



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



UK International
Development

Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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

1. Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	31-004
Project title	Effectively tackling Human-Carnivore Conflicts through systematic approaches in Uganda
Country/ies	Uganda
Lead Organisation	WWF UK
Project partner(s)	WWF Uganda Country Office, WF Kenya
Darwin Initiative grant value	£599,858
Start/end dates of project	01/06/2024 – 31/03/2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Jun 2024 – March 2025 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Catriona McLean (interim)
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	WWF UK – Catriona McLean, Debs Mackay WWF Uganda – Crispus Baguma, Paul Mulondo, Kevin Nabuule

2. Project summary

Overall, the project is aiming to tackle the issues surrounding Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) in and around the Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP) in southwestern Uganda (see map in annex 1). In this region, HCC impacts local communities through predation of livestock resulting in loss of income, and human injuries or fatalities, often leading to the retaliatory killing of carnivores. In response to this, WWF is working with stakeholders to: improve local governance systems and strengthen stakeholder collaboration; address critical HCC prevention, mitigation and response gaps through a systematic multi-stakeholder approach; and develop holistic solutions, such as capacity building for rangers, and training and livelihood support for local communities.

The Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA) in Uganda is both home to approximately 90,000 people, who rely heavily on livestock farming as their main livelihood, and important natural resources. At its heart lies QNEP, once a stronghold for carnivores, particularly lions, but

now home to just 40 lions (with a posterior SD of 7.96) across its 197,800ha, according to the most recent assessment in 2022.

The interface between carnivores (lion, hyena, and leopard), livestock and communities leads to significant levels of Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) within the QECA and throughout the region (East Africa). Between 2018 and 2021, approximately 180 livestock were reportedly killed by carnivores, this does not include livestock injured in carnivore attacks. In the three year period preceding this, 21 people were killed and 100 people were severely injured by carnivores within the QECA. As a result, and due to the lack of other options when managing HCC, people often resort to the killing of carnivores in fear or retaliation. Since 2014, 70 lions, approximately 100 leopards and 265 hyena have been killed in retaliatory attacks - this vicious circle, exacerbated by other factors such as non-selective poaching of both prey and carnivores, habitat loss and climate change, is threatening the survival of some of Uganda's critical wildlife.

The level of conflict and damage inflicted negatively affects safety, food security, livelihoods, and well-being throughout the community and is amplified in vulnerable, poor and marginalised communities that lack alternative income sources (average household income in the project area is ~\$163/year). A recent study has shown that for a set of African countries, including Uganda, human communities are vulnerable to losing all or more than double their annual income if a single calf is killed by a carnivore. Communities see QNEP as a threat to their livelihoods rather than an asset; citing lions, hyenas and other wildlife (e.g. elephant) as limiting their development opportunities. Lack of trust and transparency between the park authorities and local communities, and a lack of perceived benefits of living with carnivores, further increases the likelihood and impact of HCC.

According to studies by Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and partners, the tourism revenue associated with an individual lion is estimated at \$13,500 per year for the national economy. A benefit sharing mechanism exists for communities to access funds from QNEP's revenue, however lack of clarity on the procedure is hindering transparency and trust in this process, with communities, at times, not having means, knowledge or capacity to ensure equitable distribution and use of these funds.

Preventative measures, mitigation and responses to de-escalate HCC are currently limited and uncoordinated amongst stakeholders, and inconsistently applied across QECA. Moreover, they are often overly focused on the symptoms of the conflict, lacking a coherent long-term strategy and have poor monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) in place to measure impact. There is therefore the need to systematically and holistically address the key drivers of HCC in QECA alongside good MEL to establish a level of balanced coexistence between communities and carnivore populations, which ensures the safety of humans, assets, habitats, and wildlife.

3. Project stakeholders/ partners

The Project is being implemented through a partnership of three WWF offices (UK, Uganda and Kenya), working in close collaboration with the relevant Protected Area Authority - Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and several other NGOs and CSOs implementing related interventions in the landscapes.

The HCC project collaboration between WWF and UWA was initiated in response to a formal request from UWA to strengthen community-based approaches for carnivore conservation, as outlined in Uganda's *National Carnivore Strategy* (2010) and reaffirmed in the updated *National Carnivore Action Plan* (NCAP, 2024) (see Annex 3). Both documents emphasize reducing HCC, improving carnivore monitoring, and promoting community stewardship in conservation. Recognizing WWF's expertise in community engagement and landscape management, WWF collaborated with UWA to co-design a project that operationalizes these national priorities.

UWA played a key role in shaping the project's design and implementation framework by contributing relevant data. During the planning phase, UWA's Senior Manager for Research and Monitoring, also serving as Uganda's National Carnivore Strategy Focal Point, participated in technical workshops to ensure the project's alignment with national conservation goals. UWA

provided baseline data on carnivore populations, conflict hotspots, and existing community initiatives, which directly informed the project's Theory of Change.

At the August 2024 inception meeting, UWA actively participated in refining the project's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework. UWA also recommended integrating existing wildlife monitoring systems, such as Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrol data and conflict incident reporting into the MEL framework.

WWF and UWA jointly agreed to adopt the WWF *Conflict-to-Coexistence (C2C)* methodology, a comprehensive framework and approach to HWC and which empowers local communities as conservation partners. This involved joint field assessments in QENP to identify HCC-prone areas and co-facilitated community consultations to enhance grievance redress mechanisms and participatory decision-making processes.

The project follows a co-implementation structure to ensure institutional ownership and long-term sustainability. Joint implementation teams, composed of WWF and UWA staff, are leading field activities, including conflict mitigation training. Carnivore population monitoring is implemented in collaboration with UWA and other collaborating organisations and awareness campaigns are supported under the project. A formal Memorandum of understanding (MoU) governs data access and sharing between the two organizations (WWF and UWA), in line with Uganda's data privacy laws. Capacity-building efforts include training UWA rangers and community scouts in advanced HCC response and reporting, while WWF benefits from UWA's expertise in park management.

The project's inclusive approach also engages key partners: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) contributed technical input on carnivore ecology and conflict mitigation tools and will support piloting GPS lion-tracking collars in QENP. The Uganda Carnivore Programme (UCP) shared long-term data on hyena and leopard populations, mortalities and shared sessions on community-based early warning systems. Together with community representatives from Kasese, Rubirizi, Kanungu, and Rukungiri districts, the project's Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Plan was reviewed and validated, highlighting the importance of women's participation in wildlife conflict resolution.

The C2C framework was formally presented to UWA Headquarters and QENP authorities, and district officials during launch consultations and received endorsement from WCS, Virunga Foundation, UCP, local governments and local CSOs as a scalable model for adoption.

The August 2024 inception meeting solidified a shared vision rooted in Uganda's National Carnivore strategy and Action Plan. By embedding UWA's priorities and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, the project aims to achieve measurable outcomes in carnivore conservation and community resilience. See Annex 2 (*Inception Report*) and Annex 3 (Uganda Strategic Action Plan for Large Carnivore Conservation 2024-2034).

4. Project progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

0.1 Conduct the inception meeting with the key QECA stakeholders: Completed. An Inception Meeting was held on the 27th of August, followed by a kick off meeting on the 28th, in Kanungu District next to QENP. The Inception meeting brought together representatives from WWF Uganda Country Office (UCO) and the WWF East African Wildlife Crime Hub; UWA including QENP Authorities and a Senior Manager for Research and Monitoring from the UWA Headquarters who is also the Focal Point for the Uganda's National Carnivore Strategy; as well as other technical stakeholders (e.g. Wildlife Conservation Society, Uganda Carnivore Programme) and community representatives. The meeting covered presentations on the Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) approach; current Human-Wildlife Conflict Interventions in QENP and the wider landscape; and issues currently faced by community members due to Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC). The meeting also provided the space to: agree on sharing of relevant baseline information; work together on the project's communications plan; ensure environmental and

social safeguarding aspects are considered in project implementation; work together on the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) plan. Time was spent reviewing and updating the MEL Framework.

The kick-off meeting on the 28th brought together the same participants as the internal inception meeting, as well as other technical stakeholders working in the landscape (e.g. The Virunga Foundation), and both political and technical representatives from district local government agencies. The project was formally launched through a ceremonial signing and followed by speeches from UWA Senior Manager, Carnivore Experts and Kanungu and Rukungiri District Officials. UWA were keen to learn more about the C2C approach and have requested WWF to present the approach and project to UWA headquarters before the end of the calendar year. They recognise the clear alignment with the new National Carnivore Action Plan (Annex 3) and formally see it as part of its implementation. Overall, the project was welcomed by stakeholders and community members.

A meeting report is provided in Annex 2 and includes photos, attendance lists and the agenda. A Communications Plan developed during the meeting is available in Annex 6, while the GESI Action plan is available in Annex 5. The group also updated the risk register which was shared with the half-year report. A further updated risk register is included in Annex 7.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of year 2, QECA ranger workforce has improved capacity to assess, develop and implement Human Carnivore Conflict mitigation and response actions

1.1 Collate baseline data for equipment provisions/availability: Completed.

This has been completed by the project team by communicating online and via phone calls with UWA, rather than travelling, to be more cost effective. UWA have confirmed which equipment is needed based on their experience of using Smartphones for data collection. This led to a discussion on the need for UWA, WWF and partners to seek a way to best ensure that data from different platforms that UWA and partners use can be integrated to ensure that UWA has access in the long term and can therefore put it to best use to inform their decision making. 20 Smart phones have now been purchased and distributed for use in QENP. An inventory is provided in Annex 9.

1.2 Conduct training of QEPA/UWA staff on Conflict to Co-existence (C2C) systems approach:

A three-day training workshop on the Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) systems approach was held from 4-6 February 2025, engaging 40 Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) staff and key stakeholders. UWA participants included 27 rangers (5 women, 22 men), 10 wardens (1 woman, 9 men), and 3 managers (1 woman, 2 men). Additional attendees represented local NGOs - the Literacy Action and Development Agency (LADA) (2 men), Virunga Foundation (1 man), Uganda Carnivore Programme (2 men), Kyambura Community Wildlife Scouts (1 woman, 1 man), and Katara Women's Poverty Alleviation Group (1 man).

The workshop aimed to build capacity in applying the C2C methodology, which promotes collaborative conflict mitigation, community engagement, and sustainable coexistence strategies. Participants took part in hands-on sessions covering data-informed decision-making, conflict de-escalation techniques, and integrating community feedback into conservation planning. Key outcomes included the alignment of UWA field protocols with the C2C framework and the clarification of stakeholder roles in supporting coexistence initiatives.

The complete training report including participant feedback, materials, and action plans, is provided in Annex 10.

The workshop provided a comprehensive introduction to the Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) framework, outlining its core objectives, guiding principles, and operational components. Participants examined the varying severity levels of Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) and their underlying socio-ecological drivers.

A contextual screening exercise was carried out in four identified HCC hotspot areas to assess historical conflict patterns, previous management strategies, and community perceptions. Collaborating partners, including the Literacy Action and Development Agency (LADA), Virunga Foundation, and Uganda Carnivore Programme (UCP), presented localized case studies, highlighting site-specific challenges and key lessons learned.

To ensure strategies were grounded in real-world experiences, participatory listening sessions were held with community members. These sessions captured first-hand accounts of HCC impacts, fostering empathy and shaping more responsive, context-specific solutions. In parallel, baseline survey results from households in HCC hotspots (see Activity 3.1) were shared and validated with stakeholders. These discussions surfaced critical gaps in community awareness of revenue-sharing mechanisms and their role in mitigating conflict.

The stakeholder mapping exercise (updated in Annex 4) was reviewed and refined to identify priority actors for engagement, reinforcing the C2C principle of *shared responsibility*.

A key component of the workshop was the C2C assessment, which gathered input from both duty bearers (e.g., UWA, NGOs) and community representatives on the four principles of the C2C approach: *tolerance*, *shared responsibility*, *resilience*, and *holistic approaches*. The assessment revealed important insights into existing barriers and opportunities for promoting coexistence. These findings will directly inform the co-design of Human-Carnivore Action Plans in Year 2.

Pre- and post-training assessments showed a 7% increase in participant knowledge of C2C concepts, rising from an average of 79% to 86%. This measurable improvement reflects the training's effectiveness in building participant capacity (details in Annex 12).

Key Outcomes:

- Strengthened stakeholder alignment on C2C principles and HCC priorities.
- Evidence-based foundation for co-designing Year 2 action plans.
- Enhanced capacity of participants to apply C2C tools in conflict mitigation.

1.3 Train rangers in the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to record HCC events and the efforts of response units and conservation

The training of rangers in SMART occurred from 4th-6th February 2025 (this was combined with the C2C workshop for efficiency reasons) covering 47 participants (6 females and 41 males). Participants were given detailed training in SMART, how to maintain SMART equipment etc.

From 17th-26th February, 4 HCC hotspots were visited with the purpose of training rangers in collecting data in relation to conflicts and responses. 57 rangers (16 female and 41 males) were reached with this training. Of these participants, knowledge and skills in relation to using SMART increased by 19% (from 78% to 97%) (see Annex 12)

1.4 Train ranger supervisors/managers in the analysis and adaptive management planning of SMART data to improve management approaches and HCC responses

This activity was planned for March 2025 however it has not proven possible to secure suitable dates within this month as many supervisors are engaged in wildlife species translocation work, lasting 3 weeks out of this month. A change request has been submitted to move this activity to early Year 2 and we are confident it will be completed within that timeframe.

1.5 Train rangers in First Respondent Training to ensure efficient response to HCC events in QECA

Training was carried out on 11th and 13th March 2025 at the UWA headquarters in Kihhi and Katunguru. On the 11th March, 23 rangers (19 men and 4 women) were trained in Kihhi, and on the 13th a further 24 rangers (20 men and 4 women) were trained in Katunguru. This training

focused primarily on first aid as this had been identified as a priority by stakeholders in the C2C workshop. Training covered an introduction to first aid, case handling for different types of incidents, fire safety and use of extinguishers, basic water safety skills, emergency response scene assessment, and included demonstrations and practical simulations to practise response methods. A report of the training event is included as Annex 13.

Post-training assessments highlighted a request from participants for more regular refreshers on these topics. Participants showed an 18% increase in understanding and skills relating to first response approaches (from 47% to 64%) following the training (Annex 12).

OUTPUT 2: By the end of year 3, households affected by Human Carnivore Conflict in the QECA have improved income and capacity to reduce its impacts, thus removing the perceived need to kill carnivores in retaliation.

2.1 Support community sensitization on C2C approach (around holistic approaches, tolerance, shared responsibility and promotion of sustainable development):

Between 1st – 5th April 2025, eighty (80) community members, mainly community scouts participated in C2C sensitization meetings. Out of these, fourteen were women. The C2C sensitization was carried out by the WWF Senior Project Officer and covered the overview of C2C, principles of C2C, outcomes of C2C and the six pillars of C2C. The sensitization was done through lectures, group discussions and simulations (Annex 11).

2.2 Conduct gender and inclusion analysis to inform development of action plans, and identify actions to promote gender equality and social inclusion throughout the project: Completed. A landscape wide GESI Action Plan had previously been developed under another project led by WWF UCO ('Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas - CAPA' funded through the Canadian Government) prior to the project starting (this was initially budgeted as Match funded). Based on this, the WWF UCO Gender Officer worked with the team to further develop a specific project level GESI Action Plan that will be used to inform project delivery going forward (see Annex 5).

2.3 Hold a workshop with communities to collaboratively develop an HCC Action Plan for at least 4 hotspot sites, based on findings from the rapid SAFE assessment: This is planned for Year 2.

2.4 Train and equip communities in the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to record HCC events and the efforts of response units and conservation and as 'First Respondents' for HCC events: SMART training is planned for Year 2.

Between 1st – 5th April 2025, a First Responder training was carried out by 3 trainers from Red Cross Uganda. Eighty community members (of whom 14 were women) from the four project hotspots benefited from the training. The topics covered included scene size-up, fire fighting basics, first aid for field scenarios such as fractures, catastrophic bleeding, gunshots among others. The training and training survey were carried out using the local languages of the project HCC hotspots.(Annex 11)

2.5 Support community patrols to monitor carnivores and potential conflict situations and report and respond to conflict events: This is planned for Year 2. However the team have moved forward with the procurement of equipment for the Community Scout Groups which will be needed to support patrols and conflict responses. Equipment comprises 50 t-shirts for community scouts, 20 SMART phones, 80 pairs of gumboots, 40 vuvuzelas, 80 whistles, 80 torches, 200 pairs of batteries, 15 first aid kits, 60 water bottles (Annex 14).

2.6 Repeat HCC assessment and community well-being surveys to reflect on successes and impact of the project, share lessons learned and discuss the project's final evaluation: This is planned for Year 3.

2.7 Support co-created livelihood initiatives (e.g. Southern Sector: coffee value addition, commercial crafts, community tourism; Northern Sector: briquette making from invasive plants,

milk value addition, zero grazing programs and strengthening Cattle Infrastructure and Vet Services.): This is planned for Year 2.

OUTPUT 3: By end of year 3, CBOs representing households affected by HCC in QECA have the capacity and opportunity to engage effectively with the UWA and local authorities

3.1. Conduct baselines for CSOs/CBO Capacity Assessment; community engagement in integrated HCC; community awareness of rights and responsibilities; perception of effectiveness of authorities' responses to HCC: An M&E Working Group has been set up and have been meeting on a regular basis to strengthen the MEL Framework, to track progress and develop the relevant surveys for baseline and endline data collection.

A household level survey was developed (see the Questionnaire in Annex 8) to collect missing baseline data for the MEL framework and project logframe around well-being, awareness of community rights and responsibilities, perceptions of effectiveness of responses to HCC, and selected C2C pillars. The survey was conducted between 7th-11th October 2024 and a dashboard of results is accessible.

A further analysis by HCC hotspot was conducted and the report is available in Annex 15.

Baselines on organisational capacity of the engaged CBOs have been collected through an aligned project (See report in Annex 18). Further baselines need to be conducted for a number of community groups not covered by this assessment in early year 2 as they are more formally engaged in the project.

3.2 Support institutional capacity development of selected community groups involved in reducing HCC through training.

Capacity building for 40 participants (15 women and 25 men) from HWC groups around QECA was held on 25th, 26th and 28th March 2025. The workshop was split into two locations i.e. Kihikihi and Kasese (covering Hamukungu, Nyakatonzi and Kyambura). The main facilitators were Community Development Officers and Government Natural Resources officers with over 10 years experience each and UWA personnel from QECA Headquarters. The groups received capacity building in the importance of good governance in HWC groups, collaborative natural resources management and resource access in the protected areas, Revenue sharing procedures, how to register HWC groups at local government level, how to draft a constitution for a HWC group/CBO, requirements and procedures for HWC compensation and Human Rights Based Approaches in natural resources management.(Annex 19)

3.3: Facilitate regular meetings between community groups and park management on conservation challenges, adaptive measures and opportunities and develop shared actions to reduce human carnivore conflict.

Two meetings were held (on 12th March in Nyanga Sub-County HQ and 14th March 2025 in Kihikihi Sub-County HQ) between community groups and other key stakeholders (including park management). 43 participants (of which 37 were community participants - 24 men and 13 women) attended in Nyanga and 41 (of which 38 were community participants - 30 men and 8 women) in Kihikihi. Participants included HWC groups (5), religious leaders (5), local government leaders (sub-county level) (38), sub-county chiefs (4), UWA (10) and technical government officials (e.g. agricultural officers) (8), Uganda Police (6).

Objectives of these meetings were to share updates about HWC management from UWA with communities; to discuss conservation issues, identify responses, and people responsible for these. A report of the meetings is in (Annex 16).

3.4 Support CBOs to engage in dialogue and raise awareness with UWA around benefit sharing arrangements and share information/processes with communities including revenue sharing guidelines, and better manage community expectations.

This activity was planned as match funding during project planning, however in the event, a key activity was carried out before the official launch of this project. On 23 May 2024, 36 participants (15 female and 21 male), were convened for a hybrid regional workshop on the National Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations (National Environment - Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing) Regulations, 2023. Participants included government ministries, departments, and agencies, district local governments, civil society, the private sector, media, and the communities of beneficiaries of genetic resources, including IPLCs such as the Batwa and Banyabutumbi.

The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of the stakeholders on the ABS Regulations and community rights, and also to equip them with information to effectively participate and benefit from natural resources. It also generated feedback to strengthen CSO critiques on the ABS regulations, to be used in advocacy efforts to improve them from a community and civil society perspective. (See Annex 17).

Ongoing meetings under Activity 3.3 will also support engagement and awareness at local levels on these issues throughout the project.

3.5 Support UWA to conduct biannual QECA Carnivore Conservation Alliance stakeholder partner meetings/ workshops to enable data harmonisation, ensure coherence of actions, leverage technical/financial support and enable adaptive management.

On 27th March 2025, the project convened a one-day workshop with QECA Carnivore Conservation Stakeholders in Mweya within QNEP. This meeting which was presided over by the outgoing Senior Manager Ecological Monitoring and Research from UWA Headquarters attracted project personnel from UWA, NGOs implementing carnivore conservation in QECA and community leaders and members from PA-adjacent communities. The meeting aimed to strengthen coordination and collaboration among key carnivore conservation partners, particularly focusing on the role of UWA's QECA Management in enhancing carnivore program effectiveness, and to promote alignment and coherence of ongoing interventions with the recently launched carnivore conservation strategy.

The NGOs present included WWF, WCS, Uganda Carnivore Program, Uganda Conservation Foundation, Volcanoes, Virunga Foundation. Representatives from NGOs gave presentations about their respective work in QECA relevant to carnivore conservation and also mentioned areas where UWA's support was highly needed. Participatory discussions followed to identify challenges and actions to address these. Among the key action points, the meeting is to be convened bi-annually and other NGOs were encouraged to support the meeting in future. Participants also emphasized the need for data sharing by UWA and NGOs that were doing carnivore related research in the landscape. (Annex 20)

3.6. Conduct second CBO Capacity assessment to measure and evaluate increase in capacity of local CBOs: This is planned for Year 3.

4.2 Progress towards project Outputs

OUTPUT 1: By the end of year 2, QECA ranger workforce has improved capacity to assess, develop and implement Human Carnivore Conflict mitigation and response actions.

The project has established baseline metrics for Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) capacity through pre-training surveys conducted with all participants. Notably, Indicator 1.1 has exceeded its target, with 40 UWA staff trained in Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) mitigation strategies, surpassing the original goal of 25. Pre- and post-training assessments revealed a 7% average increase in participants' understanding of Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) approaches, rising from 79% to 86%, demonstrating tangible progress in institutional capacity building.

Under Indicator 1.2, a total of 84 UWA staff (compared to a target of 80) were trained in using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for documenting HCC incidents and responses. Participants showed a 19% increase in SMART proficiency, with scores improving from 78% to 97%. This integrated training, combining C2C capacity building and SMART protocol instruction, is detailed in Annex 10, with post-training assessments summarised in Annex 12.

Further strengthening frontline response capacity, 47 rangers were certified as First Respondents for HCC events under Indicator 1.4. Evaluation results showed an 18% average improvement in understanding conflict mitigation protocols, increasing from 47% to 64%. These rangers are now better equipped to manage conflict scenarios effectively, helping to protect both communities and wildlife.

Looking ahead, Year 3 will feature a follow-up survey under Indicator 1.5 to evaluate the retention and real-world application of skills by trained UWA staff. This assessment will inform adaptive management decisions and serve as a key milestone for evaluating the long-term success of Output 1.

OUTPUT 2: By the end of year 3, households affected by Human Carnivore Conflict in the QECA have improved income and capacity to reduce its impacts, thus removing the perceived need to kill carnivores in retaliation.

It is still too early to measure any overall results, however the baselines under output 2 have now been set, and work towards the output has started. Communities affected by HCC in the region have been identified and the baseline C2C assessment completed with communities will be used in early Year 2 to develop the HCC action plans (indicator 2.1) and priority activities implemented (Indicator 2.3). First Responder training was carried out by 3 trainers from RedCross Uganda for 80 community members (of whom 14 were women) from the four project hotspots (Indicator 2.2). As a result of supporting identified priority actions on livelihoods from the HCC action plans being implemented, we expect to see an increase in participants' incomes by the end of the project (Indicator 2.4).

OUTPUT 3: By end of year 3, CBOs representing households affected by HCC in QECA have the capacity and opportunity to engage effectively with the UWA and local authorities.

It is too early in the project for there to be results under this output, though CBOs/community groups to be engaged in the project have been identified in line with their existing engagement and activity on HCC issues. Baselines on capacity of the engaged CBOs have been collected (See report in Annex 18). Further baselines need to be conducted for a number of community groups not covered by this assessment in early year 2 as they are more formally engaged in the project.

Under Indicator 3.1, 40 participants from HWC groups (15 women and 25 men) were engaged in capacity building exercises in March 2025 around QECA; the groups received capacity building in good governance in HWC groups, collaborative natural resources management and resource access in the protected areas, revenue sharing procedures, how to register HWC groups at local government level, how to draft a constitution for a HWC group/ CBO, requirements and procedures for HWC compensation and Human Rights Based Approach in Natural resources management (Annex 19).

CBOs have also been initially engaged through the C2C assessment (Indicator 3.2) and will continue to participate in development of HCC Action Plans and interventions in year 2.

Under Indicator 3.3, in the first 9 months of the project, two meetings have been held between UWA, local authorities and CBOs conducted which engaged communities around wildlife management and decision-making to discuss conservation and HCC issues, identify responses, and people responsible for these (Annex 16).

Household surveys were carried out to collect the baselines for Indicator 3.4 - showing that 37.4% of men, and 32.1% of women are aware how to access revenue sharing mechanisms And for Indicator 3.5, 73.2% of men and 59.5% of women trust in the authorities to resolve HWC. See project dashboard and Annex 15.

4.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

OUTCOME: By 2027, Human-Carnivore Conflicts have reduced in QECA, leading to decreased carnivore mortality and improved community livelihoods and wellbeing

During year 1 of the project, we have made good progress on establishing relevant ecological and socio-economic baselines to monitor the project's outcome. We are still on track to achieve the project's outcome and have provided specific updates on the outcome indicators below:

All baseline data for the outcome level indicators have been collected. UWA has provided data on carnivore populations/mortality where possible (Indicator 0.1) and HCC incidences (Indicator 0.2), and have agreed to share data as and when needed to support monitoring and evaluation of the project. The household surveys that have been completed have provided the necessary data for both indicator 0.3 (well-being in communities) and 0.4 (tolerance of HCC in Communities).

0.1 By end of year 3, no retaliatory killings of lions, hyenas and leopards occur within targeted hotspots in QECA

Baseline: Since 2014: 70 lions, 100 leopards, 265 hyenas lost due to retaliatory killings) (NB. Due to the high cost of species monitoring data collection across the project area, poaching/mortality data is taken as a proxy to species population data).

Year 1 progress: C2C assessment has been conducted with communities and key stakeholders, which will inform HCC action plans into year 2 and 3.

