Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	**30-023**
Project title	Rights of Wetlands Operationalisation for Biodiversity and Community Resilience
Country/ies	Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Kenya and Sri Lanka
Lead Organisation	Wetlands International Kenya
Project partner(s)	- Wetlands International Global Office, Netherlands - ATAYAK - Asociación de Yachak del Pueblo de Sarayaku, Ecuador - Cobra Collective, UK - Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, USA - International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka - Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka - North Rupununi District Development Board, Guyana - Practical Action in Bolivia, Bolivia - Universidad Católica de Bolivia "San Pablo", Bolivia - Worcester State University, USA
Darwin Initiative grant value	£599,700.00
Start/end dates of project	01 June 2023 to 31 March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 – Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Dr. Matthew Simpson
Project website/blog/social media	https://cobracollective.org/portfolio/rights-of-wetlands-operationalisation-for-biodiversity-and-community-resilience/ www.rightsofwetlands.org
Report author(s) and date	Dr. Matthew Simpson and Ms. Louisa Chinyavu

1.   Project summary

The drive for economic Rights of Wetlands, based on unbridled consumerism, continues to dominate wetland use and associated biodiversity loss, with existing strategies for wetland conservation failing. Up to 87% of global wetlands have been lost, contributing to an average decline of 84% in freshwater species populations and 36% decline in coastal/marine species populations since 1970. Biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate destabilisation constitute connected global emergencies that worsen poverty, and now require transformative approaches, including ethical/legal paradigm shifts. Just as it took an ethical shift, from that of a thing or property, to recognise the rights of children, women, Indigenous Peoples, Black and Ethnic Minorities to confront child labour, human trafficking, slavery, and other human rights abuses, a similar ethical shift is required to alter the downward trajectory for wetlands.
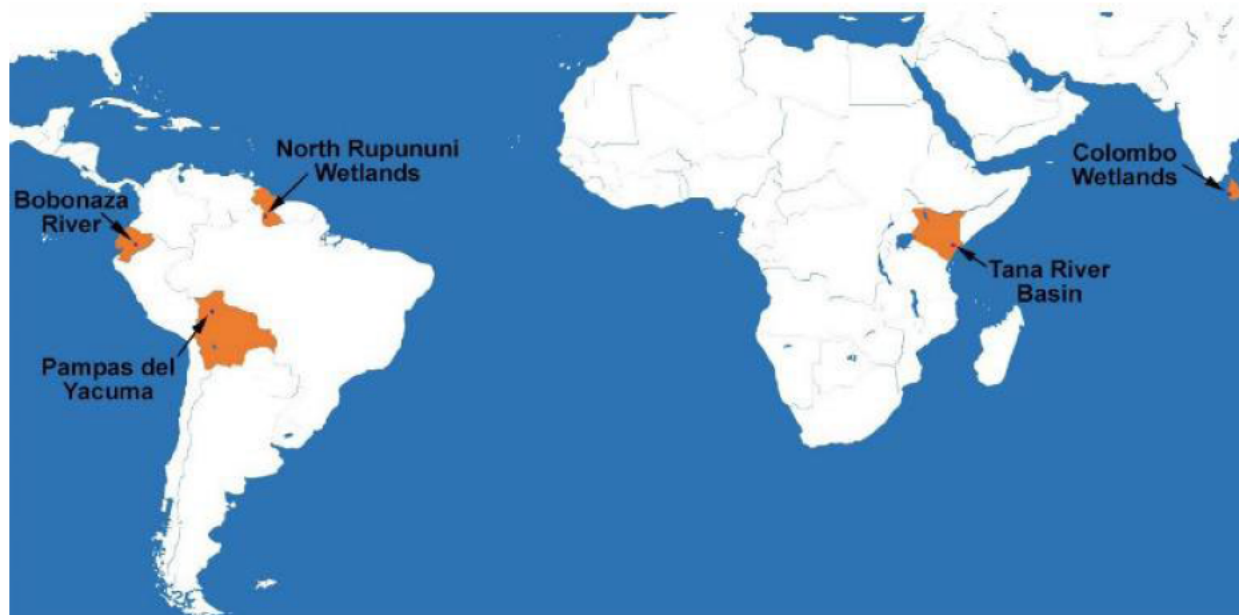
Addressing ethical and legal drivers of biodiversity loss and resulting poverty, Rights of Nature is gaining increased support as a solution, representing a paradigm shift in ethics, policy, law and practice, consistent with many Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' views and increasingly championed by courts, legislatures and international institutions. This framework supports behavioural change in how we interact with Nature/biodiversity, supporting improved management. The shift is radical: from nature being considered a property and commodity, to Nature becoming a rights-bearing entity, resulting in a significant advance in protecting and conserving biodiversity. In most legal frameworks, an environmental lawsuit can be filed only if human injury or loss is proven in connection to degradation of the person's environment (locus standi). Within a 'Rights of Nature' framework, one can sue on an ecosystem's behalf, without connection to direct personal injury. Rights of Nature has also advanced to support a position where harm is averted rather than holding those to account post injury (precautionary principle). Although some national governments have legislated for Rights of Nature approaches (e.g. 2008 Ecuadorian Constitution, 2010 Law of Mother Earth in Bolivia, 2018 Colombia Supreme Court recognizing the right of the Amazon to exist), in practice, these have been undermined by other legal mechanisms still promoting a commodified, proprietary approach to nature (e.g. 'Payments for Ecosystem Services' which, when applied, still approach wetland management and governance in piecemeal ways, such as a focus on floodwater attenuation, creating perverse financial incentives that could undermine other wetland functions). A 'Rights of Nature' approach promotes a holistic strategy that protects the integral functioning of a wetland, including safeguards for its constituent species including beneficial human activities that support poverty alleviation.

Project partners have proposed a 'Universal Declaration of the Rights of Wetlands', consistent with the 1982 World Charter for Nature and produced draft guidance on operationalisation (www.rightsofwetlands.org). The project goal is to facilitate the operationalisation of the Rights of Wetlands approach in different country contexts, embedding the right of a wetland to function and exist through community activism and management, ethical framing, policy and legal instruments and governance frameworks, and demonstrating how a more holistic and morally driven relationship (e.g. eco-centric based rather than anthropocentric) with wetlands can deliver successful biodiversity conservation necessary for protecting related natural communities including favourable conditions for poverty alleviation.

The project will examine Rights of Wetlands implementation in five different country contexts and specifically in the following five wetland areas (see Figure 1):

- Pampas del Yacuma – Bolivia

- Bobonaza River – Ecuador

- North Rupununi Wetlands – Guyana

- Tana River Basin – Kenya

- Colombo Wetlands – Sri Lanka

Figure 1 – Project locations

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

At the start of the project the roles and responsibilities were agreed among the partners. These formed the basis of the formal partner agreements that were signed between Wetlands International Kenya and all partners. The project leaders liaise with in-county coordinators on a regular basis and formally assess progress every two months. The agreed roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Wetlands International Kenya, Cobra Collective – Overall project management. Project impact evaluation, reporting and coordination.

- Cobra Collective - Participatory engagement learning capacity building.

- Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund - Legislation and policy reviews, social and environmental rights two-way learning capacity building.

- Wetlands International Kenya, Cobra Collective - Governance and communication frameworks, and legislation and policy reviews.

- Wetlands International Kenya, International Water Management Institute, North Rupununi District Development Board, Worcester State University, Universidad Católica de Bolivia "San Pablo" – In-country technical and logistical delivery and community and stakeholder engagement.

- Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka - Coordination with Sri Lankan government agencies.

- ATAYAK & Practical Action Bolivia - Community management approaches and worldviews review. Stakeholder and community engagement in Ecuador & Bolivia.

All partners have actively engaged government and NGO stakeholders at a national level and local communities at the specific wetland sites. They have achieved this through holding online and in-person workshops and undertaking questionnaire surveys with stakeholders. The British Embassies have been regularly engaged throughout the project and provided with updates regarding progress. In Autumn 2024, in-person visits to all embassies were undertaken to give a presentation on project progress.

3. Project progress

During the period April 2024 to March 2025 the focus under Output 1 has been a series of workshops held with communities, in the five countries, which included training given to support communities to develop Rights of Wetlands Community Participatory Videos. Community members were supported through a process to examine the challenges they and their wetlands face, to identify solutions they already carry out or are proposing to carry out to face these challenges and to assess whether those solutions were aligned with Rights of Wetlands. The communities then chose a solution to make into a participatory video.

Under Output 1 workshops were also held with stakeholders in each country to examine how Rights of Wetlands could be included within legal, policy and governance frameworks within each country.

Activities under Output 2 included the development of a series of training courses that were requested by project partners and stakeholders. This has greatly expanded the original training programme envisaged in the project proposal. Training courses have now been developed on the following topics:

1. Introduction to Wetlands
2. Wetland Solutions
3. Rights of Nature and Rights of Wetlands
4. Wetland Management Planning
5. Community Environmental Management
6. Social & Environmental Rights
7. Integrating Traditional Knowledge

In-person training was given in Autumn 2024 to communities and stakeholders in each country and the training courses are now being translated and put online for continued access.

Under Output 4 policy briefs for each country have been developed, distributed within countries and are now online. Ongoing dialogue with communities and governments is occurring to discuss how Rights of Wetlands can be implemented. Support has been given to Sri Lanka to submit a draft resolution to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands regarding Rights of Wetlands and a Rights of Wetlands side event application for COP15 has been submitted to the Convention on Wetlands Secretariat. An application to the IUCN World Conservation Congress for a Rights of Nature side event has also been submitted and Rights of Wetlands have been included in a motion on Rights of Nature. Awareness raising and dissemination activities have been undertaken at multiple national and international meetings and events.

To following outputs and activities have been undertaken during this period:

Outputs
Output 1 - Robust Evidence Base of Rights of Wetlands in Five Countries
Output 2 – Increased Capacity for Rights of Wetlands Implementation
Output 4 - Up-scaling and Dissemination

Activities
1.6 Rights of Wetlands Community Participatory Video Workshops
1.7 Legal, Policy, Governance and Communication Stakeholder Workshops
2.1 Training Materials Production
2.2 Community Engagement Training
2.3 Community Social and Environmental Rights and Rights of Wetlands Training
4.1 Dissemination and Communication Strategy
4.2 Establish and Update Project Website Pages
4.5 Development of Policy Briefings
4.9 Dialogue with communities, CSOs, NGOs, governments and the private sector
4.10 Identify and support formulation of policy / legislation / strategy / plan on wetlands management
4.11 Ramsar and CBD CoP Side Event Applications and Draft Resolution for Ramsar COP

3.1   Progress in carrying out project Activities

The following is the information submitted by project partners against the activities they have undertaken this year.

1.6 Rights of Wetlands Community Participatory Video Workshops

Bolivia
Workshops to promote the Rights of Wetlands have been held to build capacity in Rights of Wetlands and participatory video. Two participatory videos are in process of development. Several natural hazards (fires from October to December 2024, and floods in March, April 2025) have made field work difficult and reduced participation of trainees. Nevertheless, we like to highlight that Aguaysal community videos focus on wetland importance and changes, and Jasaye Youth association videos focus on Colorada lake challenges and opportunities for conservation.

Workshops carried out in the communities

Reporte especifico							
Fecha	Lugar	Total Participantes	Mujeres	Hombres	% Mujeres	% Hombres	Edad promedio
13/09/2024	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	21	8	13	38,10%	61,90%	24,8
12/09/2024	Comunidad Aguayed (Eco Albergue Aguayzal)	24	9	15	37,50%	62,50%	46,6
14/09/2024	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	9	3	6	33,33%	66,67%	35
10/12/2024	Santa Rosa del Yacuma	2	1	1	50,00%	50,00%	-
20/02/2025 (Mañana)	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	7	4	3	57,14%	42,86%	17,1
20/02/2025 (Tarde)	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	5	3	2	60,00%	40,00%	17,1
21/01/2025	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	8	3	5	37,50%	62,50%	15,6
22/01/2025	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	8	3	5	37,50%	62,50%	19,6
17-19/02/2025	Santa Rosa del Yacuma				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	
17-19/03/2025	Santa Rosa del Yacuma				#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	
12/4/2025	Santa Rosa del Yacuma (Proyecto Social Jásaye)	10	3	7	30,00%	70,00%	20,0
14/4/2025	Comunidad Aguazal (Eco Albergue Aguayzal)	8	3	5	37,50%	62,50%	24,6

On November 27, Aguaysal and Jasaye each received the following equipment: 1 tablet, 1 tripod, 1 set of wireless microphones, 1 SD memory card, 1 tablet stand, 1 backpack. Photo register of the process can be found here:

Ecuador
Workshops were held in November 2025 in Sarayaku with community representatives (42 persons - 18M and 24F) and the development of participatory videos were discussed. Community members identified three potential videos focusing on the belief system and management approach of Kawsak Sacha (Sarayaku's knowledge of the "Living Forest" which concretely impacts the practices and policies Sarayaku has implemented to protect its wetlands), strategies used by Sarayaku to educate the next generation about the need and value of protecting wetlands and the use of community self help days to deal with pollution. Eriberto Gualinga is coordinating the video production and is training several of his fellow community members in video production and has used video production and screenings in his village, to foster community discussions and engagement. His work has been crucial to gather international support for Sarayaku's protection of their wetlands, territory and culture. Our work with Eriberto consisted of discussions to clarify the topics the community chose for the videos and also the purpose of the videos in the overall project. Carlos Fontes has subsequently collaborated with Eriberto to develop drafts of the scripts for the videos being produced which have been further discussed and agreed by the community.

Guyana
The team held an introductory workshop between the 22nd to 25th October 2025 with the 3 communities (15 persons – 9M, 6F). This workshop lasted 3 days and looked at wetlands, local challenges to maintaining wetlands integrity and local solutions.

This workshop was followed up in the communities with two on site visits. The first to review information documented during the Bina Hill Workshop and get further input from community members and to identify a participatory video to record. The second visit was to conduct participatory video training and collect raw materials for the participatory video projects. In Toka Village, the second visit was slightly different as the community elected to develop a fire management plan as their community solution to wild savanna fires and so that process was documented for the participatory video project.

Challenge – the project identified by Kwaimatta as a community owned solution looked at tree planting for access to timber in the savanna. On further investigation, the solution could not be considered a community owned solution based on the tenets of this concept and the Rights of Wetlands. We are working with the community to facilitate another visit to identify a new participatory video project.

Kenya
Wetlands International has successfully implemented several key activities under the Darwin Initiative Project, including a Water Protocol Workshop, a Rights of Wetlands Workshop, and Participatory Video Training with solution selection.

From 13th to 14th August, Participatory Video Training and Solution Selection was undertaken. The training focused on participatory video making, where groups from Lamu and Tana (comprising 7 participants 5M and 2F) assessed solutions discussed during the Rights of Wetlands Workshop to determine their relevance and impact on both wetlands and communities. The groups evaluated solutions based on criteria like community control, fairness, and sustainability, ultimately selecting restoration of degraded sites as the top solution. Participants were trained in creating short videos to highlight and promote these solutions within their communities. They developed storyboards and were to then film content showcasing practical restoration methods, aiming to inspire other communities to adopt similar conservation efforts.

From 6th to 8th February 2025, further Participatory Video Production Training was conducted at the British Hotel under the Darwin Initiative project. The training aimed to enhance participants' skills in video storytelling, with a focus on promoting mangrove conservation. A total of eight community members—three

men from Lamu and five participants (3M and 2F) from Tana—were trained on using iPads for high-quality filming, applying basic techniques such as framing, composition, and camera positioning, and understanding the value of storytelling in raising awareness. Day 1 focused on technical basics and practical filming exercises, while Day 2 emphasised developing impactful storylines and applying various camera shots for different film scenes. The Lamu group chose to showcase a success story from their CBEMR experience in Muhogoni, while the Tana group highlighted threats and community-led interventions in the Tana Delta. On Day 3, participants undertook a field exercise at Ndambwe to practice filming on-site and planned detailed shooting schedules.

Sri Lanka
On the 18th of January 2025, an in-person participatory video training session was conducted for interested youth (from university and Scouts groups, see 2.3 below) at the Attidiya nature field centre. A total of 29 youth participated (19F, 10M) and were divided into 4 groups, based on proximity to wetland and interest in video theme/story.

Two of these groups were active in developing storyboards and visiting wetland sites to conduct interviews for the participatory video. IWMI team also provided one on one assistance to one of the groups by visiting the field and filming of messages from community members around the selected wetland sites. One of the groups has completed the draft participatory video and is in the process of finalising based on feedback.

1.7 Legal, Policy, Governance and Communication Stakeholder Workshops

Bolivia
Initial pilot workshops were conducted in the first quarter, allowing for methodological adjustments. Subsequently, workshops were held between April and September in Aguaysal and Picaflor, focusing on:

- Legal and Ecological Context of Wetland**s** reviewing national laws, Ramsar guidelines, and community conservation cases.
- Participatory Video Production to build skills in scripting, filming, and editing, resulting in three short films on wetland rights.
- For the second semester, we have repeated training workshops on wetland rights and video skills.
- In total we have 101 unique individuals trained, with 40% of women, the average age of 33 years old.

Summarize of attendees at Workshops - Santa Rosa de Yacuma	
Number of persons	101
Average age	33,5
Num. Woman	40
Num. Man	61
Part.% Woman	39,6%
Part.% Man	61,4%

Follow-up in November:
Feedback sessions were held with Pablo Rimba (Aguaysal leader) and youth from Proyecto Social Jasaye, reaffirming the community's commitment to audiovisual documentation and environmental monitoring. Timelines for community screenings and political dialogues for 2025 were jointly established.

Evidence and Impact: Post-workshop surveys indicate that 80% of participants significantly improved their ability to articulate wetland rights in both legal and cultural terms.

Ecuador
We made several concerted efforts to meet with government officials at the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition. We have forwarded all project information to them and utilized contacts provided by the British Embassy. Despite our efforts we were not able to establish durable contacts with high level staff at the ministry. We believe this to be due to recent changes in government and leadership at the ministry and also the overall political instability which is still present in the country. We will continue to explore different avenues and strategies to establish meaningful contacts with government officials at the national level.

Going forward we will also need to focus our efforts on developing contacts with political leaders at regional and county levels. It is also worth considering establishing a dialogue with regional catholic leaders- with whom Carlos Fontes already had informal personal contacts- with strong environmental credentials, power and influence.

Guyana

Until the project was cleared by the Environmental Protection Agency, we could not engage community and other stakeholders on policy discussions. EPA still has not signed off on the project discussing policy related to wetlands management unless done with the Amazon Sustainable Landscape (ASL) Project. It is our hope that during the course of the next year we can support these discussions with communities and other stakeholders through the ASL project. But there are issues that have come up while working with the pilot communities like fire management, tree planting in savanna environs and utilising village sustainability plans for community resource monitoring that needs to be discussed with communities within the context of rights of wetlands that we hope to pursue.

Kenya

On 8th August 2024, a pivotal workshop was held at Sandies Hotel in Malindi, jointly supported by Nature Kenya and Wetlands International, to validate the "Lamu and Tana River Counties Position Paper on Water-Related Grievances." This validation marked a key milestone in the development of an inter-county protocol and memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the sustainable management of the River Tana, which flows through nine counties. The workshop brought together 40 participants (30M, 10F), including high-level officials such as Lamu County Governor, Tana River County Deputy Governor, senior representatives from Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP), and technical officers from key government agencies and civil society. The meeting resulted in the successful review and endorsement of the position paper, a jointly agreed roadmap for the next steps, and a clear affirmation of county ownership of the process. JKP also committed to supporting future engagements to advance the development and implementation of the protocol. This workshop demonstrated strong political and technical commitment to addressing water-related grievances and promoting collaborative governance in the River Tana basin.

On 28th January 2025, a follow-up workshop was held to develop a summary paper of the 'Joint Position Paper on Water-Related Grievances'. The summary is intended for submission to the Council of Governors as part of the ongoing process to secure high-level support for the proposed inter-county water protocol for the River Tana basin.

Sri Lanka

The Rights of Wetlands project 3rd stakeholder workshop was successfully held on the 20th of November 2024, and involved stakeholders from government, NGOs, and the private sector. A total of 31 participants (18F, 13M) attended the workshop, where introduction to the Rights of Wetlands project, updates on project progress, overview of the National Policy on Living Entities was provided, and an interactive group session on applying RoN/Rights of Wetlands scenarios in Sri Lanka was conducted.

2.1 Training Materials Production

The following training courses have been co-developed by all partners:

1. Introduction to wetlands
2. Wetland solutions
3. Rights of Nature and Rights of Wetlands
4. Wetland management planning _Unit 1
4. Wetland management planning _Unit 2
4. Wetland management planning _Unit 3
4. Wetland management planning _Unit 4
5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 1
5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 2
5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 3
5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 4
5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 5
5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 6
6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 1
6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 2
6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 3
6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 4
6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 5
6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 6
7. Community Environmental Management

Material has been produced for in-person training sessions and is being transferred into online versions for open access.

2.2 Community Engagement Training and 2.3 Community Social and Environmental Rights and Rights of Wetlands Training

Bolivia

Community engagement has continued through the development of training sessions on Rights of Wetlands, video production, participatory wetland indicators, and gender mainstreaming. In the upcoming period, we expect to see outcomes from these efforts. In May, the Aguaysal community is expected to present its progress on participatory wetland indicators, which includes the active involvement of local residents. Additionally, Practical Action and the Bolivian Catholic University (UCB) have collaborated with the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT) to invite Aguaysal representatives to present the wetlands rights approach at the Indigenous National Platform Against Climate Change. Furthermore, a descriptive synthesis of Questionnaire 1.3 has been developed to raise awareness about wetlands in the region.

Photos, documents evidence can be find here:

Ecuador

In November 2024, the Rights of Wetlands training was undertaken to discuss the importance of wetlands, key challenges facing wetland ecosystems, and practical solutions for both communities and nature (42 persons - 18M and 24F). The training, conducted in the main Sarayaku village, led to the development of a comprehensive description of the various types of wetlands and their location in Sarayaku. Participants also developed a comprehensive assessment of the specific threats faced by each type of wetland and brainstormed specific strategies to further protect each type of wetland.

Kenya

On 13th and 14th August 2024, a two-day workshop and training session was held in Malindi under the Darwin Initiative. The first day brought together 27 participants (20 men and 7 women) from Lamu and Tana River counties to discuss the importance of wetlands, key challenges facing wetland ecosystems, and practical solutions for both communities and nature. Discussions covered wetland types, structural components, ecological processes, and the rights that wetlands should be granted. On the second day, selected community members participated in a participatory video training, evaluating and prioritising locally relevant solutions for wetland conservation. The groups from Lamu and Tana each developed a storyboard and plan for a short video, both choosing to focus on the restoration of degraded mangrove sites as a solution that benefits both communities and ecosystems. The training also equipped participants with basic video production skills to document and share their experiences and best practices.

Sri Lanka

On the 17th and 19th of November 2024, the project team conducted an awareness workshop at the Attidiya nature field centre for a total of 32 youth, which included 2 university students, and the remaining participants from a Scouts program (Persons 32, 18F and 14M).

On the 28th of November an awareness workshop was conducted for a total of 198 students at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura (148F, 50M).

Both awareness raising sessions provided introductions to wetland ecosystems, wetlands in Sri Lanka and the Rights of Nature/Rights of Wetlands approach and introduction to the project. The sessions were interactive, in getting thoughts and feedback to different questions posed by the project team.

4.1 Dissemination and Communication Strategy

The following dissemination activities have occurred during this period:

- 6th of Feb 2025, Dr Chaturangi Wickramaratne - keynote address at the World Wetlands Day event hosted by Biodiversity Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 20th Feb 2025 - Dr Chaturangi Wickramaratne - Rights of Wetlands public lecture organized by the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka, Colombo Sri Lanka
- 26th June 2024 - Matthew Simpson: Transformative change for wetlands: learning the lessons from communities to government, SWS Europe Meeting, Biebrza, Poland
- 13th November 2024 – Symposium with 6 speakers entitled Achieving Transformative Change and The Rights of Wetlands, SWS Annual Meeting, Taipei, Taiwan
- 4th December 2024 – Presentation on 'Why Rights of Wetlands?' given by Matthew Simpson, Ritesh Kumar, Chaturangi Wickramaratne and Siobhan Fennessy to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands, Gland, Switzerland
- 20th to 23rd April 2024 – Presentation given on Rights of Wetlands at the Regional Training Event organised by the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia, Suncheon City, Republic of Korea

Multiple web postings have also occurred and are listed in Annex 1.

The project team have met with the British High Commission/British Embassy staff in all project countries:
- British High Commission Nairobi, Kenya
- British High Commission Colombo, Sri Lanka
- British High Commission Georgetown, Guyana
- British Embassy Quito, Ecuador
- British Embassy La Paz, Boliva

At each meeting the project team gave a presentation on the RoW project including its overall aims and objectives, the details of project partners and communities and the specific project details in the country of interest. Following the initial meetings we have continued regular communication with all High Commission/Embassies reporting on project progress and any important updates, sharing the policy briefs, and coordinating with them on the draft RoW resolution for consideration by the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

4.2 Establish and Update Project Website Pages

Project information is included on the following webpages and updated regularly:

https://cobracollective.org/portfolio/rights-of-wetlands-operationalisation-for-biodiversity-and-community-resilience/

www.rightsofwetlands.org

4.5 Development of Policy Briefings

CELDF and the Cobra Collective helped coordinate the development of policy briefs with country partners. The information included was specifically assembled to provide a picture into the historical and contemporary activity surrounding the recognition of laws or policies as they related to the environment. Such information serves as a reminder of what has been achieved and what is left still to strive for. It is important for each of the communities and governments within each of their respective nations to understand their proximity to rights of nature/rights of wetlands to determine what course or courses are necessary to either deepen the rights of nature commitment and/or design the means to achieve a rights of nature reality.

The policy briefs can be downloaded here:
Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Sri Lanka https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Sri%20Lanka_Rights%20of%20Wetlands%20Policy%20Brief.pdf

Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Bolivia https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Bolivia_Informe%20sobre%20los%20derechos%20de%20los%20humedales.pdf

Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Ecuador https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Ecuador_Informe%20sobre%20los%20derechos%20de%20los%20humedales.pdf

Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Guyana https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Guyana_Rights%20of%20Wetlands%20Policy%20Brief.pdf

Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Kenya https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Kenya_Rights%20of%20Wetlands%20Policy%20Brief.pdf

4.9 Dialogue with communities, CSOs, NGOs, governments and the private sector

Bolivia
Progress has been made with local governments as we are waiting to sign the agreement of collaboration between Practical Action, IISEC and the Santa Rosa de Yacuma Municipality. A meeting is planned between the 16th and the 17th of May to share with other communities the experiences and best practices and local indicators of Rights of Wetlands approach. Moreover, Practical Action and Bolivian Catholic University (UCB) have engaged with the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT) to invite Aguayzal representatives at the Indigenous National Platform Against Climate Change to present wetlands rights approach.

Ecuador

CELDF and Gilian Davies (BSC Group), who is a consultant for the Cobra Collective, travelled to the Sarayaku community in the fall of 2024 to help advance the work of the Darwin project. Because of CELDF's extensive background on community level advocacy and how that interfaces with systems of law it was present to help the community members better understand both the significance of their work at the local level but how those efforts in the name of the rights of wetlands inform the happenings at the level of the national government of Ecuador. The Sarayaku are by no means strangers to this dynamic based on their history of rights of nature advocacy at the local level and how the Ecuadorian government has made attempts to undermine that relationship, but because of CELDF's expertise they were there to provide additional context and support for those practices of the Sarayaku helping to reinforce the good practices happening there but also how those practices can be more broadly shared with others.

Guyana

Ongoing dialogue with communities, key NGOs such as Conservation International and WWF and the Environmental Protection Agency have continued as part of project activities and through ongoing meetings.

Kenya

Dialogue has continued with communities and government representatives regarding Rights of Wetlands in relation to the development of the Tana River Water Protocol.

Sri Lanka

On the 6th of Feb 2025, Dr Chaturangi Wickramaratne (project lead) provided the keynote address at the world wetlands day event organised mainly for the private sector, hosted by Biodiversity Sri Lanka, in which she shared about the Rights of Wetlands project and eco-centric approach to managing wetlands and nature. She also provided an overview of Rights of Wetlands at the public lecture organized by the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka on the 20th of February.

4.10 Identify and support formulation of policy / legislation / strategy / plan on wetlands management

Bolivia

In recent months, and in coordination with APMT, Rights of Wetlands have been incorporated into the strategic planning of the Indigenous Platform.

Guyana

There have been a number of policy developments that the project team is contributing to. The Amazon Sustainable Landscape (ASL) Project is supposed to develop and propose a management strategy for the North Rupununi Wetlands within the next two years. The Environmental Protection Agency is also revising the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (this is currently ongoing) which is expected to have wetlands management included as an objective. Hydromet is also engaged by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization on a project that is looking at ground water and integrated water resource management in the Rupununi. The project team will continue to be engaged with these initiatives to identify and include Rights of Wetlands within them.

Kenya

Project partners have supported the discussions and dialogue related to the proposed Tana River Water Protocol and have looked to incorporate a Rights of Wetlands approach to water management issues.

Sri Lanka

The project team, including CELDF, the Cobra Collective and IWMI, helped to shape proposed national level rights of nature legislation in Sri Lanka and provided continuous support to the Ministry of Environment in the drafting of the National Policy on Living Entities. The final version has been developed and will be presented at cabinet. The National Policy on Living Entities is an eco-centric policy that follows a Rights of Nature approach.

CELDF as the lead innovator of rights of nature for nearly 20 years is uniquely positioned to be a valuable resource to the Darwin project as other opportunities arise to adopt rights of nature laws.

4.11 Ramsar and CBD CoP Side Event Applications and Draft Resolution for Ramsar COP

The project team supported the Government of Sri Lanka on the development of the Rights of Wetlands Draft Resolution that was presented to the Convention on Wetland's Standing Committee in January 2025.

Based on feedback received at the standing committee, the GoSL decided to withdraw the draft resolution, and continue to engage in awareness raising sessions around Rights of Wetlands at the upcoming COP15.

The project team and partners also gave a presentation entitled 'Why Rights of Wetlands?' to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands in December 2024.

3.2　　Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1 - Robust Evidence Base of Rights of Wetlands in Five Countries

Good progress has been made developing a robust evidence base for Rights of Wetlands. The Rights of Wetlands Review provides an important evidence base for the context within the five project countries. This is a living document and will be updated as the project progresses. It can be downloaded here: https://www.rightsofwetlands.org/_files/ugd/845acc_374ddca14bfd4789b52c4985829185c5.pdf

Community and stakeholder questionnaires have provided information on the relationship people have with wetlands and their views of Rights of Nature and Rights of Wetlands. Ongoing engagement through Year 2 has helped understand this situation in more detail and help raise awareness among communities and stakeholders.

Output 2 - Increased Capacity for Rights of Wetlands Implementation

A comprehensive programme of capacity building has been developed and delivered in all five countries for both community members and government and NGO stakeholders. In total, 870 people have received training which far exceeds our initial 250 target. See section Annex 1 for more information on the specific courses.

In Year 3 these courses will be made available online as open access courses within the Open University's OpenLearnCreate platform in English, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil and Sinhala.

Output 4 – Up-scaling and Dissemination

Good progress has been made on disseminating project information and outputs with presentations at 6 international conferences and meetings, multiple web blogs and postings on social media and the production of a guidance manual, policy briefs and quick guides. More information can be found in Annex 1.

3.3　　Progress towards the project Outcome

We have achieved significant success in securing community and local stakeholder engagement with the project in all five countries. Building on the comprehensive baseline determined in Year 1 we have now built significant awareness and capacity regarding Rights of Wetlands through a comprehensive training and engagement programme. This progress can be viewed as an opportunity to shift away from anthropocentric views to considering humans as part of nature.

Communities in each country have identified actions that support a Rights of Wetlands approach and are documenting them using participatory video. This will enable additional awareness raising activities through community to community and community to government dialogue.

The project has already achieved policy success and is supporting community, local government and national government initiatives. In Sri Lanka, for example, we have supported the development of a National Policy on Living Entities and supported the Sri Lankan Government to submit a Draft Resolution on the Rights of Wetlands to the Convention on Wetlands.

3.4　　Monitoring of assumptions

The project partnership has been regularly monitoring the risks and assumptions related to delivery of the project outcome and outputs.

During Year 2 issues in Bolivia and Kenya were reported to impact project activities but no other problems were reported in the three remaining countries.

Bolivia
The following risks were identified during project activities:
- Natural hazards in the region are common, from forest fires, droughts, and flooding lead to a temporary suspension of activities. This implies that the community and local stakeholders may have diverted their attention and resources away from our project objectives during this period and postponed the achievement of results like the videos or the realization of trainings.

- Political uncertainty might delay certain activities. Santa Rosa municipality staff high turnover has slowed down training activities to the municipality's personnel. As the national elections and the resulting change in leadership approach, local municipal governments have chosen not to make decisions or invest in the territories. These types of electoral processes often create a climate of uncertainty.
- In recent months, the country has been facing an economic crisis marked by a shortage of U.S. dollars, which has significantly reduced the importation of goods and, as a result, led to an increase in the prices of various products. At the same time, the ongoing shortage of gasoline has hindered mobility, making it difficult to access communities.

To mitigate these risks the following measures have been put in place:
- Delivery of additional engagement activities to ensure good communication with communities.
- Ongoing and regular engagement with local government to ensure project activities are not impacted.
- Maintenance of strong partnerships with local CSOs and community representatives.

Kenya
Security concerns in the community areas hampered initial engagement activities.

To mitigate this risk the following measures have been put in place:
- Some workshops and training have taken place outside of high-risk areas.
- Engagement with and identification of community representatives to share and disseminate project information to their local communities via social media platforms.

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

The project activities have contributed to an enhanced recognition of threats to biodiversity and have strengthened the policy environment for facilitating protection of biodiversity in all countries. This has been particularly demonstrated through the National Policy on Living Entities developed in Sri Lanka through support of the project. However, this has also occurred at a local level in Bolivia, Kenya and Guyana.

Increased awareness of Rights of Wetlands, especially among youth, can lead to positive attitude and behavioural changes that improve the relationship between humans-wetlands. When nature is treated with kindness and respect, it results in healthier habitats that can provide a number of ecosystem services that support livelihoods and ensure social well-being. Awareness raising and the capacity building programme among stakeholders and communities is helping to create a behavioural change.

In all the wetlands where we operate there is significant potential, particularly in tourism. Therefore, the conservation of the wetlands is essential not only for protecting the ecosystem but also for fostering local economic development through sustainable activities.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The Convention on Wetlands Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has been made aware of the project and its activities as have the National Focal Points in each country. In December 2024 we presented the project and information on Rights of Wetlands to the 27th Meeting of the STRP in Switzerland. The project has also supported the work of the STRP in developing guidance for how wetlands can be included within NBSAPs to fulfil the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets. Within this guidance there is specific mention of Rights of Wetlands. Country partners, in many countries, are supporting the development of NBSAPs and ensuring wetlands are prominent in them. For example, the project team in Guyana have had a series of meetings with the Environmental Protection Agency to help support the development of the NBSAP, especially in relation to wetlands.

The project team also supported the Sri Lankan Government in submitting a Rights of Wetlands Draft Resolution that was presented to the Convention on Wetland's Standing Committee in January 2025.

A motion on Rights of Nature, that includes Rights of Wetlands, has also been submitted to the IUCN World Conservation Congress that will be held in October 2025.

Side event applications, on the Rights of Wetlands, have been made for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP15 in July 2025 and to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2025.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

Human health, well-being and livelihoods, particularly for wetland dependent communities, are inextricably linked to the health and well-being of wetland ecosystems and their biodiversity. The project considers the multiple dimensions of poverty reduction within a Rights of Wetlands approach by ensuring that healthy wetland ecosystems provide sustainable benefits through comprehensive ecosystem service delivery. This needs to be realised in an equitable way to all members of human and nature communities. The relationship between the Rights of Nature and poverty reduction is being investigated and considered throughout the project.

Poverty is an issue impacting all project communities within the five countries. We have directly consulted with them during engagement in this period to determine livelihood opportunities and strategies that benefit communities whilst supporting a Rights of Wetlands approach. These opportunities and strategies are being recorded through participatory video and will be shared among the communities on the project to provide best practice examples of how to develop livelihoods that do not impact the Rights of Wetlands.

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.	
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	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Within the project team we have ensured full and active participation of women. 60% of our partner Country Leads are women, 67% of the Project Managers working on the project are women and 61% of staff employed on the project are women.

We also highlighted the women working on the project in a website blog on International Women's Day - https://www.cobracollective.org/news/women-on-wetlands.php

Our community and stakeholder engagement, and capacity building activities are undertaken using a range of participatory techniques that build on the fundamental core concepts of the project and the project partnership in terms of equity and inclusion. We have ensured that men, women and youth have been invited to these activities. Participatory techniques ensure that all voices are heard and engaged throughout the project and all project partner staff have been trained in these techniques. The use of participatory video is a way to ensure that women and marginalised groups are empowered to share their experiences and issues in a non-confrontational and inclusive manner. The project has been delivering participatory video in a comprehensive way in Year 2 of the project which has ensured an inclusive approach to engagement and has meant that we have had good representation from different members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples involved in the project.

Engagement statistics for the project are currently as indicated in the following table showing a 58% involvement of women in project activities:

Country	Total	Men	Women
Bolivia	101	61	40
Ecuador	42	18	24
Guyana	487	181	306
Kenya	35	18	24
Sri Lanka	205	77	128
Total	**870**	**364 (42%)**	**506 (58%)**

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Wetlands International Kenya and Cobra Collective monitor indicators across the whole project and individual in-country partners monitor their own activities.

Project progress against the Outputs and Activities is reviewed every two months and all partners report on the progress. At the annual project stakeholder meeting, which is to be held in May, it will be reviewed whether the Outputs and Activities are actually contributing to the project Outcome.

During this reporting period the following indicators are being used:

1. Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in community engagement and community wetland management including gender-inclusive methods

2. Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands

3. Policy briefs produced

4. Number and quality of articles posted on project websites and via social media

8. Lessons learnt

Several country partners have identified lessons learned.

In Kenya it was noted that the participatory video and wetlands rights workshops proved effective in building local capacity and enhancing community engagement in conservation. Practical, hands-on sessions—such as video production and solution analysis—were particularly impactful in translating complex concepts into community-driven actions. However, limited time and funds, constrained deeper technical training, particularly on video editing and follow-up planning. In future, allocating more time for post-production and integrating follow-up mentoring would strengthen learning outcomes. At this stage, no Change Request is planned, but future adjustments will incorporate these learnings to improve impact and sustainability.

In Bolivia it was noted that the lack of consideration for the specific timing and dynamics of youth and communities led to delays in the implementation of scheduled activities. This experience highlights the importance of more participatory and context-sensitive planning—one that takes into account community availability and rhythms to ensure better coordination and adherence to established timelines. The solutions for wetland conservation come directly from the communities themselves. It has been very enriching to learn from their experiences and to capture the best practices for their protection and the promotion of their rights. Conflicts between key stakeholders with significant economic and social influence are not adequately represented in local solutions strategies, which can hinder the development of effective and inclusive approaches. One of the key lessons learned is that the problems caused by climate change are testing communities' ability to address these challenges. This has made it more difficult to effectively conserve wetlands and has placed additional pressure men natural resources. As a result, it has become clear that more innovative and collaborative approaches are necessary to ensure the long-term protection of these ecosystems.

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

We received the following comments from our most recent annual review and have attempted to address these comments as detailed below:

1. The project reports that two online start-up meetings were held (for different time zones), but participant numbers varied between countries, ranging from four government officials in Ecuador to 43 people in a follow-up workshop in Sri Lanka. It would be helpful to include more details on participant numbers and affiliations from all the countries.
   We have tried to provide more detail on participation at workshops and training in this report so hopefully it is clearer regarding the levels of engagement in each country.

2. Stakeholder and community questionnaires were undertaken in each country, but the methodology differed between countries. For example, a small and reportedly 'unrepresentative' sample of 10 Sarayaku people in Ecuador contrasts with Guyana, where 200 people from civil society organisations and NGOs completed the questionnaire. Is the project concerned by the differences in the way activities such as this are undertaken in the different countries?
   The answer to this is yes. However, the situation in each country is very different so representation within all activities is varied. We have discussed with project partners regarding representation and the need to make sure engagement is as effective as possible. They have tried, during this period, to ensure that engagement with local partners and communities is as comprehensive as possible.

3. With respect to Outputs 2 and 4, some of the indicators are scheduled for delivery in "Yr1 and 2", suggesting that some progress might have been expected in the first year. It is not clear therefore whether the project has fallen behind with the activities associated with any of these indicators.
   The project is currently on target in relation to activities, more information has been provided within this report in Annex 1.

4. The project could provide more information on how the host countries have supported the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements over the reporting year, in future reports.
   We have provided more evidence regarding how the host countries have engaged with Conventions etc. in this report.

5. In future reports, it would be helpful to the reviewer to provide a little more evidence, and to provide more even coverage of country activities when responding to the various questions in the report template (see comments in sections below).
   We have tried to address this within this report and provided as much detail as possible in Annex 1.

6. The budget table should be represented to include the revised budget lines agreed with Darwin.
   This has been included within this report.

7. One of the comments made by the Darwin Expert Committee concerns a survey before and after 'of community, CSO and government stakeholders, and will assess wetland biodiversity, wetland health, poverty and livelihood status'; the panel point out that this is not in the activities, and it is not clear how surveys of these actors can tell us directly about biodiversity. The project responds that it is included in Activity 1.3 – however, the reviewer is still unsure how the activity set out in 1.3 will provide information directly about biodiversity, as there are no direct measures, just opinions sought from stakeholders in a questionnaire.
   The project is not undertaking direct measurement of biodiversity because this is outside the scope of the project activities. However, the project questionnaires will collect qualitative data on the status and trends in biodiversity and wetland health through the questionnaires. This relies on the perception of participants, but we still feel this is a valid measure of the overall status of wetland biodiversity within the project locations.

10. Risk Management

- The following risk register was developed for the project proposal. In the first two years of the project, we have specifically mentioned fires, floods and security issues in the risk register under '**In-country civil unrest, natural disasters or emergence of disruptive Covid-19 variants'.** We have also identified further risks of '**Limited digital literacy**' and '**Turnover of government and political staff**'.

Risk Description	Impact	Probability[1]	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated).					
Partners have excellent fiduciary track records over decades. However, organisations reliant on project funding may experience short-term cash flow challenges, and there is a risk that project funding is directed towards the support of core costs. Project equipment and resources (e.g. transportation budget) may also be used on non-project activities.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Ongoing disbursement of funding reliant on partners meeting activity and project delivery as monitored informally in weekly meetings and formally in monthly reports supplemented with evidence. If challenges emerge, project funding and responsibilities reallocated to other partners or new partners.	Minor
Safeguarding: 'doing harm' incl. sexual exploitation abuse and harassment, staff safety and welfare, or unintended harm.					
Partners are already implementing safeguarding best-practice. However, we always need to prepare for rogue individuals that may break codes of practice.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	In addition to partner safeguarding policies and practices, the project will implement its own protocol explicitly highlighting safeguarding within internal and external activities, e.g. community FPIC process will discuss safeguarding and will have safeguarding as a key component of the FPIC form.	Minor
Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model.					
Operational capacity of in-country partner staff and support infrastructure (internet connectivity, communications network) is variable.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Delivery Chain Risk Mapping will implement monitoring processes and implement capacity building support. Contingencies will be established in order to manage infrastructural challenges.	Moderate
In-country civil unrest, natural disasters or emergence of disruptive Covid-19 variants.					

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[1] Likelihood: Almost certain (>80%), Likely (>50%<80%), Possible (>20%<50%), Unlikely (>5%<20%), Rare (<5%)

The socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in an increase in poverty, inequalities and rising costs of living. This may trigger civil unrest within project countries. Security issues may also be a problem due to local tension between ethnic and community groups. Project countries are also vulnerable to extreme weather events (e.g. flooding, fires and droughts).	Major	Likely	Severe	Partners have institutional memory of adversity (e.g. extreme 2005 Colombo floods, ongoing Covid pandemic), developing effective mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to disruption. This includes ability to work flexibly in different locations at short notice, to manage activities remotely through communication tools, and to pivot resources to other tasks/partners/countries.	Moderate
Attacks and pressure on in-country 'rights of wetlands' implementors					
Project partners and communities may be subject to attacks and pressure from parties intent on destroying wetlands for economic gain.	Major	Unlikely	Major	Partners are highly experienced in strategies for environmental protection, establishing an appropriate balance between delivering effective change while minimising risks to staff and participants.	Moderate
Escalating project costs					
Runaway inflation and mitigation strategies for challenges result in project budget not able to cover all envisaged activities	Moderate	Possible	Major	Project budget already has contingencies built into it forecasting moderate cost escalations. Some project costs could be reduced e.g. reducing number of individuals undertaking international travel, which would allow redistribution of budgets while minimising impact on project deliverables.	Minor
Stakeholders and communities do not recognise that a wetland has rights					
Stakeholders and communities may be fundamentally opposed to nature having rights	Moderate	Possible	Major	Project activities and the communication strategy are designed to raise awareness and provide stakeholders and communities with information to gain a wider understanding of the issues and concepts behind Rights of Wetlands and why a transformational and behavioural shift is needed	Minor
Turnover of government and political staff					

High turnover of government and political staff leads to a lack of institutional knowledge regarding the project activities	Moderate	Possible	Major	To mitigate governance-related risks, greater engagement with multi-stakeholder platforms is being prioritised to anchor the process institutionally rather than with individuals	Minor
Limited digital literacy					
Limited digital literacy among some community members poses a challenge during the participatory video training, particularly in editing and equipment handling	Moderate	Possible	Major	New video training integrated more step-by-step, practical sessions and simplified tools to bridge the technical gaps and plans to include post-training mentoring support to sustain capacity building	Minor

11. Scalability and durability

Awareness regarding the project and Rights of Wetlands has increased at a national level in the five countries and across the communities we have engaged with at the five wetland locations through a comprehensive programme of capacity building during this period. We are working to embed Rights of Wetlands within policy in the five countries and have made significant progress particularly in Sri Lanka and Kenya where policies being developed already explicitly mention Rights of Wetlands. Our project activities will continue to raise the profile of Rights of Wetlands and the project in international forums such as the Convention on Wetlands and the IUCN World Conservation Congress with success already achieved during this period with the submission of side event applications and supporting the submission of a draft resolution to the Convention on Wetlands. Building on this initial success, we are confident that the project will have a legacy beyond the completion of the project.

In Bolivia, since the inception of the project, IISEC and Practical Action (PA) have become involved in additional initiatives focused on wetlands in the highlands. Within IISEC, a doctoral student is conducting research on highland wetlands, known as *Bofedales*, using a participatory methodology to co-create local indicators. These activities also provide an opportunity to extend the Rights of Wetlands approach to these other ecosystems. As a result of the project, public institutions have gained greater awareness of wetlands' rights and have started incorporating these principles into their strategic planning, with the expectation that dedicated budgets will be allocated in the future. Additionally, as previously mentioned, the APMT has publicly acknowledged the rights of wetlands.

In Kenya, the project has demonstrated strong potential for both scalability and durability through strategic stakeholder engagement, community ownership, and alignment with county and national priorities. By involving community groups, county governments, and regional bodies such as Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani (JKP) from the outset, awareness and buy-in have been achieved at multiple levels. The participatory video approach and the Rights of Wetlands training helped communities visualise and communicate the benefits of conservation, making the interventions both accessible and replicable. The positive response from local leaders and technical departments during the Water Protocol workshop, along with their endorsement of the joint position paper, shows institutional interest and commitment, which is essential for scaling. Additionally, integration of project messages into ongoing policy dialogues—such as wetland rights, the Tana River Water Protocol, and CBEMR practices—aligns the project with existing and emerging policy frameworks, enhancing its longevity. Evidence of attitude change is seen in community enthusiasm for storytelling and restoration activities, and their proactive participation in solution development and advocacy. To ensure durability, the project continues to focus on capacity building, knowledge transfer, and documenting best practices through community-driven videos and policy briefs. These outputs will serve as learning tools beyond the project's lifespan.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

We have included the Darwin logo and recognised the funding from the UK government within every workshop and meeting that has been held.

The Darwin logo is included on all project presentations, publications and publicity material, an example is shown below.

We record mention of UK government funding on social media posts and other forms of communication.

13.   Safeguarding

14.   Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

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

Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				

████████	████████████████████████████████	████████████	████████████	████████████
TOTAL	£228,758.67	£227,921.16		

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 (£)	███████████	███████████	Organizations own funding & activities from projects running with similar target outcomes.
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

15.   Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In Bolivia, a participatory methodology was integrated into the original project, combining training on Rights of Wetlands with workshops on the current state of the wetlands and ways in which members of the Aguayza community could monitor them. The indicators developed were linked to three core wetland rights: 1) the right to exist, 2) the right to a natural place within the landscape, and 3) the right to natural connections to water. Additionally, indicators for *Living Well* with a gender perspective were incorporated.

In March 2025, a write shop was hosted by Wetlands International Global Office in Ede, Netherlands to develop a paper articulating the recent developments in the Rights of Wetlands, especially in relation to learnings from this project. This paper will be submitted for publication in May 2025.

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

We feel it is too early in the project to complete this section but will have more to report and say in Year 3.

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 Wetland loss and degradation addressed using a Rights of Wetlands approach delivering improved community wetland management, legal protection and more effective governance frameworks resulting in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation		
Outcome Demonstrate how the Rights of Wetlands approach can be transformed from concept into a sustainable practice in five countries using participatory, legal and advocacy processes		
Outcome indicator 0.1- Declaration to uphold the Rights of Wetlands by stakeholders in respect to their wetland landscape [target: 1 x Declaration in each of the 5 countries] (yr 3)	To be completed in Year 3 although Sri Lanka has developed a National Policy on Living Entities which supports this indictor	Activity 4.10 Identify and support (if possible depending on opportunities in country context) formulation of at least one policy/legislation/strategy/plan on wetlands management will be ongoing in Year 3.
Outcome indicator 0.2 - Use of Rights of Wetlands principles and practical approaches in community and government policies and activities [target: increased usage in all 5 countries above baseline] (yr 1,2 & 3)	Rights of Wetlands has been included in the development of policies in Sri Lanka and Kenya. Policy briefs have been developed and distributed in each country.	Activity 4.10 Identify and support (if possible depending on opportunities in country context) formulation of at least one policy/legislation/strategy/plan on wetlands management will be ongoing in Year 3.
Outcome indicator 0.3 - Establishment of formal communication exchange network among community, CSOs and government agencies in relation to Rights of Wetlands [target: 1 communication network per country] (yr 3).	To be completed in Year 3	Activity 3.1 Sharing of community wetland best practices, recorded in Activity 1.8, with other community groups through workshops in 5 countries (2 workshops x 5 countries – 2 days each). Activity 3.2 Establishment of video-mediated dialogue network meetings between local communities as rights holders and government representatives as duty bearers to create awareness on the Rights of Wetlands approach and to establish a formal, on-going communication network in each country (1 x video-mediated dialogue process in each country and 1 x

		communication network meeting in 5 countries).
Outcome indicator 0.4 - Best practice principles and toolkits for Rights of Wetlands included within the policy arena of other countries [target: at least 1 additional country adopts Rights of Wetlands approach] (yr 3).	To be completed in Year 3	Activity 4.6 Production of Rights of WetlandsLPGC principles and toolkits (Principles and toolkits will be drafted based on the project data, videos recorded, and the workshops then used for consultation before being finalised and published on project websites). Activity 4.7 Production of Rights of WetlandsWMCA principles and toolkits including best practice management approaches (Principles and toolkits will be drafted based on the project data and videos and the workshops then used for consultation before being finalised and published on project websites). Activity 4.8 Training in Rights of Wetlands principles and toolkits. (Online course with 2 x follow-up workshops for each country).
Output 1 Robust Evidence Base of Rights of Wetlands in Five Countries		
Output indicator 1.1 – Community management approaches and worldviews review – Production of country specific review of current community management, traditional knowledge and worldviews [target: 1 report per country (5 total)] (yr 1).	5 country reviews have been completed and published in the Rights of Wetlands Review. Completed in Year 1.	Will be updated in Year 3 if revisions are required.
Output indicator 1.2 - Legislation and policy review – Production of country specific review of current social and environmental legislation and policy [target: 1 report per country (5 total)] (yr 1).	5 country reviews have been completed and published in the Rights of Wetlands Review. Completed in Year 1.	Will be updated in Year 3 if revisions are required.
Output indicator 1.3 - Governance and communication frameworks review – Production of country specific community and national governance and communication frameworks review assessed against Rights of Wetlands Governance Principles [target: 1 report per country (5 total)] (yr 1).	5 country reviews have been completed and published in the Rights of Wetlands Review. Completed in Year 1.	Will be updated in Year 3 if revisions are required.

Output indicator 1.4 – Number of Rights of Wetlands best practice examples that support wetland health, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods etc. for wetland community management and legal implementation [target: at least 3 from 5 countries (15 total) examples, with significant representation of women's role in management] (yr 2 & 3).	Regional workshops, within each country, with community groups to introduce Rights of Wetlands, community wetland management approach concepts, techniques and how to identify best practice that maximises biodiversity, increases household livelihoods and resilience, increases access to direct and indirect benefits, whilst maintaining and restoring wetland area and health have been delivered (3 workshops x 5 countries). Best practices have been recorded within the workshops. Key stakeholder workshops to identify best practice in legislation and policy, and governance and communication frameworks regarding Rights of Wetlands have been delivered (2 workshops x 5 countries (10 total)). Communities are in the process of making participatory videos of their best practices. These will be finalised in Year 3.	Community participatory videos will be finalised in May 2025.
Output 2. Increased Capacity for Rights of Wetlands Implementation		
Output indicator 2.1 - Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in community engagement and community wetland management including gender-inclusive methods [target: at least 25 per country (125 total) with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2).	Training materials for the following courses have been developed: 1. Introduction to wetlands 2. Wetland solutions 4. Wetland management planning _Unit 1 4. Wetland management planning _Unit 2 4. Wetland management planning _Unit 3 4. Wetland management planning _Unit 4 6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 1 6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 2 6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 3 6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 4 6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 5 6. Traditional Knowledge_Unit 6	Ongoing training during community engagement activities will continue in Year 3. All course materials will be made available online at the Open University's OpenLearnCreate platform for access for all. Digital copies of all presentations and training material will be distributed to communities, particularly those that have poor internet access or limited data usage.

	7. Community Environmental Management In-person training in community engagement through participatory methods, including gender-inclusive methods was completed with project partners online and an Introduction to Wetlands, Wetland Solutions, Rights of Nature and Rights of Wetlands and Social and Environmental Rights and Participatory Video training was delivered in each country in Year 2. In total 870 people have been trained with 58% representation from women.	
Output indicator 2.2 - Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands [target: at least 25 per country (125 total) with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2).	Training materials for the following courses have been developed: 3. Rights of Nature and Rights of Wetlands 5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 1 5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 2 5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 3 5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 4 5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 5 5. Social & Environmental Rights_Unit 6 In-person training in social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands was completed with project partners online and Rights of Nature and Rights of Wetlands and Social and Environmental Rights training was delivered in each country in Year 2. In total 870 people have been trained with 58% representation from women.	Ongoing training during community engagement activities will continue in Year 3. All course materials will be made available online at the Open University's OpenLearnCreate platform for access for all. Digital copies of all presentations and training material will be distributed to communities, particularly those that have poor internet access or limited data usage.
Output 3. Rights of Wetlands Knowledge Exchange and Advocacy		
Output indicator 3.1 - Number of community peer-to-peer knowledge exchange processes implemented between communities and community groups involved in wetland	Community videos will be finalised in May 2025 and then shared in Year 3.	Activity 3.1 Sharing of community wetland best practices, recorded in Activity 1.8, with

management [target: within timeframe of project at least 2 communities in each of the 5 countries and all results shared with all countries] (yr 2 & 3).		other community groups through workshops in 5 countries (2 workshops x 5 countries – 2 days each).
Output indicator 3.2 - Number of video-mediated dialogues between local communities and relevant decision makers. [target: 1 per country. Total 5] (yr 3).	To be completed in Year 3.	Activity 3.2 Establishment of video-mediated dialogue network meetings between local communities as rights holders and government representatives as duty bearers to create awareness on the Rights of Wetlands approach and to establish a formal, on-going communication network in each country (1 x video-mediated dialogue process in each country and 1 x communication network meeting in 5 countries).
Output 4. Up-scaling and Dissemination		
Output indicator 4.1 – Best practice Rights of Wetlands Legal, Policy, Governance and Communication (Rights of WetlandsLPGC) principles and toolkit developed from evidence from 5 countries [target: 1 x principles and toolkit with country examples] (yr 3).	Policy briefs have been developed for each country and distributed to decision makers. Guidance manual for implementation of Rights of Wetlands and associated QuickGuides have been produced and are available on the www.rightsofwetlands.org website. Toolkits will be produced in Year 3.	Activity 4.6 Production of Rights of WetlandsLPGC principles and toolkits (Principles and toolkits will be drafted based on the project data, videos recorded and the workshops then used for consultation before being finalised and published on project websites).
Output indicator 4.2 – Rights of Wetlands Wetland Management and Community Advocacy (Rights of WetlandsWMCA) principles and toolkit [target: 1 x principles and toolkit with country examples] (yr 3).	Toolkits will be produced in Year 3.	Activity 4.7 Production of Rights of WetlandsWMCA principles and toolkits including best practice management approaches (Principles and toolkits will be drafted based on the project data and videos and the workshops then used for consultation before being finalised and published on project websites).
Output indicator 4.3 – Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in Rights of Wetlands principles and toolkits [target: at	To be completed in Year 3.	4.8 Training in Rights of Wetlands principles and toolkits. (Online course with 2 x follow-up workshops for each country).

least 25 per country (125 total) with significant representation of women] (yr 3).		
Output indicator 4.4 – Side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs promoting Rights of Wetlands. Toolkits, policy briefings, training materials and reports shared at national and international platforms and events and distributed to National Focal Points [target: at least 3 events] (yr 3 and beyond).	Side event applications have been made for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP15 in July 2025 and to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2025.	Side events will be held at the Ramsar COP15 and the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Ahead of these a Rights of Wetlands webinar series is planned to inform National Focal Points ahead of the COPs. These will be delivered on 1st, 15th and 29th April 2025.
Output indicator 4.5 – Online International Rights of Wetlands Event to promote project outputs [target: 1 event] (yr 3).	To be completed in Year 3.	4.12 Hold online International Rights of Wetlands Event to promote project outputs.
Output indicator 4.6 – Website pages, with regular posting of content [target: 2 types of content posted per month] (yr 1, 2 and 3).	Website pages have been established and have regularly been updated in Year 2.	Ongoing materials, blogs and project outputs will be posted onto the website.

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

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Wetland loss and degradation addressed using a Rights of Wetlands approach delivering improved community wetland management, legal protection and more effective governance frameworks resulting in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: Demonstrate how the Rights of Wetlands approach can be transformed from concept into a sustainable practice in five countries using participatory, legal and advocacy processes (Max 30 words)	0.1 Declaration to uphold the Rights of Wetlands by stakeholders in respect to their wetland landscape [target: 1 x Declaration in each of the 5 countries] (yr 3). 0.2 Use of Rights of Wetlands principles and practical approaches in community and government policies and activities [target: increased usage in all 5 countries above baseline] (yr 1,2 & 3). 0.3 Establishment of formal communication exchange network among community, CSOs and government agencies in relation to Rights of Wetlands [target: 1 communication network per country] (yr 3). 0.4 Best practice principles and toolkits for Rights of Wetlands included within the policy arena of other countries [target: at least 1 additional country adopts Rights of Wetlands approach] (yr 3).	0.1 Stakeholder wetland declarations published on partner websites and within media (yr 3). 0.2 A report on the content analysis of national, CSO and local policy/documents to see usage of key project approaches (yrs 1 and 3). 0.3 Number of organisations joining and attending network meetings (Pre- and post- meeting questionnaires and evidence to assess improved communication and impact of Rights of Wetlands (yr 1, 2 & 3). 0.4 Web analytics data on the use and take up of the dedicated resources such as best practice toolkits and published policies, legislation and guidance from identified countries. Responses of CBD and Ramsar National Focal Points (yr 3).	Political and economic stability in all five countries enables the project to be completed [although there has been some political disruption in some of the project countries, project partners are confident that day to day activities and project activities would not be disrupted]. COVID-19 travel and engagement restrictions [the project has been designed so that many activities including workshops and training can be undertaken online or as downloadable offline digital content, so accessible even for remote communities. This overcomes travel restrictions and reduces the overall carbon impact and cost of the project. Some face-to-face meetings are needed, particularly with communities, but in-country partners and their staff are in a position to undertake the activities]. In-country institutions, especially government agencies, remain committed to community-led wetland management, biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, respect for human rights and sustainable development, and are willing to implement Rights of Wetlands approaches to achieve these goals [project was conceived with in-country partners and through discussion with government agencies who have a vested

			interest as they are obligated to deliver biodiversity conservation and sustainable development goals and the project has been designed to target their priorities.].
Outputs: **1**. Robust Evidence Base of Rights of Wetlands in Five Countries	1.1 Community management approaches and worldviews review – Production of country specific review of current community management, traditional knowledge and worldviews [target: 1 report per country (5 total)] (yr 1). 1.2 Legislation and policy review – Production of country specific review of current social and environmental legislation and policy [target: 1 report per country (5 total)] (yr 1). 1.3 Governance and communication frameworks review – Production of country specific community and national governance and communication frameworks review assessed against Rights of Wetlands Governance Principles [target: 1 report per country (5 total)] (yr 1). 1.4 Number of Rights of Wetlands best practice examples that support wetland health, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods etc. for wetland community management and legal implementation [target: at least 3 from 5 countries (15 total) examples, with significant representation of women's role in management] (yr 2 & 3).	1.1 Online questionnaire results that report on wetland health, sustainable livelihoods, legal and management approaches including number of respondents and stakeholder and gender-disaggregated attendance records for community workshops in each country (x 5). Reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop interviews with men and women/participatory monitoring and evaluation (yr 1). 1.2 & 1.3 Translated community management approaches and worldviews review, legislation and policy review and governance and communication frameworks review reports for each country published on project and partner websites (15 reports) (yr 1). 1.4 Participatory videos available online on project website (yr 2 & 3).	Appropriate government, non-governmental staff and male and female community leaders are available to participate in stakeholder workshops and have access to online questionnaire, to be able contribute to the contextualisation assessment and retain their roles during the course of the project [Project partners have long-term collaboration with relevant agencies/organisations within each country, as well as experience of working with communities and organising events/workshops and arranging digital access in their respective countries].
2. Increased Capacity for Rights of Wetlands Implementation	2.1 Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and	2.1 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and	Appropriate government and non-governmental stakeholder staff and,

	Indigenous leaders) trained in community engagement and community wetland management including gender-inclusive methods [target: at least 25 per country (125 total) with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2). 2.2 Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands [target: at least 25 per country (125 total) with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2).	post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of community engagement and community wetland management (yr 1 & 2). 2.2 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands (yr 1 & 2).	local and Indigenous leaders are available to participate in online and in-person capacity building activities and retain their roles during the course of the project [Project partners have long-term collaboration with relevant agencies/organisations within each country, as well as experience of working with communities and organising training programmes and arranging digital access in their respective countries]. Workshop participants are willing to provide feedback on the impact of the training post-workshops and online courses [regular contact with participants will be undertaken post workshops and after online questionnaires to ensure continuity and engagement].
3. Rights of Wetlands Knowledge Exchange and Advocacy	3.1 Number of community peer-to-peer knowledge exchange processes implemented between communities and community groups involved in wetland management [target: within timeframe of project at least 2 communities in each of the 5 countries and all results shared with all countries] (yr 2 & 3). 3.2 Number of video-mediated dialogues between local communities and relevant decision makers. [target: 1 per country. Total 5] (yr 3).	3.1 Stakeholder and community workshop gender-disaggregated attendance records. Reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop interviews with men and women/participatory monitoring and evaluation (yr 2 & 3). 3.2 Pre and post evaluation of screenings of participatory videos to decision makers to assess response and actions. Records of community meetings to discuss decision maker feedback (yr 3).	Appropriate government and non-governmental stakeholder staff and, local and Indigenous community leaders and members are available to participate in participatory engagement activities [Project partners have long-term collaboration with relevant agencies/organisations and community groups within each country, and experience of using participatory engagement techniques to identify successful management, governance and communication approaches].
4. Up-scaling and Dissemination	4.1 Best practice Rights of Wetlands Legal, Policy, Governance and	4.1 Draft and final online Rights of WetlandsLPGC principles and	Communities will have a continued interest in the project, and knowledge

	Communication (Rights of WetlandsLPGC) principles and toolkit developed from evidence from 5 countries [target: 1 x principles and toolkit with country examples] (yr 1 & 2).

4.2 Rights of Wetlands Wetland Management and Community Advocacy (Rights of WetlandsWMCA) principles and toolkit [target: 1 x principles and toolkit with country examples] (yr1, 2 & 3).

4.3 Number of people (staff from governmental, non-government organisations, and local and Indigenous leaders) trained in Rights of Wetlands principles and toolkits [target: at least 25 per country (125 total) with significant representation of women] (yr 3).

4.4 Side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs promoting Rights of Wetlands. Toolkits, policy briefings, training materials and reports shared at national and international platforms and events and distributed to National Focal Points [target: at least 3 events] (yr 3 and beyond).

4.5 Online International Rights of Wetlands Event to promote project outputs [target: 1 event] (yr 3).

4.6 Website pages, with regular posting of content [target: 2 types of | toolkits, made bespoke from Rights of Wetlands Operationalisation Templates that have already been produced, published on project and partner websites and minuted as presented at annual project workshops (yr 1, 2 & 3).

4.2 Draft and final online Rights of WetlandsWMCA principles and toolkits published on project and partner websites and minuted as presented at annual project workshops (yr 2 & 3).

4.3 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of Rights of Wetlands principles and toolkits (yr 3).

4.4 Record of dissemination platforms and events such as Ramsar CoP and CBD CoP side-events. Downloads of resources and online activity tracked (yr 3 and beyond).

4.5 Recording of online event and attendance records. Downloads of resources and online activity tracked (yr 3 and beyond).

4.6 Number of postings of written and audiovisual content including participatory videos, briefings, reports and blog articles (yr 1, 2, 3 and beyond). | exchange will be sufficient for beneficiaries to successfully understand and apply Rights of Wetlands best management practices [partners have in-depth experience of implementing peer-to-peer knowledge exchange at community level, and comprehensive evidence of effectiveness. Partners have also established community interest groups such as Indigenous and local groups, wetland community committees, farmer groups, self-help groups, women groups and youth groups which will be engaged through the project].

All government and non-government organizations will engage with Rights of Wetlands governance and communication principles and toolkits [Project partners have long-term collaboration with relevant agencies/organisations in all countries, as well as experience of working with communities so are ideally placed to disseminate approaches refined within the project]. |

	content posted per month] (yr 1, 2 and 3). 4.7 Peer-reviewed journal articles published [target: 2 articles] (yr 3 and beyond).	4.7 Number of articles submitted and then published to peer-reviewed journals (yr 3 and beyond).	

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

1.1 Online start-up workshop to outline Rights of Wetlands approach and project activities and to co-develop baseline indicators to assess project activities against – all partners and key stakeholders. The baseline indicators will build on the logframe and include the measurable indicators for the project outcome. These will provide the core baseline indicators but through the 10 workshops for 1.4 the baseline indicators will be expanded to include indicators relevant to the stakeholder groups. The workshops and subsequent consultation will refine an agreed list that communities and project partners feel will fully assess the impact of the project.

1.2 Initial review of all available information related to Rights of Wetlands, social and environmental rights and wetland management approaches in each of the five project countries and an assessment made about the likelihood of each country and communities to adopt a Rights of Wetlands approach.

1.3 Online and offline questionnaire to key stakeholders and community groups regarding wetland health (biodiversity, water quality, water regime, drivers of wetland health change, threats etc.), sustainable livelihoods, Rights of Wetlands, social and environmental rights and wetland management approaches in each of the five project countries. Questionnaire will be undertaken at the start and end of the project to assess project impact and see whether drivers of change and threats have been removed or reduced.

1.4 Online or offline follow-up stakeholder and community workshops to discuss in more detail existing social and environmental rights from a stakeholder and community perspective and project impact indicators (will include government agencies, local community groups, local conservation groups etc, farmers groups, schools, universities, women's groups, CSOs – 2 x workshops per country).

1.5 Annual project meetings to review project progress and to evaluate impact with partners and key stakeholders.

1.6 Production of community management approaches and worldviews review, legislation and policy review and governance and communication frameworks review reports for each country.

1.7 Undertaking free, prior and informed consent process with key community groups engaged in the project (2 workshops x 5 countries (10 total)).

