Applicant: **Chetri, Madhu**
Organisation: **National Trust for Nature Conservation**
Funding Sought: **£426,800.00**

DIR29S2\1065

Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

Large infrastructure developments, high dependency on forest resources and low levels of awareness among local communities threaten the habitats of species of global significance in Gaurishankar Conservation Area. The lack of a biodiversity data base, increasing human-wildlife conflicts and poaching of wildlife are issues of major concern. This project aims to: i) enhance the capacity of local institutions, ii) assess biodiversity status, iii) investigate drivers of human-wildlife conflict and iv) create green job opportunities to enhance livelihoods of local communities.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title   Dr
Name   Madhu
Surname   Chetri
Organisation   National Trust for Nature Conservation

Website (Work)

Tel (Work)

Email (Work)

Address

DIR29S2\1065

Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Madhu
Surname	Chetri
Organisation	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Website (Work)	███████████
Tel (Work)	███████
Email (Work)	███████
Address	████

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Phone (Work)	██████
Email (Work)	██████
Website (Work)	███████
Address	█████████

Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

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

DIR29S1\1321

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

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

Biome 1
Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2
Temperate-boreal forests & woodlands

Biome 3
Freshwater (streams, rivers and lakes)

Conservation Action 1
Education & awareness (incl. training)

Conservation Action 2
Species management (harvest, recovery, re-introduction, ex-situ)

Conservation Action 3
Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1
Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 2
Energy production & mining (incl. renewables)

Threat 3
Natural system modifications (fires, dams)

Q5. Summary of project

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

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Large infrastructure developments, high dependency on forest resources and low levels of awareness among local communities threaten the habitats of species of global significance in Gaurishankar Conservation Area. The lack of a biodiversity data base, increasing human-wildlife conflicts and poaching of wildlife are issues of major concern. This project aims to: i) enhance the capacity of local institutions, ii) assess biodiversity status, iii) investigate drivers of human-wildlife conflict and iv) create green job opportunities to enhance livelihoods of local communities.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

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

Do you require more fields?

◉ No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	**End date:**	**Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):**
01 April 2023	31 December 2026	2 years, 9 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	£146,407.00	£174,768.00	£105,625.00	£0.00	**£** 426,800.00

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

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

◉ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

NTNC, the lead institution will contribute approximately ▮▮▮▮ of the total project cost to cover the cost of staff salary, office space, and vehicles (field transport).

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

Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how will you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

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

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

Since its inception in 2010, Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA) has been managed by the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) as the Gaurishankar Conservation Area Project (GCAP). It contains a highly diversified flora and fauna from sub-tropical to nival zones and provides habitats for many rare and endangered species of global significance. Snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, Asiatic golden cats, Red panda and Chinese pangolin are some of the highly threatened species recently reported from the area (Koju et al. 2020, 2021, Pandey et al. 2021, GCA 2022, GCAMP 2022). Lapchi and Rolwaling valley are two important sacred sites that are rich in biodiversity and have a high potential for developing future tourism destinations. The areas lie in between two important protected mountain areas, i.e., Langtang National Park (LNP) in the west and Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) in the east. Hence, GCA is as a potentially important wildlife corridor. However, research on GCA's importance as a corridor for increasing connectivity and enhancing biodiversity is lacking, and this hinders the initiation of meaningful conservation efforts (GCAMP 2022). Large linear infrastructure developments, haphazard road constructions and frequent forest fires have deteriorated much of the pristine wildlife habitats. The area is also home for several ethnic groups (Thami, Jirel, Surel, and Tamang) that are highly dependent on forest resources. Harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), deforestation, stone mining and poaching of wildlife for meat is rampant in the region (GCAMP 2022). During the fiscal year 2020/2021, a total of 448970 kg of NTFPs was harvested by the local communities and exported (GCA, 2022). The area has tremendous potential for developing alternative livelihood options which has not been explored yet. Low levels of conservation awareness and increasing human-wildlife conflicts are major threats (Photo 1 & 2). Besides, the area is also listed as a major route for the illegal wildlife trade (Paudel et al. 2020). The traditional livestock rearing system is also a major challenge in human-wildlife conflicts, for example shifting of livestock from one terrace field to another after harvesting crops to manure farmland is a customary practice in the middle part of GCA. The livestock are tied in temporary cattle sheds and left unattended and become easy prey for the common leopard (Photo 3). One the one hand, such type of practices are preferred by local people as they reduce labor for carrying dung piles (manure) from one terrace field to another, but on the other, it increases risks of losing livestock, if left unattended.

The project aims to develop a science-based biodiversity database and build capacity of local institutions for long-term conservation of the mountain ecosystem and species protection. The main drivers of human-wildlife conflict will be investigated, and mitigation measures piloted. It will also provide opportunities for the local people to engage in training and exploration and implementation of income generation activities based on agro-farming and ecotourism.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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

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

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

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020): The project will contribute to understanding mountain biodiversity and ecosystem services, reduce direct pressure on biodiversity and promote environmentally friendly livelihoods through the development of local forest- and agriculture-based enterprises. It will also enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD): The project supports main objectives of the CBD, as a main goal is to support activities promoting sustainable use of natural resources to benefit conservation of biological diversity. Through community involvement, capacity building, training/awareness and research, we aim to contribute to future upgrading of the National

Biodiversity Strategy of Nepal, Species Action Plan and Management and Operational Plans of GCA.

Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030): The project is also aligned with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Out of 17 SDGs, the project is directly or indirectly supporting the following:
SDG-1: Reduce poverty in GCA through alternative livelihoods.
SDG-5: Gender equality through participation in decision making and capacity building.
SDG-8: Inclusive economic growth based on alternative livelihood and productive employment.
SDG-15: Local capacity enhanced to conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage forests; increase community awareness to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and land degradation.

Gaurishankar Conservation Area Management Plan (2022-2026): The project will contribute to fill the biodiversity data gap, and it will address issues of human-wildlife conflicts and poverty reduction through green enterprises.

Snow leopard and Ecosystem Management Plan (2017-2026): The project will address the following strategies: mitigate human-snow leopard conflict, improve people's livelihoods, strengthen institutions, engage local communities, strengthen law enforcement, and enhance connectivity.

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

Q13. Methodology

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

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

GCAP has been managed based on a 5-year management plan (2013-2017) following a people-centric approach that was intended to ensure wildlife protection as well as promote sustainable use of natural resources. GCAP has formed 21 Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs) and 92 Forest Management sub-Committees (FMsCs), which are legal institutions involved in managing the conservation area. These committees are functional in the region. During the first phase, more than 116 hectares of community and private land has been planted with more than 300,000 seedlings (GCAMP 2022). Conservation education curricula have been formed and implemented in 25 schools. However, the progress has been slow due to the earthquake on April 25, 2015. Thereafter, the COVID 19 pandemic negatively affected the implementation of the activities, as funding was reduced due to low numbers of tourists visiting GCA. Limited funding and inadequate biodiversity research and knowledge have adversely affected the integration of species conservation and habitat protection. Improving coordination among government agencies and local communities, as well as capacity building, gender sensitization, conservation awareness, and addressing human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) are very important issues for the project to be successful.

Currently, the second phase of GCAP 5 -year management plan (2022- 2026) has been endorsed by the government of Nepal. The management plan has identified key intervention areas on which this project is based. GCAP has more than a decade of working experience in the region, and it has dedicated technical staff. Adding this project will strengthen the capacity of staff for the smooth implementation of the project plan activities. It has well-established offices in three different areas: Singati (headquarter) and two other unit conservation offices located in Ramechhap and Sindupalchok districts. Training and mobilizing existing communities will guarantee the successful implementation of the project.

Component 1: Local capacity building
Fifty community members will be trained in wildlife survey techniques.150 community members will have developed skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation. Ten project staff will be coached on Training of Trainers (ToT) in gender and social inclusion and good governance. Trained staff will train ca.750 community people; 330 Households (HHs) will receive forest fire control training; 100 community officials will be trained on behavioural change and attitudes towards wildlife conservation (this is linked with the behavioural change program which is undergoing in Bardia National Park as part of the youth campaign; 15 students (Bachelor/Masters) will conduct research on various biodiversity related topics.

Component 2: Maintained corridor and connectivity
The status and abundance of snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, and common leopard - will be estimated using camera traps and fecal DNA sampling (Chetri et al. 2019; Sharma et al. 2020) along with prey species: Himalayan musk deer and Himalayan tahr (Li et al. 2016). The status and distribution of small carnivore communities estimated using standard protocols of camera traps and multi-species occupancy models (Bischof et al. 2014). We will conduct systematic large mammalian surveys (camera traps) and

birds on the existing corridors i.e., LNP and SNP. One Biodiversity profile produced, and the database will be linked to GBIF portal. To control illegal activities inside the GCA, 22 CAMCs and 92 FMsCs will be operational. Coordination meetings among government officials and security personnel will establish information networks to control illegal activities.

Component 3: HWC and mitigation measures
HWC awareness programs will be conducted in 180 HHs. 100 HHs construct biological fences around crop fields. Protection of livestock will be done by building predator-proof corrals construction support to 250 HHs, and crops will be protected by building raised platforms with scouts (50 HHs), 100 HHs will start traditional scaring methods against crop depredation. 60 livestock herders train in regulating grazing of livestock in prime wildlife habitats. Wildlife victim relief funds will be established in 22 CAMC. Insurance schemes for crop and wildlife depredation will be piloted in 50 HHs.

Component 4: Alternative livelihood options and poverty reduction
Twenty-five Conservation Farmers (CF) formed, trained and operational. A study will be conducted to assess one village one product (vegetables, medicinal plants), and market linkages. We will promote and pilot the cultivation of highly valued medicinal plants and support organic vegetable farming (70 HHs). 40 women will be trained in developing local handicrafts. Similarly, 45 local youths will be trained as nature guides. Ecotourism trails (30 km) branded wildlife and bird observation trails. 20 signposts installed and 10 new homestays promoted along the ecotourism trails. The existing 82 homestay owners with the addition of 10 new (planned in this project) will be trained in hospitality, lodge management, and cooking/baking.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

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

National and local capacity building – About 10 project staff and 750 community people will have knowledge on environment and social safeguards, gender, and social inclusion, and good governance. These learnings could be used in the local development planning process. Additional 50 community people will be trained in conducting camera trap surveys and data recording. The resulting capability will strengthen the capacity of the organizations as well as the communities. Thus, in the long run, it will be an added advantage for monitoring biodiversity as well as measuring social changes in the region. The capacitated community members can be used in any area of Nepal for future wildlife research and surveys. Fifteen students will conduct research on mountain biodiversity, the generated database will be available through scientific publications, news, and media.

Biodiversity conservation – The trained community members will be involved in research, surveys, and documentation. Existing CAMCs and FMSCs will be better equipped for biodiversity conservation activities and will continue biodiversity monitoring work in the future in close coordination with GCAP and local government.

Co-existence between humans and wildlife – Awareness and corrals improvement work will significantly change the attitude of the local communities towards conservation. Reviving traditional scaring methods, training, and livestock insurance scheme will enable herders and local government authorities to work collectively to reduce HWC.

Livelihood intervention – Conservation farmers formed and operational will act as an ambassador for encouraging local communities to forest restoration work by planting trees. Forty women will be trained in producing local handicrafts and 45 local youths will be trained as nature guides. Approximately 92 people

will be trained in hospitality, cooking, and baking. Local communities will be sensitized in exploring opportunities for income generation and alternative modes of livelihood and skills in targeted communities.

Q15. Gender equality

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

The southern part of GCA is dominated by Brahmin and Chhetris, and the middle part and high mountain by the Sherpa community. Women in the sherpa community are economically engaged and have a comparatively stronger position. Both men and women are well-educated in Brahmin and Chhetri communities. Women from ethnic communities are mostly engaged in farm activities and childcare. Men are engaged as labour and migrant workers. The representation of women in decision-making is very low. The project will identify gaps and integrate gender equality approaches targeting women in capacity-building and livelihood activities.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

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

Awareness raising among the local communities is the first step in an area where people are fully dependent on natural resources. GCAP is not an exception, more than 68, 000 people are residing inside the conservation area. The project's main stakeholders are the CAMCs and FMSCs. These committees will play an important role in managing the area and are also working closely with rural municipalities and wards in close coordination with the project. Therefore, this project has targeted local communities in every aspect of its activity's implementation. Capacitating communities (in biodiversity research, livelihood programs, human-wildlife conflict mitigation) will enhance their skills. It will also bring positive attitudes among the local communities. The positive conservation message delivered by community members will have a higher impact compared to outsiders. The generated biodiversity database will be available to global communities via GBIF portal. Trained community members will continue monitoring beyond the project period in close coordination with GCAP. In addition, research findings and lessons learned will be shared through publication in scientific journals, national newspapers, Radio, TV, and the NTNC website.

Q17. Change expected

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

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of

beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

Capacity building
Short term:
-850 people (50% women) will get training on Leadership and advocacy, good governance, gender and social inclusion, and behavioural change and attitude towards wildlife conservation.
-330 HHs will be benefitted from forest fire control training and implement skills if fire outbreaks.
Long term:
-Trained community members will be involved in survey and monitoring even beyond the project period whenever needed.
-150 community members develop skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation. This will help lobbying with the local government for allocating funds for future conservation activities including mitigating HWC issues
-15 graduate students will be trained in mountain ecology.
-10 Capacitate staff on leadership and advocacy, good governance, gender and social inclusion
Conserve and maintained corridor and connectivity
Short term:
- Status of large mammalian fauna and birds' diversity in the existing corridors known
- Science-based biodiversity data available
Long term:
-Relative abundance and density of 5 key mammalian fauna estimated, will be useful for future monitoring.
-Science-based biodiversity profile available for future monitoring and for global communities through GBIF portal.
-21 CAMCs and 92 FMsCs will be in operation to control illegal wildlife crimes.
- Status of wildlife corridors and connectivity known.
- Networking/Coordination among stakeholders strengthened.
HWC and mitigation measures
Short term:
- High human-wildlife conflict areas identified and mapped.
-180 HHs will be directly benefitted through awareness programs.
-Traditional scaring methods evaluated and promoted against crop depredation (100 HHs).
- 60 herders trained in regulating livestock grazing.
-Immediate relief funds to 22 CAMCs for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation; 250 HHs have predator proof corrals & 50 HHs build raised platforms for crop protection.
Long term:
-Livestock grazing will be minimized in prime wildlife habitats.
-Livestock depredation in corrals/sheds reduced by 75% and crop depredation by 50% in pilot sites.
-Insurance scheme for crop and wildlife depredation piloted (50 HHs) and expanded in other areas if successful.
Income generation and poverty reduction
Short term:
-25 CF will be trained to run and manage forest nurseries.
- 40 Women will be trained in local handicraft development.
- 45 local youths will be trained as nature guides.
-92 homestay owners will be trained to run their tourism business efficiently.
Long term:
-25 nurseries will be in operation in 25 marginalized settlements.
-Conservation Farmers produce seedlings, 15 ha. of degraded forest restored.
-70 HHs from disadvantaged groups will pilot the cultivation of highly valued medicinal plants and organic vegetable farming.
- one village and one cash crop product identified.

-30 km trails will be branded and functional as wildlife eco-trails.
-10 new homestays promoted along the ecotourism trails.
- 40 HHs (100% women) trained in skill-based (weaving & knitting)
- 92 homestay owners capacitate in hospitality, lodge management, and cooking baking.

Q18. Pathway to change

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

GCA is currently facing limitations in funds to implement its management plan activities. The devastating earthquake of 2015 and thereafter the COVID 19 pandemic affected the implementation of the first phase of the management plan. The new management plan (2022-2026) was recently approved by the government. The management plan has identified the following key areas —fulfil biodiversity research gaps, address human-wildlife conflict issues, enhance capacity building and awareness and promote income generation activities through a green economy. The project has incorporated key activities based on these thematic areas. Women and marginalized communities living in the intensive use zone are prioritized in the project (see map). Beyond the project, GCA will continue monitoring key fauna using trained community members, and densities of the species will be maintained. Trained community members will work as an ambassador to conservation and community mobilization. Poaching and hunting will be reduced, and regular patrolling will be in place in coordination with the government and security personnel. Finally, the project will contribute to GCA's long-term vision of a people-centric approach of biodiversity conservation by protecting biological corridors and well-being of the local communities.

Q19. Exit Strategy

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

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

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

We will carry out all activities in coordination with the local government (Bigu rural municipality & Gaurishankar rural municipality) and local conservation committees, CAMC, and FMsCs a legal institution of GCA. After completion of the project, the achievements and the lesson learned will be scaled up by mobilizing these institutions. NTNC will be in the area through its GCAP program for managing GCA. This is an additional advantage for the project, i.e. to monitor long-term impacts. This project will also have a catalytic role by scaling up its activities in a larger area, particularly in addressing human-wildlife conflict issues and income generation activities i.e., one village one product concept.

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

- ⤓ Supporting document _ maps, references and photographs_embassy correspond
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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

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

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
Fiduciary There is a probability of fiduciary risks in implementing community-based projects due to low capacity in maintaining accounts, lack of motivation, and remoteness. This could lead to slow delivery and inaccuracy in accounting procedures and the flow of funds.	Unlikely	Possible	Unlikely	Community-related funds will be disbursed only after receiving detailed cost estimates and expenditure plans. NTNC Fiduciary procedures will be implemented to ensure control of funds. Annual internal audits of CAMCs and FMsCs will be reviewed and updated regularly to control fiduciary risks and ensured transparency in implementing project activities.	Rare
Safeguarding Sexual abuse and harassment can occur while implementing the project activities. The staff need to travel (hike) many days to reach the targeted settlements in remote villages.	Unlikely	Possible	Possible	Staff safety will be ensured by mobilizing in groups while travelling in remote villages during project implementing. NTNC has its own policy on Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (SEAH); Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT). All field staff will be oriented about the policy.	Rare

Delivery Chain

The northern part of the proposed project site is very remote and has a harsh climate. Also, sometimes seasonal weather patterns for example long monsoonal rain and late snowfall (March April) might affect the timing of fieldwork.

Unlikely	Possible	Possible	Inaccessible and remote field activities will be planned to avoid months of probable risks due to weather conditions.	Rare

Risk 4

The possibility of natural disasters such as landslides and avalanche occurrences during the project period cannot be ignored. This is also connected with staff safety while conducting field surveys and travelling to remote villages, and loss of camera traps from thefts.

Unlikely	Possible	Unlikely	Safety protocols will be employed while mobilizing staff in the field. Monsoon and harsh winter seasons will be avoided while deploying camera traps. Responsibility for monitoring camera traps will be given to local communities which reduces the chances of theft or loss.	Rare

Risk 5

Most of the project activities are directly linked with collaborative efforts among communities and lead partner organizations. The negligence of the communities in timely implementing the activities in some areas might bring a bad reputation to the partners' organization.

Unlikely	Possible	Possible	We will ensure notifying the communities early and M&E and periodic meetings and discussions among the communities will solve these issues.	Rare

Risk 6

The project has professional manpower for the effective implementation of the project activities. However, the possibility of staff turnover and workload cannot be ignored.

Possible	Possible	Possible	Staff facilities, providing need-based training for capacity enhancement, and counseling and motivation will be given higher priority.	Rare

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

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

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

Implementation Timetable Template

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

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

The project will develop a high-standard Monitoring and Evaluation plan based on the logframe for the smooth implementation and effective monitoring of the project. The project's four major components, a) capacity building, b) biodiversity conservation, c) human-wildlife conflict, and d) alternative livelihood and economy will require different interventions and monitoring.

The major project interventions are a) community training and awareness, b) demonstrating pilot activities, and c) testing pilot livestock insurance schemes and human-wildlife conflict mitigation activities for effectiveness. All 103-unit training and 39 units of awareness programmes will be monitored using NTNC's M&E guidelines (https://ntnc.org.np/sites/default/files/doc_page/NTNC%20M_E%20Guidelines.pdf). Progress will also be monitored based on a weekly and monthly progress report that was currently in place at the lead partner organizational level. M&E guidelines developed by Defra and others will also be consulted for standardizing monitoring methods. The lead partner (NTNC) will have primary M&E responsibility and will oversee operations in collaboration with the local conservation area management committees and their sub-committees.

M&E framework will identify indicators for monitoring. Existing data will be used to formulate the monitoring index. Data that are not available will be collected during the first year of the project implementation. For example, perceptions and attitudes towards predators before and after implementation of activities, household income, livestock holdings, and patterns of livestock herding

systems.

The biodiversity research component will be conducted by staff of the NTNC. Prof. Morten Odden from Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences will guide the study design. Herder's training is a crucial component of the project activity. Dr. Madhu Chetri, the lead applicant has more than 20 years of working experience with the mountain communities, His skills in mobilizing local communities will have an additional advantage in developing a local community lead monitoring system.
M&E efforts costs are based on staff time allocated to implement the project monitoring plan. The cost also covers food, accommodation, and local per diem incurred while traveling in the field during the implementation of the monitoring plan.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ ▮▮▮▮
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	▮
Number of days planned for M&E	105

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)

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

- Stage 2 Logframe Template

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

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

⤓ BCF_St2_and_Single_Stage_Logical_Framework_Template_2022-23_GCA_Nepal
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Impact:
Enhance biodiversity conservation by maintaining corridors and connectivity through local participation and ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of the population.

Outcome:

Enhance a science-based biodiversity database, capacitate communities, increase co-existence between humans and wildlife, and improve the economy and livelihood of the people in the Himalayas.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation

Output 2:

Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation

Output 3:

Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies

Output 4:

Develop sustainable income generation scheme through green economy and enterprises

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

⊙ No

Activities

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

1. Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in through trainings, and awareness programme
Activity 1.1. Survey and monitoring training (Camera traps, GPS, data punching) to selected communities' members (n=5), Year 1 & 2
Activity 1.2. Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance (n=10), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 1.3. Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings (n=15), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 1.4. Provide training to project staff on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance (n=1), Year 2
Activity 1.5. Provide training to CAMCs and community group members on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance, Year 2 & 3
Activity 1.6. Forest fire control trainings and support (n=22), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 1.7. Attitude and perceptions survey, Year 1
Activity 1.8. Trainings on behavioral change and attitude towards wildlife conservation (Community level), Year 1, 2 & 3

2. Established biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity

Activity 2.1. Conduct status research of megafauna (snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, common leopard & prey species musk deer and Himalayan tahr), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 2.2. Conduct research for assessing the small carnivore community, Year 1 & 2

Activity 2.3. Conduct inventory/survey to monitor status of birds & large mammalian fauna in corridor between two protected areas, i.e., LNP and SNP, Year 2

Activity 2.4. Document traditional fishing techniques and assess fish diversity of the Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system, Year 2

Activity 2.5. Publish biodiversity profile of the region & database linked to GBIF portal, Year 3

Activity 2.6. Support CAMCs and FMsCs for regular forest patrolling operation, Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 2.7. Coordination meeting among government officials and security personnel to establish information networks to control illegal activities (n=3), Year 1, 2 & 3

3. Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies

Activity 3.1. Identify high impact areas of human wildlife conflict and crop damage, Year 1 & 2

Activity 3.2. Conduct awareness programmes on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing (n=10), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 3.3. Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches and biological hedge fences around their farm (n=100 HHs), Year 1, 2 &3

Activity 3.4. Training to encourage and support locals to continue traditional scaring methods (shouting, beating drums and metal pots, installing scarecrows, boom rang, fireball etc.) against crop depredation (n=5, 100 HHs), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 3.5. Support on construction of predator proof corrals/cattle shed (250 HHs), Year 1, 2 & 3)

Activity 3.6. Support locals to build raised platforms (machans) to guard crop field (50 HHs), Year 1, 2 & 3)

Activity 3.7. Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats (n=3), Year 1, 2 &3

Activity 3.8. Establish and operationalize relief fund at each CAMCs for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation, Year 1

Activity 3.9. Coordinate with insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation to the residents for loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation and premium support, Year 1, 2 & 3

Output 4. Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises

Activity 4.1. Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training, (n=5). Year 1 & 2

Activity 4.2. Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level (25 nurseries), Year 1 & 2

Activity 4.3. Study for identification of economic viable vegetables and spices production (i.e., one village one product) and market linkages, Year 1

Activity 4.4. Promote cultivation of high valued medicinal plants (e.g., Argeli, Timut pepper) in two pilot sites, Year 2 & 3

Activity 4.5. Support and promote organic farming (e.g., potato, red chilli pepper) in two pilot sites, Lapchi and Rolwaling valley (50 HHs), Year 2 & 3

Activity 4.6. Conduct skill-based training (local knitting/handicrafts) to women of Simigaun and Tashinam and link with local market (n=2), Year 1

Activity 4.7. Conduct nature guide training to local youths (n-=3), Year 2 & 3

Activity 4.8. Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr /Birds' trails), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 4.9. Support locals for establishing new homestay & teashops (10 HHs), Year 2

Activity 4.10. Provide training to home-stay owner in hospitality, lodge management and cooking/baking (n=6, 92 HHs), Year 2 & 3

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. Budget

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

- Budget form for projects over £100k

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

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

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

- ⬇ BCF_Budget_Over_100k_MASTER_Dec_GCA_Final
- 📅 12/12/2022
- 🕐 14:04:35
- 📄 xlsx 95.79 KB

Q25. Funding

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

⊙ New Initiative

Please provide details:

GCA is managed by NTNC since its inception in 2010 through GCAP. The present project is guided by the five years management plan of GCAP (2022-2026) which was recently endorsed by the government of Nepal. The project identified a key area of intervention based on the management plan. In the proposed project, at least 50 community members will be trained in wildlife survey techniques, and 1050 community members trained in leadership, gender, and good governance. The project will fulfill biodiversity data gaps. Twenty-five conservation farmers will be functional and 15ha. of degraded forest restored. Ten project staff capacitate in gender, social inclusion, and good governance. Three hundred thirty HHs will be trained in forest fire control training. Human-wildlife conflict issues will be handled with the active participation of the local communities. Predator-proof corrals and an insurance scheme will benefit 915 HHs. Approximately 70 HHs will pilot the cultivation of medicinal plants and organic vegetables. Forty women will be trained in making local handicrafts for income generation. Wildlife-based ecotourism trails will be functional and 10 HHs run teashops and campsites along the trails. 92 HHs will be benefited from hospitality, lodge management, and cooking/baking training.

Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?
   ⦿ No

Q26. Capital items

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

Monitoring equipment such as binoculars, digital cameras, spotting scopes, GPS, etc. will remain with NTNC-GCAP and will be used for future biodiversity monitoring. A few camera traps and GPS will be handed to local communities for regular monitoring of the biological corridors. Students and researchers who are interested in doing research in GCA can use the equipment at their own risk, if any loss occurs, he/she must reimburse as per NTNC policy.

Q27. Value for Money

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

NTNC works with the local community with maximum participation and cost-sharing. For example, if any development interventions have to be made, local communities share the cost as unskilled labour. In this project, the major cost allocated is on HWC mitigations and livelihood components. Professional and technical manpower will be hired from respective agencies/authorities to run training and study programs. All the costs will be as per government norms and actual market prices. NTNC will use its own field staff in working with the local communities to reduce logistic and overhead costs. GCAP field offices and CAMCs are equipped with their own office resources to undertake the project's administrative functions. Predator proof corrals will be constructed using local materials (stones, gravel, sand, wood), except wire mesh. Individual HHs will volunteer to cover the unskilled labour cost. Skilled costs will be based on local district norms. Co-financing has been included to leverage the available financial resources of NTNC. NTNC will use their own rates of salaries and travel allowances for project staff. The project's livelihood outcomes will be ready for replication and scaling up through the market linkages, HWC mitigation work, and community insurance will be replicated in other HWC-prone areas of the country.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q28. Safeguarding

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

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

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

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

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

NTNC's has several safeguarding policies that are currently in practice to ensure a healthy working environment in the project area. The existing safeguarding policies include i) information disclosure, grievance redress and conflict of interest, ii) prevention and protection of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, iii) environmental and social management framework, and iv) code of conduct. The project team are aware of these policies and currently is in practice. Follow-up training for new staff will be conducted as required. Safeguards implementation will also be incorporated in the project's M&E framework and reported on quarterly basis.

Q29. Ethics

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

NTNC and the implementing partner will uphold moral and human rights norms in all stages of the project. The project has a strong emphasis on maximizing benefits for local communities and encouraging local participation, which is crucial to safeguarding human rights problems as stipulated by the Nepalese Constitution. Indigenous, socially underprivileged, and other vulnerable groups will be included in project activities through participatory planning. When organizing and carrying out the activities, local culture, traditional ecological knowledge, and belief will be taken into account. Throughout the project implementation phase and beyond, a precaution would be made to prevent harm to the local culture. When gathering and releasing project-related data and information, prior informed consent, anonymity preservation, and confidentiality shall be considered. Poor and vulnerable households' concerns, and women's voices and their involvement will be ensured and given priority. As the area is very remote, NTNC and the implementing partners will be required to have health insurance coverage for every employee.

NTNC upholds political neutrality and transparency in accordance with NTNC code of conduct. NTNC will adhere to its fiduciary protocols for successful community-based initiatives and a variety of other safeguard requirements (https://ntnc.org.np/compliance-and-ethics).

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q30. FCDO Notifications

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

No

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

⊙ Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q31. Project staff

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

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Madhu, Chetri	**Project Leader**	50	Checked
Chiranjibi, Prasad Pokheral	Oversee Director	10	Checked
Tulashi, Prasad Dahal	M & E Officer	50	Checked
Pramod, Raj Regmi	Field Ranger	50	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⊙ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Yangti, Sherpa	GESI Assistant	25	Checked
Ang Tshering Sherpa	Social mobilizer	25	Checked
Bikash, Adhikari	Finance Assistant	50	Checked
Pabina, Dhital	Field Ranger	50	Checked
Youbraj, Thapa	Field Ranger	50	Checked
Amit, Banmala	Field Ranger	50	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked

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

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

  ⤓ Project team _CV
  🗓 12/12/2022
  🕐 14:24:12
  📄 pdf 1.38 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⊙ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q32. Project Partners

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

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

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

Lead partner name:	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Website address:	https://www.ntnc.org.np/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	NTNC is the main management authority of Gaurishankar Conservation Area. NTNC will ensure the timely implementation of the project and reporting. Field activities will be carried out through it field base office at GCA.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£███████
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	⊙ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⊙ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
Website address:	https://dnpwc.gov.np/en/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	DNPWC will facilitate other government stakeholders and line agencies for the smooth implementation of the project. It will also provide technical guidance when necessary and research permits.
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

2. Partner Name:	Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN)
Website address:	https://eng.inn.no/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	INN is mainly responsible for technical backstopping in research design and statistical analysis.
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	⭕ Yes ⭕ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⭕ Yes ⭕ No

5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	⭕ Yes ⭕ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⭕ Yes ⭕ No

6. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

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

No Response

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

⬇ Combined letter of support_all partners_GCA	⬇ Cover letter in response to stage 1
🗓 12/12/2022	🗓 12/12/2022
🕑 14:35:22	🕑 14:35:03
📄 pdf 3.2 MB	📄 pdf 1.15 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

⊙ Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
IWT091	Siddhartha Bajra Bajracharya	Control poaching and IWT by strengthening community guardianship in Chitwan
IWT086	Siddhartha Bajra Bajracharya	Mainstreaming traditional hunting communities of western Nepal in tiger conservation
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*

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

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

⊙ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

National Trust for Nature Conservation

I apply for a grant of

£426,800.00

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

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

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

enclosed.

Checked

Name	Madhu Chetri
Position in the organisation	Project Chief
Signature (please upload e-signature)	⬇ <u>Signature_Madhu Chetri</u> 📅 12/12/2022 🕐 14:44:22 📄 pdf 467.17 KB
Date	12 December 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

⬇ <u>Audited Financial Report 2020-21</u> 📅 12/12/2022 🕐 14:57:24 📄 pdf 5.25 MB	⬇ <u>Audited-Financial-Report_2019-20</u> 📅 12/12/2022 🕐 14:57:14 📄 pdf 1.5 MB

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

⬇ <u>ESM_Policy_2019_NTNC_revised (20200630)</u>
📅 12/12/2022
🕐 14:48:33
📄 pdf 1.08 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, **including the** "Darwin Initiative Guidance**", "**Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance**", "Risk Guidance" and "**Financial Guidance**".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates **for the project.**	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years **i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.**	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, **correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.**	Checked

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

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

Project Title: Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)		
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Output 1	**Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal through trainings, and awareness programme**												
1.1	Survey and monitoring training (Camera traps, GPS, data punching) to selected communities' members	0.5		█			█						
1.2	Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance	1.5		█							█		
1.3	Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings	9	█				█				█		
1.4	Provide training to project staff on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance	0.5					█						
1.5	Provide training to CAMCs and community group members on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance	3					█				█		
1.6	Forest fire control trainings and support	3			█			█				█	
1.7	Attitude and perceptions survey	2		█								█	
1.8	Trainings on behavioural change and attitude towards wildlife conservation (Community level)	3		█			█				█		
Output 2	**Establish biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity**												
2.1	Conduct status research of megafauna (snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, common leopard and prey species musk deer and Himalayan tahr)	6		█	█	█				█	█		
2.2	Conduct research for assessing distribution and habitat of the small carnivore community	4		█	█	█							
2.3	Conduct inventory/survey to monitor status of birds & large mammalian fauna in corridor	2.5					█	█	█				

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Implementation Timetable Template

Project Title: Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)		
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
	between two protected areas, i.e., LNP and SNP						▓	▓	▓				
2.4	Document traditional fishing techniques and assess fish diversity of the Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system	2					▓	▓					
2.5	Publish biodiversity profile of the region & database linked to GBIF portal	3										▓	
2.6	Support CAMC and FMsC for regular forest patrolling operations	4		▓				▓				▓	
2.7	Coordination meeting among government officials and security personnel to establish information networks to control illegal activities	0.5			▓				▓				▓
Output 3	**Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies**												
3.1	Identify high impact areas of human wildlife conflict and crop damage	2	▓				▓						
3.2	Conduct awareness programmes on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing	3		▓				▓				▓	
3.3	Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches, and biological hedge fences around their farms	3	▓				▓				▓		
3.4	Training to encourage and support locals to continue traditional scaring methods (shouting, beating drums and metal pots, installing scarecrows, fireball etc.) against crop depredation	3	▓				▓				▓		
3.5	Support on construction of predator proof corrals/cattle shed	3		▓				▓					
3.6	Support locals to build raised platform (machans) to guard crop field	3		▓								▓	

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Implementation Timetable Template

Project Title: Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)		
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
3.7	Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats	1.5		▓				▓			▓		
3.8	Establish and operationalize relief fund at each CAMCs for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation	1		▓									
3.9	Coordinate with insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation to the residents for loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation and premium support	1.5			▓			▓			▓		
Output 4	**Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises**												
4.1	Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training	1		▓			▓						
4.2	Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level	2		▓			▓						
4.3	Feasibility study for identification of economic viable vegetables production (i.e., one village one product) and market linkages	1.5		▓									
4.4	Promote cultivation of high valued medicinal plants (e.g., Argeli, Timut pepper) in 2 pilot sites	2						▓				▓	
4.5	Support and promote organic farming (potato and red chilli pepper) in two pilot sites, Lapchi and Rolwaling valley, n=50 HHs	2						▓				▓	
4.6	Conduct skill-based training (local knitting/handicrafts) to women of Simigaun and Tashinam and link with local market	1			▓								
4.7	Conduct nature guide training to local youths	2						▓			▓		
4.8	Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr/Birds trails)	3		▓			▓				▓		

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Implementation Timetable Template

Project Title: Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)		
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
4.9	Support locals for establishing new homestays and teashops	3					▓						
4.10	Provide training to home-stay owner in hospitality, lodge management and cooking/baking	1.5						▓			▓		

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Implementation Timetable Template

Project Title: Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: (Max 30 words) (19) Enhance biodiversity conservation by maintaining corridors and connectivity through local participation and ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of the population.			
Outcome: Enhance a science-based biodiversity database, capacitate communities, increase co-existence between humans and wildlife, and improve the economy and livelihood of the people in the Himalayas. (Max 30 words)	0.1 Up to 50 community members gain skills in wildlife survey, 150 community members develops skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation, 750 community members capacitate in gender & social inclusion, human rights and good governance, and 330 HHs develops skills in implementing forest fire control tools 0.2 At least 100 community officials will have positive attitude towards wildlife conservation and positive perceptions increased by 40% 0.3. By year 3, An updated biodiversity database in GBIF portal	0.1a) Involvement of at least 10 trained community members in research, survey, and monitoring (year 1, 2 and 3) and beyond 0.1b) Training certificates/attendance records (year 1, 2 and 3) 0.2 Annual reports/M&E reports/survey reports 0.3 a) By year 3, at least 2 peer-reviewed scientific papers 0.3b) Project reports and student theses	Support from local communities and local political bodies NTNC mandate remains during the project implementation and beyond No major natural disaster during field implementation COVID-19 controlled

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0.4. Government stakeholders positively support the conservation program, and regular forest patrolling will control illegal activities incidences by 50% by Year 3.	0.3c) 1 biodiversity profile of GCA, biodiversity database linked at GBIF portal and available to global communities	
	0.4 Meeting minutes/Annual reports/Forest patrolling reports	
0.5 Up to 680 HHs benefitted from different awareness programme, wildlife mitigation measures, livestock depredation in improved corrals/pens decreased by 75% and crop damage by 50% in pilot sites.	0.5 Meeting minutes/Field reports/Annual reports/M&E reports	
0.6. Local perceptions and attitudes towards wildlife become positive due to establishment of relief fund and insurance scheme as measured from attitude and perceptions baseline survey, Year 3	0.6 Perceptions assessment report/Annual reports, M&E reports, livestock depredation records, Insurance contract	
0.7 By the end of the project, 25 CF operational & 15ha. degraded forest restored in five pilot sites		
0.8 Site identified for scaling up one village one product based green enterprises; Year 1	0.7 Seedling production, distribution, plantation reports/photographs	

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	0.9 Up to 70 HHs farmers start cultivation of high valued medicinal plants and organic vegetables 0.10 By year 3, up to 40 women HHs, 92 homestay HHs, and 45 youths capacitated for various income generation activities 0.11 By end of the project and beyond, at least 3 wildlife-based eco-trails identified and functional	0.8 Survey reports 0.9 Annual reports/M&E reports 0.10 Annual reports/M&E reports 0.11 Tourist data, media reports	
Outputs: **1**. Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation	1.1 50 community members gain skills in camera trapping and prey base survey as a result of training; Year 1 & 2 1.2 150 community members including women (50%) will develop skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation; Year 1, 2 & 3	1.1.1 Training attendance records 1.1.2 50 community members trained in wildlife survey techniques 1.1.3 # trainee involvement in camera trap surveys and monitoring 1.2. Training attendance records	Train local stakeholders participate in surveys; loss and theft of camera traps assured by local communities No change in the status among the implementing partners

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1.3 15 graduate students (50% girls) conduct research on various biodiversity topics; Year 1=5, Year 2=5, & Year 3=5	1.3 Theses/Publications, Year 1, 2 & 3	
1.4 15 project staff trained in Training of Trainers on gender & social inclusion, human rights, rights– based advocacy and good governance, Year 1	1.4.1 Training attendance reports Year 1 1.4.2 Training attendance reports Year 1, 2 & 3	
1.5. ca. 750 community people capacitated through trained staff; Year 2 & 3	1.5 Training attendance reports	
1.6 ca. 330 HHs of Conservation Area management Committees (CAMCs & Forest Management sub–Committees (FMsC) officials trained in forest fire control and use fire control tools (2 days, 22 trainings, 15 participants/training); Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3; Baseline project period; Results beyond project	1.6.1 Training attendance reports 1.6.2 Forest fire control community social audits	
	1.7 Survey report, Year 1	

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	1.7 Base line database available on attitude and perceptions on wildlife conservation; Year 1 1.8 ca.100 community officials will have increase knowledge on the importance of wildlife protection (5 workshops x 1 day each) & positive attitude and perceptions increased by 40%; Baseline Year 1; Results: Year 3	1.4.1 Training attendance reports 1.4.2 Local attitude and perceptions positive towards wildlife conservation as per perceptions and attitude survey by partner organizations; Year 3	
2. Established biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity	2.1 Science based data on the abundance and density of snow leopard, Himalayan wolf & common leopard and prey spp. - musk deer and Himalayan tahr available; Year 1&2: Snow leopard, Himalayan wolf & prey species; Year 3: Common leopard 2.2 Database on distribution and habitat of small carnivore communities available (This is linked to 2.1, camera trap data analyzed to produce report); Year 3 2.3 Database available on the functionality of the biological corridors in between Langtang and Sagarmatha National Parks; Year 2	2.1 Research reports/publications, 3 peer reviewed paper in International Journal by Year 3 2.2 Research report/publication 2.3.1 Research survey reports, Year 2 &3 2.3.2 Checklist of the status of large mammalian fauna and birds	No change in the NTNC mandate as main management authority Local community cooperation and support and safety of camera traps assured No natural disasters during the survey period

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		2.4. Survey report	
	2.4. Database on traditional fishing techniques and fish diversity of the major river systems available; Year 2		
	2.5 An updated biodiversity database available; Year 3	2.5.1 Biodiversity profile published from compilation of data from various research and surveys, Year 3	
		2.5.2. Biodiversity database available at GBIF portal, Year 3	
	2.6 22 CAMC conduct regular forest patrolling to control illegal activities (1 patrolling /CAMC/half yearly; 54 forest patrolling conducted), illegal activities decrease by 50% by Year 3. Baseline Year 1, Results Year 3	2.6 Community patrolling reports, Year 1, 2 & 3	
	2.7 ca. 60 people (stakeholders– government officials and security personnel) will have increase knowledge about the importance of conservation areas and biodiversity conservation; Year 1, 2 & 3	2.7 Meeting minutes/attendance records	
3. Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived	3.1 High impact areas of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and crop	3.1 HWC assessment report, Year 1	No change in the NTNC mandate as main management authority

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traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies	damage identified (Year 1 existing disaggregated data compilation and mapping)	3.2, High conflict area map	Local community cooperation and support
	3.2 ca. 180 HHs become aware of the government legal provision and punishment for killing wildlife and importance of wildlife conservation); Year 1–1, Year 2–2 & Year 3–2	3.2 Field reports/Annual reports/M&E reports	Timely execution of the activities by the communities
	3.3 ca.100 HHs have functional animal barriers like mounds, trenches and biological hedge fences around their farm; Year 1, 2 & 3. By the end of the project and beyond crop damage complaint decrease by 25% in the pilot site	3.3 Field reports/Annual reports, photographs	
	3.4 ca.100 HHs will practice traditional scaring methods to protect crop loss; Year 1, 2 & 3	3.4 Field reports/Annual reports, crop depredation records, photographs	
	3.5 250 HHs have predator proof corrals/cattle shed (250 HHs); Year 1, 2 & 3 (Baseline = 50-60 livestock depredation/year, Result: corrals depredation reduced by 75%)	3.5 Field reports/Annual reports, M&E reports, livestock depredation records, photographs	
	3.6 ca. 50 HHs have raised platform (machan) to guard crop	3.6 Field reports/Annual reports, M&E reports, crop depredation records, photographs	

	field in high conflict areas; Year 1, 2 & 3 Baseline Year 1; Results: Year 3 crop depredation reduce by 50% in pilot site) 3.7 ca. 60 herders will practice improved guarding techniques and documenting depredation losses at Lapchi valley and Marbu area; Year 1, 2 & 3 3.8 22 CAMCs will have relief fund operational for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation; Year 1 (Baseline = 50-60 depredation livestock/year, Human injury = 4-5/year. Local perceptions and attitudes towards wildlife become positive as measured from attitude and perceptions survey baseline survey (activity 1.7) 3.9 Livestock insurance schemes piloted in 50 HHs (ca.1500 livestock head insured) at Bulung and Chilankha (Note: This will be coordinated with the insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation against loss of livestock due to depredation);	3.7 Training attendance records, livestock depredation data, field reports/annual reports/photographs 3.8 CAMC annual audit reports; human injury and livestock depredation database 3.9 Insurance company contract; Annual reports; monitoring visit reports	

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	Year 1, 2 & 3		
4. Develop sustainable income generation scheme through green economy and enterprises	4.1 25 Conservation Farmers (CF) formalized, and have skills for nursery management and operation; Year 1 & 2	4.1 Training reports/Annual reports	Local community cooperation and acceptance
	4.2. 25 forest nurseries operational. By the end of the project 15 ha. degraded forest patches restored	4.2 50000 seedling production from Year 3 onwards; M&E reports; photographs	
	4.3 Site identified for developing one product one village based green; Year 1	4.3 Feasibility study report on one product one village	
	4.4 ca. 20 farmers start cultivation of high valued medicinal plants Timur pepper, and Argeli (Edgeworthia gardneri) as a pilot project; Timur pepper: Lumnang - 10 HHs; Year 2) ; Argeli: Chilankha - 10 HHs; Year 3	4.4 Annual reports/Photographs	
	4.5. ca.50 HHs start organic farming; Year 2 & 3	4.5 Annual reports/M&E reports/Photographs	
	4.6 ca.40 women HHs of Simigaun and Tashinam will have skills in making local	4.6.1 Training attendance reports 4.6.2 Market surveys report	

	handicraft (Knitting- caps, gloves, socks, bags) for income generation; Year 1: 2 trainings; Base line Year 1, Results Year 3	
	4.7 ca. 45 local youths will have capacity to work as a nature guide, Year 2 & 3	4.7 Training certificate
	4.8 ca. 30 km wildlife observation trail (Red panda, Himalayan tahr, musk deer and bird) branded and promoted; along with sign posting and wildlife display information board	4.8.1 Information update in partner organization webpage 4.8.2 Three functional wildlife observation trails/tourist records 4.8.3 Annual reports/Photographs
	Bird trail: Simigaun to Beding Ca. 10 km; 5 information display board; Year 1; Baseline tourist record Year 1, Results Year 2&3 and beyond	
	Red panda trail: Marbu Ca. 10km; 8 information display board; Year 2; Baseline tourist record Year 2, Results Year 3 and beyond	
	Musk deer and Himalayan tahr trail: Lapchi valley Ca. 10km; 7 information display board; Year	

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	3; Baseline tourist record Year 2, Results Year 3 and beyond 4.9 10 homestays functional in Lapchi valley & Rolwaling valley; Year 2, Base line Year 2, Results Year 3 4.10 ca. 92 homestays owners capacitated in hospitality, lodge management and cooking/baking; Year 2:4 training; Year 3: 2 trainings; Baseline Year 1, Results Year 3	4.9 Visitors/tourist perceptions survey; monitoring reports 4.10.1 Current economic status and wellbeing ranking report, Year 1 4.10.2 Training attendance reports 4.10.3 Monitoring visitors/tourist records	

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

Output 1. Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in through trainings, and awareness programme
Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Activity 1.1. Survey and monitoring training (Camera traps, GPS, data punching) to selected communities' members (n=5), Year 1 & 2
Activity 1.2. Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance (n=10), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 1.3. Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings (n=15), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 1.4. Provide training to project staff on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance (n=1), Year 2
Activity 1.5. Provide training to CAMCs and community group members on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance, Year 2 & 3
Activity 1.6. Forest fire control trainings and support (n=22), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 1.7. Attitude and perceptions survey, Year 1
Activity 1.8. Trainings on behavioral change and attitude towards wildlife conservation (Community level), Year 1, 2 & 3

Output 2. Established biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity

Activity 2.1. Conduct status research of megafauna (snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, common leopard & prey species musk deer and Himalayan tahr), Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 2.2. Conduct research for assessing the small carnivore community, Year 1 & 2
Activity 2.3. Conduct inventory/survey to monitor status of birds & large mammalian fauna in corridor between two protected areas, i.e., LNP and SNP, Year 2
Activity 2.4. Document traditional fishing techniques and assess fish diversity of the Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system, Year 2
Activity 2.5. Publish biodiversity profile of the region & database linked to GBIF portal, Year 3
Activity 2.6. Support CAMCs and FMsCs for regular forest patrolling operation, Year 1, 2 & 3
Activity 2.7. Coordination meeting among government officials and security personnel to establish information networks to control illegal activities (n=3), Year 1, 2 & 3

Output 3. Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies
Activity 3.1. Identify high impact areas of human wildlife conflict and crop damage, Year 1 & 2

Activity 3.2. Conduct awareness programmes on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing (n=10), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 3.3. Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches and biological hedge fences around their farm (n=100 HHs), Year 1, 2 &3

Activity 3.4. Training to encourage and support locals to continue traditional scaring methods (shouting, beating drums and metal pots, installing scarecrows, boom rang, fireball etc.) against crop depredation (n=5, 100 HHs), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 3.5. Support on construction of predator proof corrals/cattle shed (250 HHs), Year 1, 2 & 3)

Activity 3.6. Support locals to build raised platforms (machans) to guard crop field (50 HHs), Year 1, 2 & 3)

Activity 3.7. Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats (n=3), Year 1, 2 &3

Activity 3.8. Establish and operationalize relief fund at each CAMCs for providing compensations for human injury and livestock depredation, Year 1

Activity 3.9. Coordinate with insurance companies to implement insurance scheme for providing compensation to the residents for loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation and premium support, Year 1, 2 & 3

Output 4. Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises
Activity 4.1. Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training, (n=5). Year 1 & 2

Activity 4.2. Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level (25 nurseries), Year 1 & 2

Activity 4.3. Study for identification of economic viable vegetables and spices production (i.e., one village one product) and market linkages, Year 1

Activity 4.4. Promote cultivation of high valued medicinal plants (e.g., Argeli, Timut pepper) in two pilot sites, Year 2 & 3

Activity 4.5. Support and promote organic farming (e.g., potato, red chilli pepper) in two pilot sites, Lapchi and Rolwaling valley (50 HHs), Year 2 & 3

Activity 4.6. Conduct skill-based training (local knitting/handicrafts) to women of Simigaun and Tashinam and link with local market (n=2), Year 1

Activity 4.7. Conduct nature guide training to local youths (n-=3), Year 2 & 3

Activity 4.8. Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr /Birds' trails), Year 1, 2 & 3

Activity 4.9. Support locals for establishing new homestay & teashops (10 HHs), Year 2

Activity 4.10. Provide training to home-stay owner in hospitality, lodge management and cooking/baking (n=6, 92 HHs), Year 2 & 3