0.2 By end of year 3, a 50% reduction in HCC within targeted hotspots QECA

Baseline: Lions, leopards and hyenas predated 178 livestock, 2018 - 2021; 21 people killed; and >100 people severely injured between 2014-2017) (Note this is likely to be an underrepresentation as losses are not always reported and also does not include livestock injuries)

Year 1 progress: training in SMART to enable data collection on HWC, and improved use of that data for better responses, plus C2C assessments will inform actions to reduce HCC and its impacts.

0.3 By the end of year 3, 300 households (~1,500 men, women, youth) report an improvement in wellbeing by 5% (from reduced income losses from HCC and/or improved income opportunities & jobs from implementation of the Carnivore Conservation Action Plans). (disaggregated by gender, age).

Baseline: Baseline 2024: Financial Wellbeing - 56% male, 45% female report satisfactory level; Material Wellbeing - 50% male, 40% female report satisfactory level; Average daily HH income 2023 = UGX 1713 (GBP 0.36)

Year 1 progress: Baseline has been collected for men and women living in 4 HCC hotspots. The baselines are captured in a dashboard which allows for disaggregation by various social characteristics and also by hotspot area. The dashboard is here: [. A further detailed analysis of varying attitudes has been conducted and is contained in the report in Annex 15.](#)

0.4 By end of year 3, at least 50% of the target population in 4 HCC hotspots report greater tolerance to living with carnivores, measured by greater acceptance of wildlife, reduction in perceived threats and likelihood to engage in retaliatory attacks, (disaggregated by gender, age).

Baseline: 2024 Tolerance to wildlife — 10.6% male, 3.9% female report satisfactory levels of tolerance

Year 1 progress: Baseline has been collected for men and women living in 4 HCC hotspots. The baselines are captured in a dashboard which allows for disaggregation by various social characteristics and also by hotspot area. The dashboard is here: [A further detailed analysis of varying attitudes has been conducted and is contained in the report in Annex 15.](#)

4.4 Monitoring of assumptions

OUTCOME LEVEL ASSUMPTIONS:

Assumption 1: Continuous goodwill from protected areas management authorities especially UWA and partners to continue implementing/ maintaining HCC interventions after the completion of the project.

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 2: UWA and partners to continue implementing/ maintaining HCC interventions after the completion of the project

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 3: Government maintain effective security measures so that QECA remains safe for tourists to visit and staff to work

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 4: COVID/ Ebola recovery allows for implementation of activities as planned and that a new outbreak won't happen

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 5: Political stability continues in Uganda, and the environment remains favourable for implementation of the project in target areas.

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 6: UWA and local communities can see value in HCC mitigation measures and maintain a trusted relationship

Comments: Holds true

OUTPUT 1 ASSUMPTIONS

Assumption 7: UWA trained staff do not get transferred during the project.

Comments: This assumption needs to be revised as we cannot control this. Revised assumption is: By training UWA staff (trained trainers) to be able to pass on capacity and skills to new staff, and by training multiple staff, this will ensure limited loss of overall institutional capacity and skills.

Assumption 8: UWA remains committed to using SMART to collect data.

Comments: Holds true. However there is a need to integrate use of Earth Ranger and SMART to ensure complementarity of data collection efforts.

Assumption 9: Park management and rangers fully support the implementation of the tools.

Comments: Holds true

OUTPUT 2 ASSUMPTIONS

Assumption 10: Other stakeholders (e.g. private sector operators) will continue to engage

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 11: By focusing on what is already underway and identifying the key gaps, stakeholders will be able to agree on the highest priority actions to implement.

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 12: If successful, livelihood related activities will help to improve resilience to cope with HCC, thereby improving tolerance to carnivores

Comments: Holds true

OUTPUT 3 ASSUMPTIONS

Assumption 13: Increasing transparency between park authorities and communities will support a better understanding of actions taken in response to HCC, and help to reduce community perceptions of a lack of responses to HCC.

Comments: Holds true

Assumption 14: Supporting stronger civil society groups will help to ensure that community members feel better represented in decision-making, and better able to access benefits accruing from wildlife (such as proceeds from tourism).

Comments: Holds true

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

As described in our Theory of Change, the expected impact of the project is that: **“Systematic approaches to Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) in Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA), Uganda, lead to stable carnivore populations and sustainable livelihoods and well-being for local communities.”**

At this stage, year 1, it is too early to report evidence of contributing towards these impacts. Evaluation against biodiversity and poverty reduction baselines set in year 1 will be conducted at the project's conclusion.

Biodiversity Impacts: In terms of biodiversity benefits, project interventions should lead to a decrease in carnivore (lions, hyenas, leopards) mortality as a result of conflict, by the end of the three years. In the longer term, as communities perceive more benefits to conserving wildlife, they will play a more effective role in curbing retaliatory killings and poaching. This will lead to further reductions in the killings of lions, hyenas and leopards, with the medium term impact of stable populations of these carnivores in the QECA. In turn, this should attract more tourists, thereby generating higher revenue which will feed back to further increases in household income as a result of improved equitable benefit sharing.

Year 1 has laid the foundations for progress towards the impact by conducting a holistic context screening, a participatory stakeholder analysis and a C2C assessment to map out HCC drivers and impacts and assess the performance of current HCC management approaches - capturing perspectives from affected communities and key stakeholders. (Annex 4 & Annex 10). This will inform the co-design of HCC Action Plans based on local cultural, environmental and social contexts of the HCC hotspot areas to better prevent and respond to conflict events, and improve tolerance of carnivores.

Poverty Impacts: The project will enhance the capacity of UWA rangers and local men and women to assess the drivers of HCC and to collaboratively develop and implement appropriate solutions, including suitable livelihood interventions.

These interventions will lead to a reduction in HCC events, reducing the impact on livelihoods and well-being from losses of income from livestock predation, while making communities safer and less vulnerable to carnivore attacks. Improving livelihood opportunities will further build the resilience of local communities and increase their tolerance to living with wildlife. This will directly

benefit 300 households (~1,500 men, women, boys and girls), while reducing the risk of HCC occurring will indirectly benefit further communities living in the vicinity.

The project will also support communities to have better representation in conservation governance, as well as greater ability to hold the authorities to account for effective delivery of HCC interventions.

In the longer term, household income will be increased due to livelihood interventions, improved livestock management and improved benefit sharing. CBOs will be able to play a stronger role in representing community interests, ensuring inclusive participation in decision-making and promoting benefits to communities through inclusive service provision and revenue sharing.

Year 1 has laid the foundations for progress towards the impact by conducting participatory stakeholder analysis and a C2C assessment (see above under biodiversity impact) which will support co-design of effective solutions to reduce and respond to HCC and improve the resilience of communities to incidents. UWA rangers also have improved capacity to support action on HCC, including on C2C approaches, use of SMART to record HCC data, and as 'First Respondents' to conflict events (Annex 12).

Baselines have been collected to understand levels of community awareness on benefit sharing mechanisms and a meeting has been held to facilitate engagement between UWA, local authorities, CBOs and local communities (Annex 16).

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

In year 1, the project has contributed to Uganda's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target on SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities by providing capacity building for community groups affected by HCC to strengthen their institutional, technical and financial capacity (including at least 30% of women in decision-making roles), to enhance their ability to advocate for increased conservation benefits for communities and inclusive community participation in decision-making (Annex 19).

Nationally, the Wildlife Act (2019), Wildlife Policy (2014), Community Conservation Policy (2004) and Guidelines for Revenue Sharing between Wildlife Protected Areas and Adjacent Local Governments and Communities (2012), all encourage park authorities to develop strong relationships with communities and support them to benefit from living alongside wildlife. The project has supported this in year 1 by facilitating engagement meetings between park authorities and communities to discuss conservation issues, identify responses, and people responsible for these (see Annex 16)

At both national and local levels, the project is supporting implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for Large Carnivore Conservation in Uganda 2024-2034 - which in turn supports the objectives of the National Development Plan and Vision 2040 documents. WWF contributed to the development of the Strategic Action plan prior to the start of this project, and also supported its launch in Kampala. The HCC Action plans, which will be informed by the C2C assessment undertaken in Year 1, will align to support implementation of the Strategic Action Plan in QECA.

With support from the Human-Carnivore conflict(HCC) Project, WWF Uganda Country Office (UCO) played an active role in the National Wildlife Conservation Conference held on 26 February 2025, a key event leading up to Uganda's World Wildlife Day celebrations. The Conservation conference marked the official launch of the National Strategic Action Plan for Large Carnivore Conservation in Uganda (2024-2034) and was officiated by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities, alongside the Permanent Secretary, the European Union Ambassador to Uganda, and other high-level dignitaries.

The event brought together representatives from leading conservation institutions from Government, NGOs, Private Sector, Academia, Media and Individual experts. During the conference, WWF UCO's Country Director presented the goals and achievements of the Darwin

HCC Project to an audience of more than 190 participants. The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities formally recognized WWF UCO's contributions to large carnivore conservation and specifically in realising the new Carnivore Strategy for Uganda, efforts made possible through support from the UK Government(See Annex 21).

The project has also supported implementation through enabling UWA to convene key stakeholders in QECA for open dialogue and coordination regarding carnivore conservation and Partner implementation of Carnivore strategy. Building on the C2C (conflict to coexistence) stakeholder mapping and UWA's needs, this meeting was held in Mweya and attended by participants from government agencies, conservation NGOs, and communities in HCC hotspots to strengthen coordination among stakeholders, to identify challenges to effective implementation, and develop actionable strategies for addressing these issues (see Annex 20).

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project will enhance the capacity of at least 80 UWA rangers and 300 local households (both directly and through engagement with CBOs) to assess the drivers of HCC and to collaboratively develop and implement appropriate solutions to reduce HCC events (Indicator 2.1), including livelihood interventions identified from analysis of market and value addition opportunities, and existing skills and resources available to local men and women in the different hotspots (Indicator 2.3). This will lead to direct benefits related to household income (Indicator 2.4): as a result of decreased losses of livestock and due to the livelihood interventions delivered directly through the project.

Further direct poverty alleviation for the 300 households will come from the well-being impacts of reduced carnivore attacks, increasing community safety and decreasing the risk of injury/death (Indicator 0.3).

In Year 1 of the project, households vulnerable to HCC have been identified and engaged in the hotspots, with community perspectives integrated into the C2C Assessment (Annex 10 & 11). Year 2 will engage these communities around co-created HCC action plans, including co-creation of appropriate livelihood support activities.

Rangers have also received First Respondent training to ensure efficient response to HCC events in QECA (Annex 13).

Indirect benefits on poverty will come from greater voice and better representation in conservation governance, as well as greater ability to hold the authorities to account for effective delivery of HCC interventions. At least 10 Community Based Organisations (approximately 30 members per group) will have improved capacity to engage with park authorities on management solutions for HCC (Indicator 3.2 & 3.3), to represent community views and to hold local authorities to account if benefits are not being shared equitably with communities as required (Indicator 3.1). Reducing the risk of HCC occurring will also indirectly benefit further communities living in the vicinity.

Year 1 has seen the engagement of CBOs in discussions to improve the national Access and Benefit Sharing Regulation (Annex 17), and facilitation of discussions between community groups and park authorities around actions to address issues arising around conservation and HCC (Annex 16). 40 participants from community groups affected by HCC also received support to strengthen institutional capacity around good governance and revenue sharing (Annex 19).

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

We have assessed the project as GESI empowering as this project will support enhanced participation and voice of women for greater equality in decision-making. It will also seek to generate direct benefits for women and girls through ensuring their perspectives have informed the HCC assessments (Conflict 2 Coexistence assessment) and that gender roles are considered in the development of HCC Action plans, and women and marginalised groups are specifically targeted in the co-development of livelihood and other interventions.

Design and implementation of activities has considered the GESI context as follows:

Gender inequality remains one of the most prevalent forms of discrimination in Uganda. The UNDP Gender Inequality Index score for Uganda slightly improved from 1990 (0.661) to 2021 (0.530); however, the country's score remains higher than the world average (0.465), indicating high levels of inequality between men and women. The Government of Uganda has ratified a number of gender equality instruments and commitments, including a) the 1995 Uganda Constitution, that commits to equality of women and men, and provides for the rights of women; b) Vision 2040, which prioritizes gender equality as a cross-cutting enabler for socio-economic transformation; c) the Third National Development Plan, which integrates the Sustainable Development Goals with a goal of "Increasing household incomes and improved quality of life"; and d) the National Policy on Elimination of GBV, to address the critical problems of GBV in Uganda.

Institutional frameworks that recognize the importance of GESI in conservation and the management of PAs exist; however, they are not consistently enforced. This is largely due to ministries, departments and agencies, such as the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), lacking adequate funding and human resources to implement gender policies, having limited knowledge on gender and equity programming and lacking sufficient gender-disaggregated data.

In Uganda, gender roles are shaped by cultural, economic, and social factors, creating distinct divisions of labor in households and communities. These roles influence how individuals interact with the environment and natural resources.

- **Women's Roles in Natural Resource Management:** Women are primarily responsible for household-based resource management, including water collection, fuelwood gathering, farming, and small-scale livestock rearing. They also manage traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable farming practices, often acting as stewards of local

biodiversity. However, their contributions are often undervalued in formal conservation systems.

- **Men's Roles in Natural Resource Management:** Men typically engage in commercial agriculture, hunting, logging, and other extractives, often impacting biodiversity. They are also more likely to be involved in decision-making processes related to land use and resource allocation. These power dynamics can influence how conservation efforts are designed and implemented.
- **Youth and Gendered Perspectives:** Youth, particularly young women, are becoming increasingly involved in conservation but face barriers related to education, training, and access to resources. Gendered expectations often limit their participation in conservation practices and decision-making.

Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA) is home to approximately 90,000 people who rely on livestock farming and natural resources for their livelihoods. Vulnerable and marginalized communities are the most impacted by HCC, and a lack of alternative income sources exacerbates their struggles. This is compounded by limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The gendered impacts of HCC are amplified by patriarchal societal structures that often exclude women from decision-making processes related to conservation and land use.

The identified gender constraints in QENP include the following, arising from social, cultural, and economic inequalities.

- **Limited Access to Resources:** Women, particularly in rural areas, often have limited access to land, capital, and credit, which restricts their ability to engage in conservation activities. Despite their key role in resource management, women typically lack decision-making power over land tenure and land use, hindering their involvement in conservation.
- **Barriers to Participation:** Women have limited access to formal education and training, preventing their full participation in conservation programs. Social norms also restrict women's involvement in traditionally male-dominated conservation activities.
- **Climate Change Vulnerability:** Women are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change due to their roles in agriculture and water collection. Droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather patterns exacerbate the challenges they face in ensuring food and water security for their households.
- **Conflict and Human-Wildlife Interaction:** Women in rural communities are more vulnerable to the negative impacts of HCC, such as crop damage, injury, and displacement. Moreover, they are often excluded from wildlife conservation decision-making, leading to policies that do not address their specific needs.

Project specific actions have been identified as follows:

- Awareness meetings will be held (at suitable times and locations to allow participation as well as in local languages) to allow marginalized groups, especially women and youth, to share their experiences with HCC and develop tailored strategies to address their concerns.
- Perspectives of different social groups have been sought in identifying the issues relating to HCC in the four target hotspots and action plans will be developed relating to these, with further engagement and participation of affected women and men.
- Women, men and youth will be engaged separately to identify and co-create appropriate resilient livelihood opportunities, again ensuring meetings are held at appropriate times to enable their involvement.
- Women's participation and leadership in the CBO hubs and decision-making mechanisms at CBO level will be supported through capacity building support for the CBOs engaged to ensure meaningful engagement and participation

- For meetings and training sessions, these have been/will be planned for suitable times and locations to enable participation of women. For participants needing to bring children with them, transport and meals have been provided for carers to accompany. Where required, female trainers will also be ensured - for example for the First Responder Training, female instructors worked with female participants and rangers. Training will be conducted in local languages where appropriate to facilitate greater inclusion.
- While the ranger force is very male, the project is engaging female rangers as far as possible and building their skills and capacity. For example a fifth of participants in the First Responder Training for rangers were female rangers. While ranger training more broadly covers gender equality and ensuring rangers uphold women's rights and understand the value of gender in conservation.
- Monitoring and evaluation includes gender and age-disaggregated data to assess the effectiveness of interventions in promoting gender equality, and to guide evidence-based decision-making.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

During the project inception meeting, the logframe, MEL plan, activity trackers and result trackers were reviewed and updated. Assumptions and risks were also discussed and updated where necessary. Informed by initial discussions, feedback from the donor, and the collection of baselines, the Logframe and MEL plan have been revised slightly and will be submitted as part of change request, alongside available new baseline data. Endline data will be collected towards the end of year 3 to measure the change the project has generated.

An M&E Working Group has been set up and has been meeting on a regular basis to strengthen the MEL Framework, plan and logframe. This group will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the project to track project progress and indicators, update results and adapt as needed. An activity tracker is held by WWF UCO in Kobo which is updated by staff on a regular basis - this feeds into the WWF UCO-wide M&E system and supports progress tracking.

A household level survey has been developed (see the Questionnaire in Annex 6) to collect missing baseline data for the logframe around well-being and selected C2C pillars. The surveys were carried out in October 2024 (see project dashboard and Annex 15 for analysis report).

Training rangers and community scouts on the use of SMART will support collection of data related to HCC incidents, and training of UWA supervisors on analysis of SMART data to support decisions around actions to take will further support decisions and adaptive management around HCC interventions.

Furthermore, one of the central pillars of the C2C approach with continuous monitoring of implementation of HCC management strategies being a key factor for adaptive management. Ongoing monitoring of interventions under the HCC action plans will generate feedback from community participants to understand whether they are having the desired effect or any negative impacts and to guide any adaptive management needed.

Going forward, UWA will share relevant data at the regular stakeholder meetings (also supported by this project) which will be collated to monitor the project and inform delivery (see Activity 3.5). For example the meeting held in March 2025 under this activity brought together stakeholders with the aim of sharing information to support learning on what is working and what is not.

9. Lessons learnt

We have learned several lessons during Year 1 of the project, some of which have informed adaptive management. For example:

We learned that in order to reach rangers, it is more effective to gather smaller groups of rangers close to their work stations, rather than gathering them all centrally. This means less

disruption to their daily work and is more likely to secure their engagement. Workplans were therefore adapted accordingly.

We also found that rangers who had previously received training in SMART were happy to be engaged again in refresher sessions and to support training of other rangers. This aspect has worked well and bodes well for sustainability of efforts.

It is useful to leverage UWA's established relationships with NGO partners and community groups, this has helped us with convening key stakeholders for information exchange and collaboration and we have therefore built on this during activity implementation (while also ensuring we gain the perspectives of other key stakeholders to inform engagement).

Staff turnover has posed some challenges. We have tried to minimise the impact of this by ensuring staff already familiar with the project have covered these roles on an interim basis while recruitment for replacements is ongoing and there has not been an impact on project delivery.

Regarding the data collection for household surveys, ideally more resources would have been allocated to enable more extended testing. While testing was carried out with both the project team and in the field, testing in different target locations would have been ideal. We will take the learning from this exercise into account when conducting the endline surveys.

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

We have made some adjustments to the MEL framework and logframe in response to earlier feedback and also considering updated baselines collected at the start of the project and will be submitting this as a change request shortly.

11. Risk Management

A new risk was identified in September which we added to the Risk register which was submitted with the half Year Report in October. One further risk has since emerged. We have provided an updated risk register in Annex 7.

12. Scalability and durability

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is a key stakeholder for future scaling and has been closely engaged from the start. WWF Uganda will work in close collaboration with UWA on collaborative planning, consultations, multi-stakeholder dialogues, joint training on SMART, engaging Community Scouts and support for community livelihoods. They have participated in various events including the project inception meeting, QECA Carnivore Conservation Alliance stakeholder meetings, as well as supporting joint training on SMART, community sensitisation and engagement of Community Scouts. They have learned about C2C approaches through the project and have expressed desire to move forward with this approach.

The project is well aligned with a number of government policies and strategies, including the Large Carnivore Strategic Plan which this project helped to launch (with WWF Uganda engagement on this prior to the project) and will specifically help to deliver. The project will also directly support delivery of the Human Wildlife Conflict Policy and review process for the current Human Conflict Strategy. The project is already helping UWA to reach communities in critical hotspot areas they haven't been able to reach before. Now that the need to work in these areas has been recognised, work should continue to be supported by UWA over the longer term.

Other key stakeholders such as local government authorities and NGOs have been engaged in joint planning and various multi-stakeholder meetings. They have demonstrated continued willingness to engage, and to date the evidence has shown that they are willing to be involved in and to learn from the project. Civil society organisations are keen to learn more about C2C approaches to HCC, and efforts are aligned with their strategic plans. All are ultimately aligned on conservation goals and desire to improve local livelihoods.

In terms of local communities, the project has specifically engaged those groups affected by HCC, so the incentives for their involvement are well aligned to their desire to reduce incidents of HCC, and to build their resilience to its impacts through enhancing livelihoods. Representatives from these communities have shown enthusiasm to engage to date.

Securing sustainability has been built into project design as a fundamental approach:

Output 1:

Building capacity of rangers and training of rangers in first response, C2C and SMART will contribute to the continuity of activities in this respect. As part of this, trained trainers have had their capacity, knowledge and skills built so they can continue to transfer this knowledge and capacity into the future.

Provision of smartphones for data collection to support actions to address and respond to HCC will enable ongoing data collection to support decision making beyond the life of this project. Furthermore, those decision-makers trained by the project to analyse data collected to support decision making and actions to address and respond to HCC will be able to continue to use and analyse this data into the future to address HCC.

During multiple SMART training sessions for UWA rangers and community scouts, the project collaborated with key stakeholders to ensure that capacity-building efforts and logistical arrangements supported the long-term sustainability of the HCC interventions.

Output 2:

The sensitisation of C2C approaches and the co-creation of HCC action plans should ensure their continued relevance to communities affected by HCC as the issues and interventions have been defined by a diverse range of community participants and stakeholders. Ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of efforts will support adaptive management to enhance likelihood of sustainability.

Livelihood activities will be selected on the basis of those areas where participants already have some existing knowledge and skills, and where there are existing markets to access. Context screening helps us to direct a specific intervention to areas that need it. For example in one of our hotspots they don't know any other livelihood activities other than livestock. The project will build on existing practices and livelihoods in those places to strengthen durability.

Co-development of livelihood interventions with communities will factor in capacity building, skills development and market access as fundamental aspects to ensure longevity of enterprises and livelihoods activities. The project will also align with the government-led Parish Development Model as far as possible as this will ensure existing support structures are in place (such as government extension officers) to offer further support.

Improving livelihoods will also help to support other intervention measures to tackle HCC e.g. predator proof kraals etc. So these action plans will identify lots of measures which communities can take over the longer term with more resilient livelihoods.

Furthermore, the project is working with existing groups of community scouts who receive ongoing support from UWA. Community scouts will benefit from livelihood activities to ensure they benefit from and continue engagement in HCC activities such as monitoring, patrols, first response etc over the longer term (this has been taken from an effective approach implemented by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme - IGCP - in ensuring sustainability with HWC groups)

Output 3:

The project is working with existing community groups engaging in HCC issues to strengthen their capacity, governance structures and systems with the aim of sustaining groups and

ensuring their continued ability to engage authorities around decision-making over the longer term.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative logo has been displayed, in accordance with BCF's branding guidelines, when promoting and executing all project activities through display banners at workshops, training events and community and stakeholder meetings. The Darwin Initiative funding has been recognised as a distinct project with a clear identity.

The project has been publicised through WWF Uganda's website:

[https://www.wwfuganda.org/?51405/WWF-Uganda-Launches-Project-to-Address-Human-Carnivore-Conflicts#:~:text=Human%2DCarnivore%20Conflict%20\(HCC\),cases%2C%20human%20injuries%20or%20fatalities;](https://www.wwfuganda.org/?51405/WWF-Uganda-Launches-Project-to-Address-Human-Carnivore-Conflicts#:~:text=Human%2DCarnivore%20Conflict%20(HCC),cases%2C%20human%20injuries%20or%20fatalities;)

as well as through X <https://x.com/WWFUGanda/status/1828407540478091748>

LinkedIn posts have been shared relating to some of the training undertaken by the project (C2C and first responder training), recognising this has been supported by the Darwin Initiative. e.g. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wwf-ugandaofficial_wwf-uganda-official-has-conducted-a-training-activity-7293242868708597761-JnCz/?utm_source=li_share&utm_content=feedcontent&utm_medium=g_mb_web&utm_campaign=copy

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wwf-ugandaofficial_wwf-uganda-in-partnershipwith-uganda-wildlife-activity-7313167479378264065-W92v/?utm_source=li_share&utm_content=feedcontent&utm_medium=g_mb_web&utm_campaign=copy

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wwf-ugandaofficial_wwf-uganda-in-partnershipwith-uganda-wildlife-activity-7313167479378264065-W92v/?utm_source=li_share&utm_content=feedcontent&utm_medium=g_mb_web&utm_campaign=copy

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/wwf-ugandaofficial_wwf-uganda-in-partnershipwith-uganda-wildlife-activity-7313167479378264065-W92v/?utm_source=li_share&utm_content=feedcontent&utm_medium=g_mb_web&utm_campaign=copy

In year 2, radio talkshow broadcasts are planned to provide an overview of the project and to support awareness raising for communities.

14. Safeguarding

15.

16. 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)
		DRAFT*		
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£168,766	£156,451		

**Please note, expenditures are currently indicative figures. We are still in the process of finalising expenditures with project partners. Variances of > 10% are now anticipated on two budget headings (Travel & Subsistence and Operating costs) and explained above. We will review budget line allocations of costs with partners in case of miscoding. The Year 1 underspend has been discussed with the Darwin Initiative and a Change Request will be submitted.*

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 (£)			WWF Uganda
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

17. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

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

N/A

19. 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 Systematic approaches to Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) in Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA), Uganda, lead to stable carnivore populations and sustainable livelihoods and well-being for local communities		
Outcome By 2027, Human-Carnivore Conflicts have reduced in QECA, leading to decreased carnivore mortality and improved community livelihoods and wellbeing		
Outcome indicator 0.1 By 2027, Human-Carnivore Conflicts have reduced in QECA, leading to decreased carnivore mortality and improved community livelihoods and wellbeing <i>(Baseline: since 2014: 70 lions, 100 leopards, 265 hyenas lost due to retaliatory killings; Target 0 retaliatory killings)</i> <i>(NB. Due to the high cost of species monitoring data collection across the project area, poaching/mortality data is taken as a proxy to species population data).</i>	In Year one the Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) assessment has been conducted with communities and key stakeholders, which will inform HCC action plans into year 2 and 3. See section 3.1 and Annex 10	year 2 UWA and partner data year 3 endline household survey
Outcome indicator 0.2 By end of year 3, a 50% reduction in HCC within targeted hotspots of QECA <i>(Baseline: Lions, leopards and hyenas preyed 178 livestock, 2018 - 2021; 21 people killed; and >100 people severely injured between 2014-2017 - Target; 50% reduction) (Note this is likely to be an underrepresentation as losses are not always reported and also does not include livestock injuries, baseline sources to be reviewed and consolidated at start of project)</i>	Training in SMART to enable data collection on HWC, and improved use of that data for better responses, plus C2C assessments will inform actions to reduce HCC and its impacts. See section 3.1 and Annex 12.	Year 3 UWA and partner data
Outcome indicator 0.3 By the end of year 3, 300 households (~1,500 men, women, youth) report an improvement in wellbeing (from reduced	Baseline has been collected for men and women living in 4 HCC hotspots. The baselines are captured in a dashboard which allows for disaggregation by various social characteristics and also by hotspot area. The	year 3 endline household survey

<p>income losses from HCC and/or improved income opportunities & jobs from implementation of the Carnivore Conservation Action Plans). (disaggregated by gender, age).</p> <p><i>(Baseline 2023: Financial Wellbeing - 54% male, 67% female report satisfactory level; Material Well being - 41% male, 60% female report satisfactory level; Average daily HH income 2023 = UGX 1713; Target: 600 households report increased wellbeing)</i></p> <p><i>Updated baseline 2024: Financial Wellbeing - 56% male, 45% female report satisfactory level; Material Wellbeing - 50% male, 40% female report satisfactory level;</i></p>	<p>dashboard is here: https://share.solstice.world/v3/dashboard_link/86b93816e577410f9a8fe2a4e2a37f15?share=14323150ecb04dae871c035fe6e5fded.</p> <p>A further detailed analysis of varying attitudes has been conducted and is contained in the report in Annex 15.</p> <p><i>Updated baseline 2024: Financial Wellbeing - 56% male, 45% female report satisfactory level; Material Wellbeing - 50% male, 40% female report satisfactory level;</i></p>	
<p>Outcome Indicator 0.4</p> <p>By end of year 3, at least 50% of the target population in 4 HCC hotspots report greater tolerance to living with carnivores, measured by greater acceptance of wildlife, reduction in perceived threats and likelihood to engage in retaliatory attacks, (disaggregated by gender, age). <i>(Baseline: 2023 Tolerance to wildlife - 35% male, 20% female report satisfactory levels of tolerance; Target: 50% of households report increased tolerance to carnivores against baseline)</i></p> <p><i>Updated Baseline 2024 Tolerance to wildlife — 10.6% male, 3.9% female report satisfactory levels of tolerance</i></p>	<p>Baseline has been collected for men and women living in 4 HCC hotspots. The baselines are captured in a dashboard which allows for disaggregation by various social characteristics and also by hotspot area. The dashboard is here: https://share.solstice.world/v3/dashboard_link/86b93816e577410f9a8fe2a4e2a37f15?share=14323150ecb04dae871c035fe6e5fded. A further detailed analysis of varying attitudes has been conducted and is contained in the report in Annex 15.</p> <p><i>Updated Baseline 2024 Tolerance to wildlife — 10.6% male, 3.9% female report satisfactory levels of tolerance</i></p>	Year 3 endline household survey
<p>Output 1 By the end of year 2, QECA ranger workforce has improved capacity to assess, develop and implement HCC mitigation and response actions</p>		
Output indicator 1.1	40 UWA staff (27 rangers, 10 wardens, 3 managers - 7 women, 33 men) were trained in C2C. On average	year 1

By end of year 1, at least 25 key UWA staff complete structured training in holistic approaches to HCC (i.e. Conflict to Coexistence Framework) (Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 25)	participant's understanding and capacity relating to C2C approaches increased by 7% (from 79% to 86%). See section 3.2 and Annexes 10&12.	
Output indicator 1.2 By end of year 1, 80 new UWA Rangers are trained to use SMART to record HCC events and response efforts (Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 80)	84 UWA staff (22F, 62M) have been trained to use SMART to record HCC events and response efforts. Participants' knowledge and skills in relation to using SMART increased by 19% (from 78% to 97%). See section 3.2 and Annexes 10&12.	year 1
Output indicator 1.3 By end of year 2, 15 UWA rangers are trained to use SMART data to improve adaptive management to HCC events and to predict and prevent HCC (Baseline 2023:TBD at start of the project; Target: 15)	Year 2	Train ranger supervisors in the analysis and adaptive management planning of SMART data to improve management approaches and HCC responses
Output indicator 1.4 By end of year 2, 80 UWA rangers are trained and equipped as 'First Respondents' for HCC events (Baseline 2023:0; Target: 80)	47 rangers (39M, 8F) were trained as 'First Respondents' for HCC events. Participants showed an average 18% increase in understanding and skills relating to first response approaches (from 47% to 64%) following the training. See section 3.2 and Annexes 12&13	Train rangers in First Respondent to ensure efficient response to HCC events in QECA - refresher training
Output indicator 1.5 By end of year 3, 80 UWA rangers report that they are still applying the skills acquired from the trainings at least 6 months after training (Baseline 2023:0; Target: 80)	Year 3	year 2 internal monitoring (M&E)
Output 2. By the end of year 3, Households affected by Human Carnivore Conflict in the QECA have improved income and capacity to reduce its impacts; thus removing the perceived need to kill carnivores in retaliation.		
Output indicator 2.1. By end of year 1, one Human-Carnivore Conflict Management Strategy and Action Plan collaboratively developed covering 4 HCC hotpots (in line with national	C2C sensitisation conducted with communities (involving 80 community members - 14F, 66M)) and will be used in early Year 2 to develop the HCC action plans See section 3.2 and Annex 10 & 11	Hold workshops with communities to collaboratively develop an HCC Action Plan for at least 4 hotspot sites

level Carnivore Conservation Plan currently in development), incorporating consideration of gender and inclusion issues with the involvement of key stakeholders (<i>Baseline 2023:0; Target: 1</i>)		
Output indicator 2.2. By end of year 1, 40 community members (community wildlife scouts) from 4 key HCC hotspots are trained and equipped to monitor and respond to HCC, and as 'First Respondents for HCC events' (<i>Baseline 2023:0; Target: 40</i>)	First Responder training was carried out by 3 trainers from RedCross Uganda office for 80 community members (14F,66M) from the four project hotspots	field follow-up with communities to make sure that they are practising First Responder skills whenever required
Output indicator 2.3 By end of year 3, priority activities from HCC Action Plans (e.g co-created livelihoods interventions, livestock insurance scheme pilot; predator proof bomas; predator lights etc) have been implemented, showing improvement against the relevant pillars to managing HCC within the C2C approach (strengthen policy, understand, monitor, prevent, mitigate, and respond) (<i>Baseline: Rapid HCC assessment completed and no local level HCC action plans; Target C2C assessment scores for pillars relevant to priority actions show an improvement against baseline</i>)	Year 2&3	Support co-created livelihood initiatives year 3 C2C assessment year 3 endline household survey
Output indicator 2.4 By end of year 3, targeted community members' (300 households ~1,500 men, women, youth) income has increased by 10% through engagement with co-created livelihood interventions (<i>Baseline 2023: Average daily income = UGX 1713 ; Target:10% increase</i>)	Year 2&3	Support co-created livelihood initiatives year 3 endline household survey
Output 3. By end of year 3, CBOs representing households affected by HCC in QECA have the capacity and opportunity to engage effectively with the UWA and local authorities		
Output indicator 3.1 By end of year 3, 2 targeted local CBO hubs (with minimum 10 CBO's) have improved institutional, technical and financial capacity (including at least 30% of women in decision-making roles), to advocate for increased conservation benefits for communities, inclusive community	40 participants from HWC groups were engaged in capacity building exercises in March 2025 around QECA; the groups received capacity building in good governance in HWC groups, collaborative natural resources management and resource access in the protected areas, revenue sharing procedures, how to	Support institutional capacity development of selected community groups involved in reducing HCC through training

