI - C16 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of records added to accessible databases. | Number | Number of records for mental health and wellbeing | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | 100 | | 100 | |

| DI Indicator number | Name of indicator | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *(Project Indicator 5.1: By end of year 2, baselines for mental health and wellbeing vis-à-vis its drivers established for people of project villages)* | | | | | | | |
| DI - D02 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved.<br>*(Project Indicator 2.4. By end of Year 3, at least 25% of consenting beneficiaries begin stall feeding their improved cattle stocks)* | People/ Household | Number of people who safeguard their livestock by adopting stall feeding | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | | |
| DI - D15 | DI Standard Indicator - Net change in incidences of human wildlife conflict.<br>*(Project Indicator 0.2: By end of year 3 livestock depredation by large carnivores reduced by at least 75% in all model villages where targeted interventions are implemented)* | Number | Incidence of reduced livestock depredation | 45 (Based on the baseline information collected on incidents per year in project villages)<br>) | 10 (Recorded actual incidents of livestock depredation in project villages) | | 55 | 5 (Expected reduction in total incidences per year, post project implementation) |
| DI - D16 | DI Standard Indicator - Number of households reporting improved livelihoods.<br>*(Project Indicator 0.4: By end of year 3, loss of income from reduced forest resource dependence amongst at least 75% of beneficiaries of the programme is offset 100% with the income generated from adopted 'green' livelihoods)* | Households | Number of households reporting increased profitable supplementary income. | Indicator not measurable in Y1 | Indicator not measurable in Y2 | | 0 | 240<br>(75% of total targeted beneficiaries) |

## Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|---|---|
| Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission? | Yes |
| **Is the report less than 10MB?** If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | Yes |
| **Is your report more than 10MB?** If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | |
| **Have you included means of verification?** You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | Yes |
| **Have you provided an updated risk register?** If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register. | Yes |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)? | Yes |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |