Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	30-026
Project title	Conserving biodiversity through community engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Organisation	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Project partner(s)	
Darwin Initiative grant value	£427,800.00
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2023/31 December 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 – March 2025, Annual Report – 2
Project Leader name	Dr. Madhu Chetri
Project website/blog/social media	The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)
Report author(s) and date	Dr. Madhu Chetri and Mr. Prawesh Poudel, 30-04-2025

1. Project summary

The Gaurishankar Conservation Area (GCA) that serves as a biological corridor between two national parks, namely Langtang National Park (LNP) in the west and Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) in the east possess paramount stature in terms of biological diversity. The region was officially designated as a Conservation Area by the Government of Nepal in January 2010. Geographically, spanning from 85°46.8′ to 86°34.8′ east longitude and 27°34.2′ to 28°10′ north latitude, encompassing a total area of 2,179 square kilometers. The GCA comprises three major physiographic zones: the High Himalaya, High Mountain, and Middle Mountain, extending across portions of three administrative districts, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, and Ramechhap, representing a diverse range of altitudinal gradients and ecological systems. The project "Conserving Biodiversity through Community Engagement in Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal" targets critical biodiversity challenges exacerbated by habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflicts, and

poaching. The challenges are relevant to various stakeholders, including local communities, conservation organizations, and governmental bodies, as they threaten both ecosystems and the livelihoods of those reliant on natural resources. By enhancing local institutions' capacity, assessing biodiversity status, investigating drivers of human-wildlife conflict, and creating green job opportunities, the project aims not only to conserve biodiversity but also to address human development challenges such as poverty reduction. The identification of these problems likely involved a comprehensive assessment of environmental, social, and economic factors, and the project operates within the diverse ecosystems of the GCA, Nepal.

Large infrastructure developments, high dependency on forest resources, and a low level of awareness among communities threaten the habitats of species of global significance in GCA. To address these concerns, a multi-faceted approach was taken. Scientific research and data analysis were conducted to assess biodiversity, while consultations with local communities, conservation organizations, and governmental bodies provided insights into socio-economic dynamics and knowledge. Field assessments and participatory workshops were used to gather qualitative data from stakeholders. This collaborative and interdisciplinary approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues facing biodiversity conservation and human development in the area.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project has had significant milestones, including successful implementation of various initiatives, impactful interventions, and measurable outcomes in the target areas. For the effective implementation of the project programs, there have been valuable contributions of different stakeholders. All stakeholders have been actively involved in project planning, monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making processes.

The list of partners and stakeholders who supported all project programs are:

- **Lead partner:** The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) is an autonomous, non-profit organization convened with the responsibility of conserving Nepal's natural resources. With a proven track record of implementing nearly 300 conservation initiatives of diverse scale and scope, NTNC has demonstrated significant expertise and an extensive operational network. As the principal management authority for the GCA, NTNC is responsible for ensuring the effective and timely execution of the project, including regular reporting. Field operations are coordinated through its dedicated field office located within the GCA.
- **Partner name:** The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) plays a facilitative and coordinating role in ensuring the smooth implementation of the project by engaging relevant government stakeholders and line agencies. In addition to its coordination efforts, DNPWC provides essential technical guidance to support project planning and execution. The department is also responsible for issuing necessary research permits, thereby enabling scientific studies and monitoring activities within the project area. Its involvement ensures alignment with national conservation policies and regulatory compliance throughout the project's duration
- **Partner name:** Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN), Norway is mainly responsible for technical backstopping in research design and statistical analysis.
- **Stakeholders:** CAMCs/FMSCs: Conservation Area Management Committees (CAMCs)/ Forest Management Sub-Committees (FMSCs) are the primary stakeholders of the GCA. These institutions are the legal institutions formed under the Conservation Area Management Regulations, 1996 of the Government of Nepal.
- **Local communities:** Local communities are the primary stakeholders as they are directly benefited by the project's outcomes. Their involvement ensures that interventions are culturally appropriate and meet their actual needs.

- **Government bodies:** Public institutions, including local government bodies, play a vital role in policy implementation and resource allocation. Collaboration with public institutions involves coordinating activities, and advocating for policy changes that support the project's objectives.

The project has actively engaged stakeholders to enhance awareness and understanding of the interconnectedness of biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. A multi-faceted communication and outreach strategy was employed to ensure that messages were effectively conveyed and comprehended across various stakeholder groups, including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions.
To assess whether stakeholders have understood and internalized the messages, the project applied, the feedback sessions to gauge clarity and relevance of communication tools and behavioural indicators such as, evidence of changed practices, such as adoption of sustainable resource use or participation in conservation activities, served as indirect indicators of message comprehension and impact.

3. Project progress

In the second year, the project has made substantial progress across all key components, mainly focusing on enhancing awareness and trainings in human wildlife conflict management, nature-based tourism promotion, livelihood upliftment, wildlife crime control, animal management, rescues and rehabilitation, food security, and implementing infrastructure development initiatives. These efforts are geared towards achieving the overall impact of the goal of conserving biodiversity and enhancing the well-being and livelihoods of marginalized communities. Outcome indicators have been established to measure progress towards this goal, including the enhancement of the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal through training, and awareness programs, establish biodiversity database and maintaining corridors and connectivity, and enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies. Moreover, Output indicators have been identified to track specific project activities, such as the number of training workshops conducted, wildlife crime control measures implemented, natured-based tourism initiatives launched, GESI, research, educational and community infrastructure projects completed, and households participating in sustainable agriculture and livelihood programs. By focusing on these indicators, the project aims to ensure tangible outcomes for sustainable biodiversity conservation and improving livelihood in the target communities.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

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:

Similar, to the first year, on the second year also participants were trained in camera trapping, site selection, GPS handling, and data collection. Conducting the training in the field enabled participants to engage with their local environment, addressing real-world conservation challenges and developing practical solutions. The main objectives of the training were to encourage local stakeholders to actively participate in biodiversity conservation efforts, equipping with foundational knowledge of camera traps, GPS handling, and data collection. Enhance participants' ability to implement research-based biodiversity conservation practices. Five events of survey and monitoring training was conducted in Dolakha, in which total 88 participants (85 M and 3 F) were trained to use Camera traps, gps and collect scientific data on the field. Understanding the important use of camera traps and gps, 34 males from the Nepal police were also cater in the training.

1.2: Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance.

Nine events of Leadership & advocacy training were held in December, 2024 in Dolakha and Sindhupalchok of GCA. Altogether 220 participants (2M, 218F) participated in the training. This program aimed to improve leadership skills, build advocacy, and promote biodiversity conservation. In addition to the leadership and advocacy training 11 women from Alampu were also trained in making of bags out of Allo fabric. The allo bag training was conducted in collaboration with CAMC Alampu, from 31st Dec 2024 to 13th Feb 2025. After the completion of the training participants were provided with completion certificates. Allo bag making and promotion training is expected to help women of Alampu in income generation and improve livelihood.

1.3: Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings.

The project has funded fourteen students pursuing bachelor's degree (9M, 5F) from government affiliated universities to conduct research on five different topics: avifaunal diversity of GCA, herpeto-fauna, status and distribution of wetlands in GCA, evaluation of impact of eco-tourism in economy of GCA, impact of linear infrastructure in GCA's biodiversity. The grants aim to fill-in the biodiversity data gap in GCA, enhancing students' skills and promoting scientific research.

1.5: Provide training to CAMCs and community group members on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance

Total thirty-eight units of leadership & advocacy trainings were held in Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Ramechhap of GCA. The trainings held, saw the participation of altogether 989 individuals, comprising of 391 females and 598 males. The main objectives of the trainings were to foster a deeper community understanding of inclusive conservation approaches and lay the groundwork for more participatory and rights-based governance. The continuous training of this kind build on this momentum are expected to particularly focus on active engagement of women and marginalized groups in local conservation leadership.

1.6: Forest fire control trainings and support

Altogether 19 units of forest fire control training and support was provided to the CAMC, Nepal police and local people inside GCA. Out of 19 units, 15 units were conducted Dolakha, 3 in Sindhupalchok and 1 in Ramechhap district to tackle the forest fire in the fire prone areas of the GCA. Total, 345 individuals, 251 individuals (99 M, 152 F) in 15 events from Dolakha, 70 individuals (56 M, 14 F) in 3 events from Sindhupalchok and 24 individuals (20 M, 4 F) in 1 event from Ramechhap participated in of forest fire management training and learned to use fire control tools. The training was provided to the first responders, local people and students to use fire control equipment. The forest fire equipment was distributed to the respective CAMC and first responders after the conduction of training. For the list of forest fire equipment procured, *please see evidence file Activity 1.6)*

1.8: Trainings on behavioural change and attitude towards wildlife conservation (Community level)

This training sessions conducted in thirteen different CAMC and CFMSc from 26th to 30th of December 2024 saw an enthusiastic and active participation of the 351 local people comprising of 126 females and 225 males. The training was successful in shading lights upon the theory of behavioural change and influence of human behaviour in the wildlife. This session aimed to build an understanding of how behaviour change can be achieved at the individual and community levels.

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)

The GCA supports a rich diversity of mammalian species, including several megafaunas. However, there is currently a lack of comprehensive data regarding their diversity, abundance, and distribution. To address this gap, research was initiated to assess the status and distribution patterns of megafauna across altitudinal gradients within the GCA using camera trap surveys. In the second year of the project, camera traps were deployed across 35 grids, each measuring 2x2 km, with each trap operating for 30 trap-nights. Additional camera traps are being deployed to expand the study and cover a larger area within the GCA. The research is expected to continue into its third year to build a more complete understanding of megafauna ecology in the region.
Some of the capital equipment such as Camera traps and GPS are still under procurement process, lengthy procurement process, has hampered the research causing it to delay.

2.2: Conduct research for assessing distribution and habitat of the small carnivore community

The GCA is home to a diverse range of small mammal species, including rodents and shrews. Understanding the small mammal community is essential for assessing the overall health of the ecosystem, identifying key species of conservation concern, and implementing targeted conservation strategies. With the objective of assessing small mammals of GCA, camera trap survey was conducted in the Marbu region. Total of 10 camera traps were installed in the area for 30 camera trap nights. The deployment of the camera traps will continue to the further areas of GCA in the third year.

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

A grant has been allocated and agreement has been signed between NTNC-GCAP and Nature Himalayas to monitor the status of the avifaunal diversity in GCA. The findings of this research will be crucial for developing effective conservation strategies for the future.

2.4: Document traditional fishing techniques and assess fish diversity of the Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system

MOU has been signed between TU-CDES and NTNC-GCAP to monitor the status of the fish diversity of the Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system in GCA. The findings of this research will be crucial for developing effective conservation strategies for the future.

2.6: Support CAMC and FMsC for regular forest patrolling operations

The GCA faces a critical challenge with the escalating threat of illegal poaching and inadequate forest patrolling. Despite its ecological significance and diverse wildlife, the delicate balance of this pristine environment is continuously disrupted by illicit activities that jeopardize the survival of endangered species. This year the project supported in the conduction of 50 events of forest patrolling in all over GCA.

2.7: Coordination meeting among government officials and security personnel to establish information networks to control illegal activities

Illegal wildlife trade poses a significant threat to global biodiversity, particularly in ecologically rich regions of Nepal like GCA. The GCA, home to rare species like the Red Panda and Snow Leopard, faces increasing challenges due to its proximity to key trade routes, limited enforcement capacity, and gaps in legal frameworks. Due to its strategic geographic location, GCA has become a critical transit point for trafficking endangered species and their derivatives. To address these challenges, the National Trust for Nature Conservation - Gaurishankar Conservation Area

Project (NTNC-GCAP) is working to enhance grassroots and institutional efforts to combat wildlife crime. By strengthening collaboration among enforcement agencies, government officials, and local communities, NTNC-GCAP aims to establish a robust and sustainable response to wildlife trafficking and poaching. Three events of coordination meeting was conducted in Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, and Ramechhap with enforcement agencies, government officials, and local communities in which total 71 individuals (63M, 8F) participated.

Outcome 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

Human wildlife conflict data were collected from all the three districts of GCA for the purpose of habitat mapping. Total to 244 incidents of conflicts were report which accumulated of 206 incidents of livestock depredation and the remaining 38 cases of crop raiding by wildlife, this year there weren't any reported cases of conflict on human.

The economic repercussions of HWC are significant. Between April 2024 to March 2025, compensation claimed for conflict caused by wildlife in GCA amounted to NPR 71,45,714 while the total compensation amounted to NPR 7,02,000, which comprised of NPR 6,07,000 for livestock depredation and NPR 95,000 for crop raiding respectively. The introduction of a new compensation policy in 2019 by government of Nepal led to the annual increase in reported wildlife attacks, with a notable surge in leopard-related incidents. Besides that, the compensation policy is still like a mirage in the desert for the poor farmers living in GCA due to its inaccessibility.

3.2: Conduct awareness programmes on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing.

The awareness program on Human-Wildlife Conflict (Retaliatory Killing) was conducted on 20 the September, 2024 on the second quarter. Out of total 34 participants, 31 were males whereas only 3 females participated in the event. Similarly, 13 units of awareness activity was conducted in different locations of GCA, from 28th to 30th of December, which saw the participation of total 351 local stakeholders comprising of 126 females and 225 males. Events similar to these are the crucial steps towards fostering coexistence between local communities and wildlife. By equipping participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect their livestock and crops can change their attitudes toward predators. The program has laid a foundation for sustainable conflict mitigation.

3.3 Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches, and biological hedge fences around their farms

The project has successfully signed an agreement with the five-conservation area management committee and sub committees of GCA to support local communities in constructing biological fence which will serve as barriers to keep the wildlife out of the reach of human settlements. Out of five CAMC, sub-committee Gidde-salleri of Ladukh CAMC has successfully finished the plantation to create 100 meters of fence in conflict prone sites and plan to extend it further in the third year of the project. Remaining four sub-committees plan to finish the plantation in near future. To facilitate this, the project conducted meetings to engage with community members and carefully select appropriate sites and plant species, for the installation of the biological fences. Based on local people's suggestions, demand, and geographical considerations, the program will involve planting variety of species such as Timur, Nil kaanda, Ketuki, Hattibar, Chutro, and Nigalo to create effective barriers that protect crops.

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

The program aims to train local people of GCA on controlling human-wildlife conflict using traditional scaring techniques to chase them away. With that, the project has signed agreement with CAMC Orang and Bulung and soon it will provide training and empower communities with the skills to use and revive the traditional scaring methods. The training is culturally relevant and aims to empower communities with the skills to use these methods. Different traditional scaring method techniques such as installing scarecrows, beating drums and metal plates, creating scaring whole etc. to control human-wildlife conflict in their villages.

3.5: Support on construction of predator proof corrals/cattle shed

The construction of a predator-proof corral (PPC) has proven to be effective in reducing livestock depredation hence mitigating human-wildlife conflict. The project continued support to the construction of predator proof corrals in the second year too. Due to high demand from the local people, 124 PPC were constructed in the high conflict areas, mostly focusing on the economically marginalized families. With labour contribution from each family the project was able to construct PPC in Orang, Suri, Chankhu, Alampu, Lamabagar, Bigu, Khare and Gaurishankar CAMC.

3.6: Support locals to build raised platform (machans) to guard crop field

The Project has successfully finished the construction of 20 Machans in Suri, Gaurishankar, Lamabagar, Chankhu, Orang, Khare and Bulung. The design of the watch towers (machans) with all construction norms were provided by the project to the CAMC. The objective of machan construction is to effectively guard crop fields, ensuring the safety and security of the crops from crop raiding from wildlife. This initiative has not only empowered the community but also enhanced the protection of the agricultural produce, leading to increased yields and improved livelihoods for the farmers.

3.7: Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats

The training helps herders understand the importance of balanced grazing practices, leading to improved pasture productivity, reduced land degradation, and overall ecosystem resilience. Same as previous year, three events of training of similar kind were conducted in Marbu, Ladukh and Lamabagar. Altogether 62 yak herders (50 M, 12 F) benefited from the trainings provided. Along with the training 35 yak herders were distributed with safety harness used for climbing the trees while collecting fodders for their livestock.

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

The program has successfully initiated coordination with insurance companies to implement an insurance scheme for providing compensation to residents for the loss of livestock due to wildlife depredation. As part of this initiative, this year the program operationalized the insurance scheme by providing 12.5% premium support to 38 herders from GCA, ensuring contract agreement among the herders.

Output 4: Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises

4.1: Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training

A total of 54 individuals (45M, 9F) were trained in nursery management through the formation of conservation farmer groups. The groups were identified from Marbu (14 CFs), Chankhu (23 CFs), and Lamabagar (17 CFs). The CFs are actively involved in the production of a variety of plant species and involved in nursery management activities. The farmer groups were supported with 1500 meter of HDP pipe, 328 sq.mt of Mesh fencing., and 4 pcs of 6X10 meters heavy duty plastics to construct conservation pond for irrigation purposes.

4.2: Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level

In the second year the project supported the establishment of three multipurpose nurseries in the community level, one in Suri, Dolakha, one in Sindhupalchok and one in chuchure, Ramechhap districts of GCA. These multipurpose nurseries will serve as a central hub for providing a variety of seedings for conservation farmer groups, and hydropower developers. It will also support plantation, afforestation and reforestation in FMSCs and also support community groups in their agriculture and environmental efforts.

4.4: Promote cultivation of high valued medicinal plants (e.g., Argeli, Timur pepper) in 2 pilot sites

To help local communities generate income through cultivation, the project has selected two sites: Chankhu and Suri. In Chankhu, 2,000 Timur seedlings were provided for planting, benefiting 60 households. In addition, the program in Suri involved planting Argeli plants, with approximately 7,000 seedlings and cuttings distributed across four different locations. This initiative will directly benefit 50 farmers in Suri through the Argeli plantation.

4.5: Support and promote organic farming (potato and red chilli pepper) in two pilot sites, Lapchi and Rolwaling valley, n=50 HHs

The agreement has been signed with three CAMC, Gaurishankar, Bigu and Lamabagar to support to promote organic farming of Potatoes and chilli pepper. 20 HH from Gaurishankar will be supported for Potato farming whereas, 15 HH from Bigu and 15 HH from Lamabagar will be supported for Chilli pepper farming.

4.7: Conduct nature guide training to local youths

With the aim of developing a deep understanding of local culture, biodiversity, and wildlife, while equipping participants with practical skills in plants, bird and wildlife identification, a six-days long Nature Guide Training program was conducted. The training was held from 20th to 26th March 2025, at the Gaurishankar Conservation Area Project's (GCAP) headquarter in Singati, Dolakha. The training sought to promote conservation awareness, enhance eco-tourism experiences through knowledgeable nature guides, and support sustainable income-generating opportunities for the local economy. A total of 13 youths from the GCA region participated in the training, including 11 males and 2 females.

4.8: Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr/Birds trails)

Two, new ecotourism trails have been identified in the GCA. First one connecting Kuri, Kalinchok temple, one of the renowned tourist destinations in Dolakha to Thingsang. The trail has high possibility of sighting various bird and mammal species. Currently incinerators and signposting are being designed for the first five-kilometre section of the trail. Similarly, in Marbu region of GCA another eco-trail of two-kilometre length has been identified. Marbu region is locally famous for sightings of Red Pandas, has suitable habitats.

4.9. Provide training to home-stay owner in hospitality, lodge management and cooking/baking

In the second year of the project, a series of training programs focused on cooking, health and sanitation, and homestay management were conducted across various locations within the GCA. A total of four four-day events were organized across three districts: two in Dolakha, one in Ramechhap, and one in Sindhupalchok. Altogether, 92 households benefited from the training, 57 from Dolakha, 20 from Ramechhap, and 15 from Sindhupalchok. The primary objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of local residents in effectively managing homestays within the GCA, with the aim of promoting community-based tourism.

In addition to the training sessions, support was also provided to 10 homestay enterprises operating within the conservation area.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation in through trainings, and awareness programme

of the project is designed to strengthen both national and local capacities for mountain biodiversity conservation in Nepal. In this year of the project, this objective was pursued through a range of targeted activities, including specialized training programs, workshops, and awareness-raising campaigns. These initiatives aimed to equip local stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to effectively manage and protect mountain ecosystems

1.1: Survey and monitoring training (Camera traps, GPS, data punching) to selected communities' members

Baseline Condition: Community members lacked skills in using camera traps, GPS, and data recording techniques.
Change Recorded: Multiple training sessions were conducted at different locations, equipping participants with the necessary skills.
Sources of Evidence: Trainees attended sheet and reports.
Measurement of output indicators: Monitoring the number of trained individuals actively participating in biodiversity and monitoring.

1.2: Leadership and advocacy training to CAMCs, FMsCs and mother groups on biodiversity conservation and its significance.

Baseline Condition: Lack of leadership skills and advocacy knowledge among CAMCs, FMSCs, and Mother Group
Changed Recorded: demonstration of increased knowledge in leadership capacity in biodiversity conservation.
Source of Evidence: Trainees attended sheet and reports.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of individuals trained in leadership and advocacy on biodiversity.

1.3: Support to bachelor's and master's students in research and trainings

Baseline Condition: Limited research on various aspects of biodiversity in the GCA.
Changed Recorded: Fourteen students were funded to conduct research on different biodiversity topics, aiming to fill data gaps and enhance research skills.
Source of Evidence: Research proposals, presentations and their project reports.
Measurements of output indicators: Tracking the number of research projects completed and their impact on biodiversity conservation efforts.

1.4: Provide training to project staff on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance

Baseline Condition: Project staff had limited knowledge or no formal training received on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based approaches, or good governance at the start of the project. Changed Recorded: Project staff received structured training sessions focused on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy and programming, and good governance. As a result, staff demonstrated improved understanding and practical application of inclusive, equitable, and rights-based approaches in project activities and stakeholder engagement.

Source of Evidence: Attendance records and training reports. Observations from project supervisors.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of project activities incorporating gender, inclusion, or governance principles post-training

1.5: Provide training to CAMCs and community group members on gender and social inclusion, human rights, rights-based advocacy & programming, good governance

Baseline Condition: Community group members and CAMC representatives had limited awareness in applying gender-sensitive, socially inclusive, rights-based, and good governance principles in conservation and development activities.
Changed Recorded: CAMC members and community representatives received structured training that improved their understanding of gender equality, social inclusion, human rights, rights-based programming, and good governance.
Source of Evidence: Training attendance records and signed participant lists including reports and facilitator observations.
Measurements of output indicators: Qualitative feedback from participants on relevance and application of training along with increase in the number of inclusive participations in CAMC meetings.

1.6: Forest fire control trainings and support

Baseline Condition: Limited awareness, skills, and equipment among local communities and stakeholders to effectively prevent, manage, or respond to forest fires.
Changed Recorded: Targeted trainings on forest fire prevention and control techniques were conducted, enhancing the capacity of local communities and first responders. In addition, essential firefighting tools and equipment were distributed.
Source of Evidence: Training attendance sheets and reports along with fire control equipment distribution records.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of fire control tools distributed and number of local people participated in the training.

1.8: Trainings on behavioural change and attitude towards wildlife conservation (Community level)

Baseline Condition: At the local level, there was limited awareness on the ecological and economic importance of wildlife conservation, which contributed in conflicts and retaliatory killings.
Changed Recorded: Community members demonstrated improved understanding and more positive attitudes toward wildlife with Increased participation in community-based conservation activities.
Source of Evidence: Training participants attendance and monitoring records on human-wildlife conflict.
Measurements of output indicators: Increase in numbers of reported cases of injured wildlife rather than that of a retaliatory killing.

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)

Baseline Condition: There was a lack of updated, site-specific scientific data on the population status, distribution, and ecology of megafauna and their prey species within the GCA.
Changed Recorded: Field-based research is under progress using camera traps and ecological modelling. Source of Evidence: Field survey reports, Camera trap images, scientific publications, GPS data and habitat maps

Measurements of output indicators: Number of species-specific status assessments completed and research findings shared.

2.2: Conduct research for assessing distribution and habitat of the small carnivore community

Baseline Condition: Lack of scientific comprehensive data on the distribution, abundance, and habitat preferences of small carnivore species within the project area.
Changed Recorded: Field research is under progress to gather data on the distribution, population densities, and habitat utilization of small carnivores
Source of Evidence: Research reports and field survey findings, camera traps photo evidence.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of species surveyed and identified within the small carnivore community

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

Baseline Condition: lack of scientific data on the status of birds and mammalian fauna
Changed Recorded: grant provided for the assessment of status of birds in GCA
Source of Evidence: status of bird assessment grant announcement.
Measurements of output indicators: Research findings to inform conservation strategies.

2.4: Document traditional fishing techniques and assess fish diversity of the Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system

Baseline Condition: lack of fish diversity data of GCA
Changed Recorded: grant provided for the assessment of status of Fish diversity in Singati, Tamakoshi and Lapchi river system
Source of Evidence: status of fish diversity assessment grant announcement
Measurements of output indicators: research findings to inform conservative strategies.

2.6: Support CAMC and FMsC for regular forest patrolling operations

Baseline Condition: Prior to project implementation, forest patrolling activities were inconsistent, with limited capacity and resources available to the CAMC and FMsC.
Changed Recorded: Increased forest patrol frequency and improved monitoring efforts helped detect and mitigate illegal activities.
Source of Evidence: Patrol logs and reports documenting patrol frequency and areas covered
Measurements of output indicators: Increase in the numbers of forest patrolling.

2.7: Coordination meeting among government officials and security personnel to establish information networks to control illegal activities

Baseline Condition: Prior to the project, coordination among government officials, local authorities, and security personnel was limited. Lack of communication and information sharing regarding illegal activities.
Changed Recorded: Regular coordination meetings were held among government officials, law enforcement agencies, and security personnel, which facilitated the establishment of information-sharing network.
Source of Evidence: Meeting minutes and attendance records from coordination meetings
Measurements of output indicators: Number of coordination meetings held with government and security personnel.

Outcome 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

Baseline Condition: Lack of data on specific areas where human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and crop damage were most prevalent.
Changed Recorded: Through field surveys, community consultations, and data collection, high-impact areas of human-wildlife conflict and crop damages were systematically identified and mapped.
Source of Evidence: livestock depredation and crop damage reports and incident logs along with maps identifying high-risk areas for livestock depredation and crop damage
Measurements of output indicators: Number of identified high-impact areas and wildlife species involved in livestock depredation and crop damage

3.2: Conduct awareness programmes on human wildlife conflicts at community level, especially targeting issues related to retaliatory killing.

Baseline Condition: Before the project, communities had limited awareness of the consequences of retaliatory killings and the importance of coexisting with wildlife.
Changed Recorded: Community-level awareness programs were carried out, educating local populations about the negative impacts of retaliatory killing and promoting non-violent methods for resolving human-wildlife conflicts.
Source of Evidence: Participants attendance sheets and training materials
Measurements of output indicators: Number of awareness programs conducted, disaggregated by ethnicity and gender

3.3 Provide support to local communities to construct animal barriers like mounds, trenches, and biological hedge fences around their farms

Baseline Condition: Prior to the project's support, local people lacked effective physical barriers to prevent wildlife from entering their farms land and villages, conflict was prevalent.
Changed Recorded: With the project's support, local communities have started constructing biological hedge fences as animal barriers, around their farms.
Source of Evidence: Photos and agreements with CAMC.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of farms benefiting from the barriers

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

Baseline Condition: very few local people used and practiced traditional methods to deter wildlife, these techniques are often underutilized due to lack of awareness and enthusiasm.
Changed Recorded: after the training, local communities revitalized the traditional scaring methods.
Source of Evidence: photos and videos
Measurements of output indicators: Number of community members trained in traditional scaring methods

3.5: Support on construction of predator proof corrals/cattle shed

Baseline Condition: Livestock depredation by carnivores in the project area.
Changed Recorded: Provision of materials and technical assistance for construction of 124 predator proof corrals in the 2nd year.
Source of Evidence: Implementation progress report, minute from CAMC, agreements and photos.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of predator-proof structures built and reduction in livestock losses.

3.6: Support locals to build raised platform (machans) to guard crop field

Baseline Condition: Crop damage by wildlife species.

Changed Recorded: Provision of the building materials, training and assistance provided to locals for construction of raised platforms
Source of Evidence: CAMC minutes, agreement, photos, work completion reports.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of machans built and decrease in crop damage incidents.

3.7: Training to farmers for regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitats

Baseline Condition: Unregulated grazing leading to habitat degradation.
Changed Recorded: Conducting training sessions on sustainable grazing and material support to habitat management.
Source of Evidence: Training attendance records and material support bills
Measurements of output indicators: Number of farmers trained and trained farmers adopting regulated grazing

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

Baseline Condition: Prior to the intervention, communities had limited access to livestock insurance coverage against wildlife depredation by wild carnivores.
Changed Recorded: A partnership was established with insurance companies to roll out a livestock insurance scheme tailored to wildlife depredation. Community members were enrolled, and partial premium support was provided to encourage participation.
Source of Evidence: List of insured households and livestock enrolled in the scheme
Measurements of output indicators: Number of households/livestock enrolled in the insurance scheme

Output 4: Alternative livelihood options through green economy and enterprises

4.1: Form conservation farmer (CF) groups and provide nursery management training

Baseline Condition: Limited engagement of farmers in conservation activities.
Changed Recorded: Establishment of CF groups and provision of nursery management training.
Source of Evidence: CF group formation records
Measurements of output indicators: Number and type of nurseries established or supported

4.2: Support CF for establishment of multipurpose nursery at community level

Baseline Condition: Lack of access to quality nursery plants for conservation purposes.
Changed Recorded: Assistance provided to CAMC for setting up a multipurpose nursery
Source of Evidence: Nursery establishment progress reports.
Measurements of output indicators: Functionality of the nursery and availability of diverse plant species.

4.4: Promote cultivation of high valued medicinal plants (e.g., Argeli, Timur pepper) in 2 pilot sites

Baseline Condition: cultivation of high-value medicinal plants like Argeli and Timur pepper was minimal or absent in the target pilot sites.
Changed Recorded: Two pilot sites were established to promote the cultivation of Argeli and Timur pepper. Selected farmers were trained on propagation, cultivation practices, harvesting, and sustainable management techniques.
Source of Evidence: Minutes of pilot site establishment and farmer participation, photographs, GPS coordinates.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of pilot sites established and operational, number of seedlings supported

4.5: Support and promote organic farming (potato and red chilli pepper) in two pilot sites, Lapchi and Rolwaling valley, n=50 HHs

Baseline Condition: farming in Lapchi and Rolwaling Valley largely relied on conventional practices with limited knowledge of organic farming methods.
Changed Recorded: Total numbers of households across Lapchi and Rolwaling Valley selected and trained in organic farming practices focused on potato and red chilli pepper cultivation.
Source of Evidence: Annual reports/M&E reports/Photographs
Measurements of output indicators: Number of households trained and supported.

4.7: Conduct nature guide training to local youths

Baseline Condition: Absence or lack of numbers of nature guides in GCA.
Changed Recorded: A nature guide training program was conducted for selected local youths, focusing on biodiversity knowledge, bird and plant identification, guiding techniques, and eco-tourism principles.
Source of Evidence: Attendance records, certifications, photographs, of trained participants
Measurements of output indicators: Number of youths trained as nature guides and number of training sessions or field excursions conducted.

4.8: Identify and signposting for important ecotourism trails and branding (musk deer trails, red panda trails, Himalayan tahr/Birds trails)

Baseline Condition: Limited visibility and accessibility of ecotourism sites.
Source of Evidence: Trail mapping documentation and branding initiatives.
Change Recorded: Identification and signposting of key ecotourism trails.
Measurement of output indicators: Improved trail and visitor engagement

4.9. Provide training to home-stay owner in hospitality, lodge management and cooking/baking

Baseline Condition: very few homestay owners in the GCA had limited knowledge and skills in hospitality services, food hygiene, guest management, and culinary.
Changed Recorded: training programs were conducted for homestay owners, focusing on key aspects of hospitality, lodge management, and basic to intermediate cooking and baking skills.
Source of Evidence: Training reports and attendance records, photographs.
Measurements of output indicators: Number of participants, homestay owners and training sessions conducted.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project outcome intends to enhance a science-based biodiversity database, till date the project has supported 22 students pursuing Bachelor's and Master's degree, including 1 PhD research, which has helped gather the baseline information to build the biodiversity profile of GCA in third year of the project. It has also capacitated 88 community members in wildlife survey and monitoring, local community members are capable in using camera traps, GPS and documentation of the data collected. The project aims to reduce human wildlife conflict and increase co-existence, till date the project has already catered at least 200 households with predator proof corrals and by the end of the third year the HWC conflict is expected to reduce significantly. Supporting for predator proof corrals along with awareness on retaliatory killing will foster positive attitude towards wildlife to achieve coexistence between wildlife and local communities.

With an intention of reducing local people's dependency on the forest for fodders and fuel wood collections, the project has supported for the establishment of three multipurpose nursery and training of 45 local people in nursery management. These nurseries will help provide seedlings to the conservation farmers groups and hydropower projects and promote plantations in the barren lands. Homestay management and culinary trainings has been provided to 92 families involved in homestay business and 10 families with homestay enterprise were provided with support. Similarly, 43 days long training was provided to the women group in making of bags and other garments out of Allo (a plant-based fabric). This year 11 women participated in the training

which is expected to improve the economy and livelihood. Additionally, two sites have been identified for the cultivation of Argeli and Timur pepper and support has been provided to help and promote local economy and provide local people with alternative livelihood.

By the end of the project funding period, the project aims to achieve enhanced coexistence between wildlife and local communities, leading to a significant reduction in human-wildlife conflict incidents, increased household income through diversified livelihood options, and improved attitudes towards wildlife conservation among community members. This outcome will contribute to sustainable conservation efforts, economic empowerment of local residents, and a positive shift in community perceptions towards wildlife, ultimately fostering harmonious relationships between humans and wildlife in the project area. The project area will be more explore in the scientific basis and lots more scientific publication will be published.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: The project team assumed that there would be no major changes in the market conditions during the project timeline.

Comments: To assess whether this assumption still holds true, we can look at the current market conditions and compare them to the initial assumptions made at the start of the project. If there have been significant changes in the market conditions, the project team needs to evaluate the impact on the project's outcomes and outputs.

Assumption 2: The project assumed that delivering every program like survey and monitoring, forest patrolling, grazing program, awareness programs, to the selected community members would enhance national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity in Nepal

Comments: To assess the validity of this assumption, the project team should evaluate the effectiveness by measuring the participants' knowledge and skills before and after the training, as well as tracking their ability to apply these techniques in real-world conservation efforts.

Assumption 3: The awareness program will effectively educate local communities about the importance of wildlife conservation and reduce instances of human-wildlife conflict.

Comments: Monitoring of this assumption is crucial to assess the effectiveness of the awareness program in achieving its intended outcomes. To determine if the assumption still holds true, several factors need to be considered: community engagement, behavioural change, knowledge, and retention.

Assumption 4: Implementing livelihood upliftment programs such as kitting training, local nursery establishment etc. will reduce dependency on natural resources and decrease instances of human-wildlife conflict.

Comments: Monitoring this assumption is essential to measure the impact of livelihood upliftment programs on local communities and their relationship with wildlife.

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

Darwin Initiative project outlined ambitious goals for both biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. Our project has diligently worked towards achieving these objectives by implementing a variety of targeted interventions. On the front of biodiversity conservation, our efforts have

focused on habitat restoration, species conservation, and sustainable land management practices. In parallel, our project has made significant strides in poverty reduction and human development. By empowering local communities through income-generating activities and alternative livelihood programs, we have enhanced economic opportunities and reduced dependency on natural resources.

The project contributes 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. The project has supported for the establishment of six multipurpose nursery inside GCA, with an intention of producing fodder species, medicinal plants and fruits to reduce pressure from the forest and generate income at the same time. The promotion of organic farming and the cultivation of medicinal plants such as Argeli and Timur pepper supports ecosystem resilience by encouraging land use practices that are both environmentally friendly and economically viable. Similarly, projects research on biodiversity assessment contributes towards the higher-level impact on biodiversity conservation. It will also enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

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 and poverty alleviation. 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. Conservation Farmers (CF) formed, trained and operational. 40 women will be trained in developing local handicrafts. Similarly, Ecotourism trails (30 km) branded wildlife and bird observation trails. 20 signposts installed and 10new homestays promoted along the ecotourism trails. The existing 92 homestay owners with the addition of 10 new (planned in this project) will be trained in hospitality, lodge management, and cooking/baking.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project has actively engaged with national policy frameworks and reporting mechanisms to ensure alignment with broader biodiversity and development goals. Over the reporting period, the project has made significant contributions to national policies, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and other relevant policy instruments. Through collaboration with host country stakeholders and UK partners, the organization has facilitated the integration of project outcomes and recommendations into these policy documents.

The conventions, treaties, or agreements that support this project are:

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020)

The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)

Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project aimed "Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Upper Middle-Income Countries contributing to a reduction in poverty through targeted interventions that address the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss and poverty in Upper Middle-Income Countries. The project understands the significance of demonstrating clear and tangible impacts on poverty reduction, as mandated by the Darwin Initiative guidelines.

Expected Beneficiaries: The primary beneficiaries of this project are marginalized communities living in ecologically sensitive areas within Upper Middle-Income Countries. These communities often rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods but face challenges such as habitat degradation, loss of biodiversity, and limited access to markets and resources.

Direct Poverty Impacts: The project anticipates several direct poverty impacts, including:

1. Increased household income: By facilitating access to alternative income-generating activities such as sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and handicraft production, the project aims to enhance the economic stability of participating households.
2. Improved personal security: Strengthening community-based conservation efforts not only safeguards biodiversity but also enhances personal security for community members and rangers by reducing conflicts over natural resources and mitigating risks associated with illegal activities like poaching and logging.

Indirect Poverty Reduction: While some impacts may be indirect, they are nonetheless critical for long-term poverty reduction:

1. Enhanced ecosystem services: By promoting sustainable land management practices and restoring degraded ecosystems, the project seeks to improve ecosystem services such as water provision, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration. These services are essential for supporting agricultural productivity and mitigating the impacts of climate change, thereby indirectly benefiting local livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to poverty.
2. Increased awareness and appreciation of wildlife: Through targeted education and outreach initiatives, the project aims to raise awareness among local communities about the importance of biodiversity conservation for their well-being. By fostering a sense of stewardship and promoting sustainable resource use practices, the project anticipates long-term benefits for both biodiversity and poverty reduction.

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 By ensuring that women and marginalized groups have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the project, it can lead to more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes. The project conducted many

		programs advocating women's empowerment, leadership programs for women, and encouraging participation of women in income generation activities. The project also celebrated women's day and interaction program to enhance their capacity and empower them.
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project has developed a high-standard Monitoring and Evaluation plan based on the log frame 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 training and awareness programs were monitored using NTNC's M&E guidelines. The progress of the program was monitored based on a weekly and monthly progress report that was currently in place at the lead partner organizational level. M&E guidelines developed consulted for standardizing monitoring methods.

To ensure comprehensive monitoring and evaluation, the project has established several systems and processes internally:

1. **M&E Framework Development**: The project has developed a robust M&E framework that identifies key indicators for monitoring progress across the project's major components and interventions. This framework guides our data collection efforts and helps us track the achievement of outputs and outcomes.
2. **Utilization of Existing Guidelines**: The project has consulted established M&E guidelines from organizations such as NTNC and Defra to standardize monitoring methods and ensure alignment with best practices in the field.
3. **Regular Reporting and Review**: The project has maintained a system of weekly and monthly progress reporting to track the implementation of activities and address any challenges or deviations from the plan. These reports facilitate ongoing monitoring and allow for timely adjustments as needed.

   In terms of demonstrating the contribution of outputs and activities to project outcomes, the project conducted regular assessments to measure the effectiveness of interventions. For example, the project tracks the number of community training sessions and assesses participants' knowledge and skills gained. The project also evaluates the impact of pilot activities

such as livestock insurance schemes and human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures on reducing conflicts and improving livelihoods.

8. Lessons learnt

Reflecting on the first year, in the second year the project has gathered valuable insights from various levels of project implementation, including administrative, management, technical, and M&E aspects. These lessons learned serve as a foundation for continuous improvement and adaptive management, guiding our approach moving forward.

What Worked Well?

1. **Community Engagement**: The project approach to mobilizing and engaging local communities proved effective, leveraging the project team's extensive experience to build trust and foster collaboration. This led to strong community participation in project activities.
2. **Weekly and Monthly Reporting**: The established reporting mechanisms enabled regular monitoring of progress and timely identification of challenges, allowing for swift corrective actions.

What Didn't Work Well?

1. **Resource Constraints**: Limited resources, including staff time and financial allocations for M&E activities, posed constraints on the depth and scope of monitoring efforts, particularly in remote field locations.

If We Had to Do It Again: If allowed to revisit the project's implementation, the project would prioritize the following actions:

1. **Stakeholder Engagement**: Strengthen engagement with diverse stakeholders; including government agencies, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations, to foster broader ownership and sustainability of project interventions.
2. **Capacity Building**: Place greater emphasis on building the capacity of local partners and communities in M&E techniques, enabling them to actively contribute to monitoring efforts and enhance project sustainability.

Recommendations for Similar Projects: Based on this project's experiences, the following are the recommendations to others undertaking similar projects:

1. **Prioritize Community Involvement**: Invest in building strong relationships with local communities from the outset, ensuring their active participation and ownership of project activities.
2. **Flexibility and Adaptation:** Remain flexible and responsive to evolving circumstances, adjusting strategies and approaches as needed to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

Building Learning into Future Plans: To integrate these lessons learned into the project and future plans, we will:

1. **Incorporate Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish feedback mechanisms to solicit input from project stakeholders, allowing for ongoing learning and adaptation.
2. **Continuous Improvement:** Foster a culture of continuous improvement within the project team, encouraging reflection, knowledge sharing, and innovation.

Plan for Next Year: In light of the lessons learned, the project plans to adjust the existing M&E plan for the upcoming year to address identified challenges and improve the effectiveness of monitoring efforts. This may include reallocating resources, refining data collection methods, and strengthening collaboration with partners. While specific changes will be outlined in a Change Request, our overarching goal remains to enhance project impact and contribute to lasting positive change in the target communities and ecosystems.

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

10. Risk Management

Over the past 12 months, the project has identified several new risks that were not previously accounted for in the initial project design. The project has been experiencing staff changes in the quarterly basis, due to the difficult terrain, remoteness and challenging geography, which have made project implementation significantly difficult, nonetheless any changes of staff are preceded by the replacement or recruitment of new staff and with appropriate handover of responsibilities to ensure minimal hinderance in the project implementation. Subsequent change requests were also submitted to NIRAS and in principal approval has now been received.Similarly, risks primarily relate to external factors such as unforeseen changes such as natural disasters, and socio-economic disruptions. The project appreciates the importance of ongoing risk management and remains committed to proactively identifying, assessing, and addressing risks to ensure the successful implementation of the project and the achievement of our objectives. The project will update the risk register to provide a comprehensive overview of risk management efforts and demonstrate the project's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Here the project mentioned risk and their mitigation actions are:

Risk description	**Mitigating actions**	**Rationale and responsibility**
Strategic Risk		
Human resource issues, such as staffing	Legal requirements. When onboarding an employee, the project must follow and fulfill all legal requirements to ensure that it protects the project and the employee.	Conduct proper background checks, provide necessary training and support to employees, and maintain accurate records to demonstrate compliance with legal requirements.
Reputational Risk		
Changing beliefs and expectations	To evaluate reality, regular surveys of employees, customers, and other stakeholders can reveal whether their priorities are changing.	By designing surveys, collecting and analyzing data, and communicating the findings to relevant stakeholders.
Operational Risk		
Process	Understand what resources are required for a process. Monitor for changes, such as the need to scale up or down.	Exclusive monitoring and evaluation.
People	Brainstorming sessions	Conduct staff training.
External factors	Proactive management of risk factors.	Continuously assess the external environment, and develop proactive risk mitigation strategies.
Project Risk		
Cost Risk	Accurate planning, cost estimation, and scope creep.	Flexible budget panning.
Schedule Risk	Proper planning.	Program calendar.

Performance Risk	Time and money on a project that ultimately will deliver.	Evaluate and summarise timely program implementation parts.
Conservation/Environmental Risk		
Dynamic	Social risk is formed by how people react to events and ideas and thus it is always evolving.	To monitor social trends, and assess stakeholder perceptions.

11. Scalability and durability

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has actively publicized the Darwin Initiative and recognized the UK Government's contribution to its work through various channels. The project has been highlighted on NTNC's website as an independent project funded by DEFRA. The Darwin Initiative logo has been prominently displayed on project materials, banners, signposts, including reports, publications, and presentations, to acknowledge the funding support received and raise awareness about the initiative's objectives and achievements.

The project has actively promoted Darwin Initiative funding opportunities and projects through its website, social media channels, and participation in relevant events and forums. This includes sharing information about upcoming funding rounds, success stories of funded projects, and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Overall, the project is committed to maximizing the visibility and impact of the Darwin Initiative's funding support, both within the host country and globally, by promoting its objectives, achievements, and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing

13. Safeguarding

14. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**174,768.5**			

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 (£)			NTNC
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

Exit strategy:
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. Before exiting, the project will make sure that direct beneficiaries continue to sustain the changes they've adopted and maintain a transformed understanding of conflict causes and management, without escalating tensions. The project will also ensure that the necessary skills and capacities within the local stakeholders are fully developed before transitioning into the exit phase. This will guarantee the long-term sustainability of the implemented initiatives.

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

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

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 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.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 Up to 50 community members gain skills in wildlife survey, 150 community members develop skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation, 330 HHs develop skills in implementing forest fire control tools	Trained a total of 88 community members in the survey and monitoring program, Procured 48 sets of camera traps and 6 GPS for research. Enhanced 428 participants in leadership and advocacy Total, 345 individuals, 251 individuals (99 M, 152 F) in 15 events from Dolakha, 70 individuals (56 M, 14 F) in 3 events from Sindhupalchok and 24 individuals (20 M, 4 F) in 1 event from Ramechhap participated in of forest fire management training and learned to use fire control tools	
Outcome indicator 0.2, At least 100 community officials will have positive attitude towards wildlife conservation and positive perceptions increased by 40%	351 local community members participated in the training of behavioural change toward wildlife conservation.	
Output indicator 0.3. By year 3, An updated biodiversity database in GBIF portal	Not applicable in year 2	

Outcome indicator 0.4. Government stakeholders positively support the conservation program, and regular forest patrolling will control illegal activities incidences by 50% by Year 3.	Total 50 events of forest patrolling conducted in 2nd year	
Outcome indicator 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.	351 local stakeholders participated in awareness program on human wildlife conflict, especially targeting on retaliatory killing. Construction of 124 Predator proof corral was supported. Support to construct 20 raised platforms to deteriorate conflict animals.	
Outcome indicator 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	38 herders were support with 12.5% premium by establishing insurance scheme in 2nd year.	
Output indicator 0.7 By the end of the project, 25 CF operational & 15ha. degraded forest restored in five pilot sites	To be measured at end of the project	
Output indicator 0.8 Site identified for scaling up one village one product based green enterprises; Year 1	Not applicable in year 2	
Outcome 0.9 Up to 70 HHs farmers start cultivation of high valued medicinal plants and organic vegetables	110 HH were supported for the cultivation of Timur pepper and Argeli	
Outcome 0.10 By year 3, up to 40 women HHs, 92 homestay HHs, and 45 youths capacitated for various income generation activities	Beneficiaries from 92 homestays were trained on homestay management, culinary and sanitation. Support to 10 homestay enterprise.	

Output 0.11 By end of the project and beyond, at least 3 wildlife-based eco-trails identified and functional	5 km long wildlife observation trail has been identified in Kalinchok area and 2km long eco trail in red pand habitat in Marbu area of GCA.	Work more on branding activities, monitoring, record of visitors/trekkers and their perceptions
Output 1 Enhance the national and local capacity in mountain biodiversity conservation		
Output indicator 1.1 50 community members gain skills in camera trapping and prey base survey as a result of training; Year 1 & 2	Trained total of 88 community members in the survey and monitoring program in 2nd year. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 1.1)*	Mobilize trained individuals in camera trap surveys of wildlife
Output indicator 1.2 150 community members including women (50%) will develop skills in leadership and advocacy in conservation; Year 1, 2 & 3	Enhanced 220 participants (343 M, 85 F) in leadership and advocacy in 2nd year. Trained 11 women from Alampu in making and promotion of bags made out of Allo fabric (plant-based fabrics) *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 1.2)*	Encourage woman participation in leadership and advocacy
Output indicator 1.3 15 graduate students (50% girls) conduct research on various biodiversity topics; Year 1=5, Year 2=5, & Year 3=5	Grant support provided to 14 students (9 M, 5 F) for research *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 1.3)*	Documentation and data base management
Output indicator 1.4 15 project staff trained in Training of Trainers on gender & social inclusion, human rights, rights− based advocacy and good governance, Year 1	Not applicable in year 2	
Output indicator 1.5. ca. 750 community people capacitated through trained staff; Year 2 & 3	Total 38 units of leadership & advocacy trainings were held in Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Ramechhap of GCA. The trainings held catered altogether 989 participants (598 comprising of 391 females and 598 males, to foster a deeper community understanding of inclusive conservation approaches.	

Output indicator 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	Total, 345 individuals, 251 individuals (99 M, 152 F) in 15 events from Dolakha, 70 individuals (56 M, 14 F) in 3 events from Sindhupalchok and 24 individuals (20 M, 4 F) in 1 event from Ramechhap participated in of forest fire management training and learned to use fire control tools. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 1.6)*	
Output indicator 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**)**	Training sessions conducted in 13 different CAMC and CFMSc from 26th to 30th of December 2024 saw an enthusiastic and active participation of the 351 local people comprising of 126 females and 225 males. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 1.8)*	
Output 2. Established biodiversity database and maintain corridors and connectivity		
Output indicator 2.1. 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	Camera traps were deployed across 35 grids to assess abundance and density of megafauna. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 2.1)*	Data analysis and share findings
Output indicator 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	10 Camera traps were deployed in the habitat of small carnivores across to assess distribution. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 2.2)*	Further expansion of camera trap deployment area, data analysis
Output indicator: 2.3 Database available on the functionality of the biological corridors in between Langtang and Sagarmatha National Parks; Year 2	Allocation and grant agreement has been signed to assess avifaunal diversity along gradient in GCA. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 2.3)*	Publishing of findings and database management
Output indicator 2.4.	Allocation and grant agreement has been signed to assess fish diversity in Tamakoshi, Lapchi and Singati river system in	Publishing of findings and database management

Database on traditional fishing techniques and fish diversity of the major river systems available; Year 2	GCA. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 2.4)*	
Output indicator 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	Total 50 events of forest patrolling conducted in 2nd year *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 2.6)*	
Output indicator 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	71 government official and security personnel participated in the coordination meeting to curb illegal wildlife trade. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 2.7)*	Enhance information network to make it impactful.
Output 3. Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies		
Output indicator 3.1 High impact areas of human wildlife conflict (HWC) and crop damage identified (Year 1 existing disaggregated data compilation and mapping)	Total to 244 incidents of conflicts were report which accumulated of 206 incidents of livestock depredation and the remaining 38 cases of crop raiding by wildlife, this year there weren't any reported cases of conflict on human. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.1)*	
Output indicator 3.2 180 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	Total 385 local stakeholders participated in awareness program on human wildlife conflict focusing on retaliatory killing. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.2)*	
Output indicator 3.3 100 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	In 2nd year 100 meter long biological fence has been planted in the pilot site of Gidde salleri. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.3)*	Bio-fence will be stretched longer to reduce crop damage in the conflict site

Output indicator 3.4 ca.100 HHs will practice traditional scaring methods to protect crop loss; Year 1, 2 & 3	Agreement with Orang and Bulung has been made to support local households in practicing traditional scaring methods.	Practicing and installation of traditional scaring method will start from the beginning of next quarter.
Output indicator 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%)	Support provided to construct 124 PPC in Orang, Suri, Chankhu, Alampu, Lamabagar, Bigu, Khare and Gaurishankar. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.5)*	
Output indicator 3.6 ca. 50 HHs have raised platform (machan) to guard crop field in high conflict areas; Year 1, 2 & 3 Baseline Year 1; Results: Year 3 crop depredation reduce by 50% in pilot site)	Support provided to construct 20 raised platforms in Orang, Suri, Chankhu, Lamabagar,Bulung, Khare and Gaurishankar. *(Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.6)*	
Output indicator 3.7 ca. 60 herders will practice improved guarding techniques and documenting depredation losses at Lapchi valley and Marbu area; Year 1, 2 & 3	Total 62 yak herders were trained in regulating grazing of livestock in the prime wildlife habitat. 35 safety belts used in fodder collection were distributed to the yak herder. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.7)*	
Output indicator 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);	In the 2nd year 38 herders provide with premium support of 12.5% under the insurance scheme.	
Output 4: Develop sustainable income generation scheme through green economy and enterprises		
Output indicator 4.1 25 Conservation Farmers (CF) formalized, and have skills for nursery management and operation; Year 1 & 2	3 conservation farmer groups were formed in Marbu, Chankhau and Lamabagar with participation of 15, 24 and 18 individuals respectively. Participants were trained in nursery management. Necessary supports were provided for the establishment of nurseries.	

Output indicator 4.2 25 forest nurseries operational. By the end of the project 15 ha. degraded forest patches restored	3 multipurpose nurseries were established in Dolakha, Sindhupalchok and Ramechhap, one in district of GCA. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 3.7)*	
Output indicator 4.3 Site identified for developing one product one village based green; Year 1	Not applicable in year 2	
Output indicator 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	2000 Timur seedlings were supported to 60 households in Chankhu and 7000 Argeli seedlings were supported to 50 farmers in Suri.	
Output indicator 4.5. ca.50 HHs start organic farming; Year 2 & 3	Agreement with three CAMC has been signed to support 20 in Gaurishankar for potato farming, 15 in Bigu and 15 in Lamabagar for Chilli peppers.	First instalment of the support grant has been delivered and farming will start in the beginning of next quarter.
Output indicator 4.6 ca.40 women HHs of Simigaun and Tashinam will have skills in making local handicraft (Knitting- caps, gloves, socks, bags) for income generation; Year 1: 2 trainings; Base line Year 1, Results Year 3	Not applicable in year 2	
Output indicator 4.7 ca. 45 local youths will have capacity to work as a nature guide, Year 2 & 3	13 youths (11M, 2F), from Dolakha and Ramechhap were trained and capacitated to work as nature guides in GCA. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 4.7)*	Training of more youths will continue in 3rd year
Output indicator 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	5 km long wildlife observation trail has been identified in Kalinchok area and 2km long eco trail in red pand habitat in Marbu area of GCA.	

Output indicator 4.9 10 homestays functional in Lapchi valley & Rolwaling valley; Year 2, Base line Year 2, Results Year 3	10 homestay enterprises are supported with required materials, 4 in Simi village (Rolwaling) and 6 in Lapchi, Lumnang village. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 4.9)*	
Output indicator 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	Trainings on hospitality management, baking and cooking was provided to 92 homestay owners. 57 from Dolakha, 20 from Ramechhap and 15 from Sindhupalchok were capacitated in homestay management. (*Please see report section 3.1, evidence file Activity 4.10)*	

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: 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 Himalaya			
Output 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 1.315 graduate students (15% girls) conduct research on various biodiversity topics; year 1=5, year 2= 5, year3= 5	1.1.1 Training attendance records, trainee involvement in camera trap surveys and monitoring 1.1.2 Training attendance records 1.1.3 Theses/Publications, Year 1, 2 & 3 1.1.6 Training attendance reports, Forest fire control community social audits	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

	1.6 330 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; 1.7 Base line database available on attitude and perceptions on wildlife conservation; Year 1 1.8 100 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	1.1.7 Survey report, Year 1 1.1.8 Local attitude and perceptions positive towards wildlife conservation as per perceptions and attitude survey by partner organizations; Year 3	
Output 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 2.6 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	2.1.1 Research reports/publications, 3 peer reviewed paper in International Journal by Year 3 2.1.2 Research report/publication 2.1.6 Community patrolling reports, Year 1, 2 & 3	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
Output 3 Enhanced co-existence between humans and wildlife through awareness, revived	3.2 180 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	3.1.2High conflict area map 3.1.3Field reports/Annual reports, photographs	No change in the NTNC mandate as main management authority Local community cooperation and support

traditional methods and implementation of mitigation strategies	3.3100 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 3.4 100 HHs will practice traditional scaring methods to protect crop loss; Year 1, 2 & 3 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%) 3.6 50 HHs have raised platform (machan) to guard crop 3.760 herders will practice improved guarding techniques and documenting depredation losses at Lapchi valley andMarbu 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); Year 1, 2 & 3	3.1.4Field reports/Annual reports, crop depredation records, photographs 3.1.5Field reports/Annual reports, M&E reports, livestock depredation records, photographs 3.1.6Field reports/Annual reports, M&E reports, crop depredation records, photographs 3.1.7 Training attendance records, livestock depredation data, field reports/annual reports/photographs 3.1.8 CAMC annual audit reports; human injury and livestock depredation database 3.1.9 Insurance company contract; Annual reports; monitoring visit reports	Timely execution of the activities by the communities

Output 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 4.2 25 forest nurseries operational. By the end of the project 15 ha. degraded forest patches restored 4.6 40 women HHs of Simigaun and Tashinam will have skills in making local 4.8 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	4.1.1Training reports/Annual reports 4.1.2 50000 seedling production from Year 3 onwards; M&E reports; photographs 4.1.6 40 women HHs of Simigaun and Tashinam will have skills in making local 4.1.8 Three functional wildlife observation trails/tourist records	Local community cooperation and acceptance
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)			

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