1.8 Regional workshops with community groups to introduce Rights of Wetlands, community wetland management approach concepts, techniques and how to identify best practice that maximises biodiversity, increases household livelihoods and resilience, increases access to direct and indirect benefits, whilst maintaining and restoring wetland area and health. Within the workshops best practices for wetland management will be identified and visioning of future wetland/human relations will be recorded using participatory video and photography. (3 workshops x 5 countries (Pampas del Yacuma, Bolivia, Bobonaza River, Ecuador, North Rupununi Wetlands, Guyana, Tana River Basin, Kenya, Colombo Wetlands, Sri Lanka)). Best practices will also be documented with groups in the field following the workshops particularly to identify any seasonal differences in management approaches.

1.9 Key stakeholder workshops to identify best practice in legislation and policy, and governance and communication frameworks regarding Rights of Wetlands (2 workshops x 5 countries (10 total)). Participatory videos will be used to record these examples to share with other project partners and wider.

1.10 Undertake a review of Rights of Wetlands usage within current environmental and development policies and strategies in 5 countries, to provide baseline in year 1 and impact in year 3.

2.1 Produce training materials – CC has developed a comprehensive set of training materials for community engagement and community wetland management through participatory methods. These will be made bespoke for each country context and translated where required. Additional social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands training materials will also be developed.

2.2 Training in community engagement through participatory methods, including gender-inclusive methods (Online training and 1 x face-to-face workshops in five countries) and ongoing training during community engagement activities.

2.3 Training workshops in social and environmental rights and Rights of Wetlands (Online training and 1 x face-to-face workshops in five countries) and ongoing training during community engagement activities.

3.1 Sharing of community wetland best practices, recorded in Activity 1.8, with other community groups through workshops in 5 countries (2 workshops x 5 countries – 2 days each).

3.2 Establishment of video-mediated dialogue network meetings between local communities as rights holders and government representatives as duty bearers to create awareness on the Rights of Wetlands approach and to establish a formal, on-going communication network in each country (1 x video-mediated dialogue process in each country and 1 x communication network meeting in 5 countries).

4.1 Development of a Dissemination and Communication Strategy that identifies key audiences and methods to reach them (1 x partner online meeting) during and beyond the project.

4.2 Establishment of project website pages.

4.3 Analysis of community best practice wetland management to determine the most effective community advocacy and management approaches sympathetic to a Rights of Wetlands approach and future healthy wetland/human relations.

4.4 Analysis of legal, governance and communication best practice to determine the most effective legal, policy, governance and communication approaches sympathetic to a Rights of Wetlands approach and future healthy wetland/human relations by mapping and collation of relevant policies and legal frameworks and a gap analysis in relation to Rights of Wetlands.

4.5 Development of policy briefings.

4.6 Production of Rights of WetlandsLPGC principles and toolkits (Principles and toolkits will be drafted based on the project data, videos recorded and the workshops then used for consultation before being finalised and published on project websites).

4.7 Production of Rights of WetlandsWMCA principles and toolkits including best practice management approaches (Principles and toolkits will be drafted based on the project data and videos and the workshops then used for consultation before being finalised and published on project websites).

4.8 Training in Rights of Wetlands principles and toolkits. (Online course with 2 x follow-up workshops for each country).

4.9 Dialogue with communities, CSOs, NGOs, governments and the private sector to disseminate gap analysis, policy briefs and share Rights of WetlandsWMCA and Rights of WetlandsLPGC principles and toolkits in 5 countries.

4.10 Identify and support (if possible depending on opportunities in country context) formulation of at least one policy/legislation/strategy/plan on wetlands management.

4.11 Submission of applications for side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs and distribution of project outputs to all National Focal Points and other key stakeholders identified in the Dissemination Strategy and produce a Draft Resolution for the Ramsar COP15.

4.12 Hold online International Rights of Wetlands Event to promote project outputs.

4.13 Draft journal articles.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1   Project Standard Indicators

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	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Men 364 Women 506	20	850		870	250
DI-A07	Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	Government institutions	Government organisation type	10	5		15	15
DI-C01	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Number	Knowledge/practice area, product typology	0	11		0	2
DI-C10	Number of case studies published	Number	Case study type	0	0			15
DI-C19	Number of other publications produced	Number	Annual downloads, publication typology	1	0		1	2

Table 2   Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Transforming our Relationship with	Guidance	Society of Wetland Scientists Rights of	Female	USA	Rights of Wetlands Initiative	https://www.rightsofwetlands.org/_files/ugd/845acc_c8c99ad3f57e484dbc1cdfb943307703.pdf

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Wetlands: A Guide to the Rights of Wetlands		Wetlands Initiative and Operationaliz ation Working Groups (Davies GT, Davidson NC, Fennessy MS, Finlayson CM, Gardner RC, Huschke K, Kumar R, Moomaw WR, Okuno E, Pritchard DE, Simpson M, Spencer D, Walder B). 2025.				
Rights of Wetlands Quick Guides * (10 different language versions)	Guidanc e	Davies, 2025	Female	USA	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnershi p	https://www.rightsofwetlands.org/resources
Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief	Policy Brief	Rights of Wetlands Project	Female	Sri Lanka	Rights of Wetlands Project	https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Sri%20Lanka_Rights%20of%20Wetlands%20Policy%20Brief.pdf

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
– Sri Lanka *		Partnership, 2025			Partnership	
Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Bolivia *	Policy Brief	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership, 2025	Male and female	Bolivia	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership	https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Bolivia_Informe%20sobre%20los%20derechos%20de%20los%20humedales.pdf https://iisec.ucb.edu.bo/publicacion/derechos-de-los-humedales
Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Ecuador *	Policy Brief	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership, 2025	Male	USA	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership	https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Ecuador_Informe%20sobre%20los%20derechos%20de%20los%20humedales.pdf
Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Guyana *	Policy Brief	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership, 2025	Female	Guyana	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership	https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Guyana_Rights%20of%20Wetlands%20Policy%20Brief.pdf
Rights of Wetlands Policy Brief – Kenya *	Policy Brief	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership, 2025	Female	Kenya	Rights of Wetlands Project Partnership	https://cobracollective.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Kenya_Rights%20of%20Wetlands%20Policy%20Brief.pdf
Working with communities on the Rights of	Blog	Mistry, 2024	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/working-with-communities-on-the-rights-of-wetlands-in-kenya.php

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Wetlands in Kenya						
Rights of Wetlands Review	Blog	Simpson, 2024	Male	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/rights-of-wetlands-review.php
Rights of Wetlands at the More Than Human Life (MOTH) Gathering in Ecuador	Blog	Mistry, 2024	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/rights-of-wetlands-at-the-more-than-human-life-moth-gathering-in-sarayaku-ecuador.php
Operacionalizando los derechos de los humedales en Bolivia	Blog	Woodward, 2024	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/operacionalizando-los-derechos-de-los-humedales-en-bolivia.php
Operationalising the Rights of Wetlands in Bolivia	Blog	Woodward, 2024	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/operationalising-the-rights-of-wetlands-in-bolivia.php
Quick Guides to Wetlands	Blog	Mistry, 2024	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/quick-guides-to-wetlands.php

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future	Blog	Mistry, 2025	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/protecting-wetlands-for-our-common-future.php
What are wetlands?	Blog	Mistry, 2025	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://cobracollective.org/news/what-are-wetlands.php
Women on Wetlands	Blog and video	Mistry, 2025	Female	UK	Cobra Collective	https://vimeo.com/1073130983 https://cobracollective.org/news/women-on-wetlands.php
Participatory Communal Indicators of Well-Being and Wetland Rights: the Case of the Bolivian Amazon	Online presentation	Avile-Irahola, 2025	Male	Bolivia	UCB	https://iisec.ucb.edu.bo/video/participatory-communal-indicators-of-well-being-and-wetland-rights-the-case-of-the-bolivian-amazon
Various Facebook posts	Social media	Benavides, 2024 and 2025	Male	Bolivia	UCB	https://www.facebook.com/share/1BXvwroSgo/?mibextid=wwXlfr https://www.facebook.com/share/19AgzyQAav/?mibextid=wwXlfr https://www.facebook.com/share/1G5KnUdqZz/?mibextid=wwXlfr

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Various Facebook posts	Social media	Belén Frías Nogales 2024 and 2025	Female	Bolivia	Practical Action	**https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=956312123375460&set=a.409244501415561&__cft__[0]= AZUfF8rY_MdXU3aCrKg7u4cyjKxH7-qHMvc6- qQYLRHsll2e2S_xvDhOie2Hc99IqSFHptuCSTucWVLDK3_r22DjSJb3VXnFnPwEHRLXc3idS063 uAC2DDOykCmPoK8jGwi4Uk6Tv4r8U13lYlD70nH9iGrPJYQ- 2YGDR0ZjZaxeoJknTuMInxFp5NKHJzRCiKY&__tn__=EH-R** **https://www.facebook.com/PracticalActionEnBolivia?__cft__[0]=AZWQUyvG- Pr9dV0hb4OBdrV8udMVKocXk8HAjQwFuu1ri2YymTgAPYNyiQlePIL7sTfu0pWrz02SSyavV8obs nnt9-I6WG- IdpjgcRfSKIcVhNCdLYTFQztwc4Tb6hI16aH_lfOBdAH8dlTMpaF9TIniNeRSWGkfvvwZ6DvF9t58g EnYIqvjJ03o-Wxl3YbU5wE&__tn__=-UC%2CP-R** **https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=863810472616530&set=pcb.863810815949829&__cft__[0]=AZXmKpHdiprtO_h4i88mvu5W-7NhuyGggKLXAbxo- 1kmbHk9ve7RfUANFgw2_CvFza7K0FVVYXLF9RNLHXzVOBMLXHi6EhwsytLj53Znrn9L9eVszO G6SCrvKuvxPgdo9sjVZaaxip3Of3izVcpOekWvGAN6mY7S3OQeERWHm- orKiH3ctZQLRM4gJbo7SpiLnT2XRQTNjwVSNFkgQj98I6f&__tn__=*b0H-y-R**

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?	✓
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	✓
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.	✓
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	✓
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	