<p>participation in decision-making and support community development.</p> <p><i>(Baseline: TBD at start of project; Target: Capacity assessment score/ranking increased by at least one level for 2 targeted CSOs /CBOs)</i></p>	<p>register HWC groups at local government level, how to draft a constitution for a HWC group/ CBO, requirements and procedures for HWC compensation and Human Rights Based Approach in Natural resources management.</p> <p>See section 3.2 and Annex 19</p>	
<p>Output indicator 3.2</p> <p>3.2 By end of year 1, representatives from village development committees (where at least 30% of those in decision-making positions are women) covering at least 4 communities are engaged in development of integrated solutions to HCC <i>(Baseline 2023 – 0; Target: 4 communities engaged in development of integrated solutions to HCC)</i></p>	<p>A number of community representatives were engaged through the C2C assessment and this will continue for the co-development of HCC Action Plans and livelihood interventions.</p> <p>See Section 3.2 and Annex 10</p>	<p>Support institutional capacity development of selected community groups involved in reducing HCC through training.</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.3</p> <p>By end of year 3, at least 10 quarterly meetings between UWA, local authorities and CBOs conducted to engage communities around wildlife management and decision-making and to share information on responses to HCC events <i>(Baseline 2023 - no regular meetings established; Target: 10 completed meetings)</i>.</p>	<p>Two meetings have been held between UWA, local authorities and CBOs conducted which engaged communities around wildlife management and decision-making to discuss conservation and HCC issues, identify responses, and people responsible for these.</p> <p>See section 3.2 and Annex 16</p>	<p>Facilitate regular meetings between community groups and park management on conservation challenges, adaptive measures and opportunities and develop shared actions to reduce human carnivore conflict</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.4</p> <p>By end of year 3, 70% of 300 households (~ 1,500 men, women, young people) in frontline communities have improved awareness of 1) community rights and processes to access revenue and other resources from QECA; and 2) responsibilities of government bodies, and of communities to support conservation in QECA.</p> <p><i>Baseline 2024: 37.4% of men, and 32.1% of women are aware how to access revenue sharing mechanisms</i></p>	<p>Household surveys were carried out to collect the baselines for Indicator 3.4 - showing that 37.4% of men, and 32.1% of women are aware how to access revenue sharing mechanisms.</p> <p>See section 3.2, project dashboard and Annex 15</p>	<p>Support institutional capacity development of selected community groups involved in reducing HCC through training.</p> <p>year 3 endline household survey</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.5</p> <p>By the end of year 3, men and women living with wildlife in at least 4 conflict hotspots perceive that more effective</p>	<p>Household surveys were carried out to collect the baselines for Indicator 3.5 - showing that 73.2% of men and 59.5% of women trust in the authorities to resolve HWC.</p>	<p>year 3 endline household survey</p>

<p>actions are being taken by authorities to respond to incidences of HCC.</p> <p><i>(Baseline: 2023: 36% of men and women trust in the authorities to resolve HWC; Target 50% of target HHs)</i></p> <p><i>Updated baseline 2024: 73.2%% of men and 59.5% of women trust in the authorities to resolve HWC</i></p>	<p>See section 3.2, project dashboard and Annex 15</p>	
---	--	--

20. **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: Systematic approaches to Human-Carnivore Conflict (HCC) in Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA), Uganda, lead to stable carnivore populations and sustainable livelihoods and well-being for local communities			
Outcome: By 2027, Human-Carnivore Conflicts have reduced in QECA, leading to decreased carnivore mortality and improved community livelihoods and wellbeing	0.1 By end of year 3, no retaliatory killings of lions, hyenas and leopards occur within targeted hotspots in QECA <i>(Baseline: since 2014: 70 lions, 100 leopards, 265 hyenas lost due to retaliatory killings; Target 0 retaliatory killings) (NB. Due to the high cost of species monitoring data collection across the project area, poaching/mortality data is taken as a proxy to species population data).</i>	0.1 Lion and other Carnivore Survey and Monitoring Reports (on populations, distribution/movement, mortalities from Uganda Wildlife Authority(UWA) and partners such as Uganda Carnivore Program (UCP), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF); SMART reports	Continuous goodwill from protected areas management authorities especially UWA and partners to continue implementing/ maintaining HCC interventions after the completion of the project Government maintain effective security measures so that QECA remains safe for tourists to visit and staff to work COVID/ Ebola recovery allows for implementation of activities as planned and that a new outbreak won't happen
	0.2 By end of year 3, a 50% reduction in HCC within targeted hotspots QECA <i>(Baseline: Lions, leopards and hyenas predated 178 livestock, 2018 - 2021; 21 people killed; and >100 people severely injured between 2014-2017 - Target; 50% reduction) (Note this is likely to be an underrepresentation as losses are not always reported and also does not include livestock injuries, baseline sources to be reviewed and consolidated at start of project)</i>	0.2 Human Carnivore Conflict monitoring reports from UWA and Partners (UCP, WCS and UCF)	Political stability continues in Uganda, and the environment remains favourable for implementation of the project in target areas. UWA and local communities can see value in HCC mitigation measures and maintain a trusted relationship

	<p>0.3 By the end of year 3, 300 households (~1,500 men, women, youth) report an improvement in wellbeing (from reduced income losses from HCC and/or improved income opportunities & jobs from implementation of the Carnivore Conservation Action Plans). (disaggregated by gender, age). <i>(Baseline 2023: Financial Wellbeing - 54% male, 67% female report satisfactory level; Material Wellbeing - 41% male, 60% female report satisfactory level; Average daily HH income 2023 = UGX 1713; Target: 600 households report increased wellbeing)</i></p> <p>0.4 By end of year 3, at least 50% of the target population in 4 HCC hotspots report greater tolerance to living with carnivores, measured by greater acceptance of wildlife, reduction in perceived threats and likelihood to engage in retaliatory attacks, (disaggregated by gender, age). <i>(Baseline: 2023 Tolerance to wildlife - 35% male, 20% female report satisfactory levels of tolerance; Target: 50% of households report increased tolerance to carnivores against baseline)</i></p>	<p>0.3 Baseline and endline well-being surveys <i>(disaggregated by gender, age)</i>.</p> <p>0.4 Baseline and endline household surveys including questions on people's perceptions of HCC, coexistence, tolerance and likelihood of retaliation.</p>	
--	--	---	--

<p>Output 1</p> <p>By the end of year 2, QECA ranger workforce has improved capacity to assess, develop and implement HCC mitigation and response actions</p>	<p>.1 By end of year 1, at least 25 key UWA staff complete structured training in holistic approaches to HCC (i.e. Conflict to Coexistence Framework) (<i>Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 25</i>)</p> <p>1.2 By end of year 1, 80 new UWA Rangers are trained to use SMART to record HCC events and response efforts (<i>Baseline 2023: 0; Target: 80</i>)</p> <p>1.3 By end of year 2, 15 UWA rangers are trained to use SMART data to improve adaptive management to HCC events and to predict and prevent HCC (<i>Baseline 2023:TBD at start of the project; Target: 15</i>)</p> <p>1.4 By end of year 2, 80 UWA rangers are trained and equipped as 'First Respondents' for HCC events (<i>Baseline 2023:0; Target: 80</i>)</p> <p>1.5. By end of year 3, 80 UWA rangers report that they are still applying the skills acquired from the trainings at least 6 months after training (<i>Baseline 2023:0; Target: 80</i>).</p>	<p>1.1 Meeting/workshop attendance and participants lists, training reports; disaggregated by gender</p> <p>1.2 Training reports , attendance lists, training evaluation records, Disaggregated by gender</p> <p>1.3 Training reports , attendance lists, training evaluation records, Disaggregated by gender</p> <p>1.4 Training reports , attendance lists, training evaluation records, equipment inventory, Disaggregated by gender</p> <p>1.5. Follow-up surveys, SMART reports</p>	<p>UWA trained staff do not get transferred during the project.</p> <p>UWA remains committed to using SMART to collect data.</p> <p>Park management and rangers fully support the implementation of the tools.</p>
--	--	---	--

<p>Output 2</p> <p>By the end of year 3, Households affected by Human Carnivore Conflict in the QECA have improved income and capacity to reduce its impacts; thus removing the perceived need to kill carnivores in retaliation</p>	<p>2.1 By end of year 1, one Human-Carnivore Conflict Management Strategy and Action Plan collaboratively developed covering 4 HCC hotspots (in line with national level Carnivore Conservation Plan currently in development), incorporating consideration of gender and inclusion issues with the involvement of key stakeholders (<i>Baseline 2023:0; Target: 1</i>)</p> <p>2.2 By end of year 1, 40 community members (community wildlife scouts) from 4 key HCC hotspots are trained and equipped to monitor and respond to HCC, and as ‘First Respondents for HCC events (<i>Baseline 2023:0; Target: 40</i>)</p> <p>2.3 By end of year 3, priority activities from HCC Action Plans (e.g co-created livelihoods interventions, livestock insurance scheme pilot; predator proof bomas; predator lights etc) have been implemented, showing improvement against the relevant pillars to managing HCC within the C2C approach (strengthen policy, understand, monitor, prevent, mitigate, and respond) (<i>Baseline:</i></p>	<p>2.1 Finalised Human-Carnivore Conflict Resolution Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>2.2 Training reports , attendance lists, training evaluation records, disaggregated by gender</p> <p>2.3 Project monitoring reports; monitoring of HCC Action Plan; Conflict 2 Coexistence (C2C) follow-up assessment in Year 3</p>	<p>Other stakeholders (e.g. private sector operators) will continue to engage</p> <p>By focusing on what is already underway and identifying the key gaps, stakeholders will be able to agree on the highest priority actions to implement.</p> <p>If successful, livelihood related activities will help to improve resilience to cope with HCC, thereby improving tolerance to carnivores</p>
---	---	--	---

	<p><i>Rapid HCC assessment completed and no local level HCC action plans; Target C2C assessment scores for pillars relevant to priority actions show an improvement against baseline)</i></p> <p>2.4 By end of year 3, targeted community members' (300 households ~1,500 men, women, youth) income has increased by 10% through engagement with co-created livelihood interventions (<i>Baseline 2023: Average daily income = UGX 1713 ; Target:10% increase</i>)</p>	<p>2.4 Baseline and end line community well-being survey, interviews, Rapid socio economic assessment (<i>disaggregated by gender, age</i>);</p>	
<p>Output 3</p> <p>By end of year 3, CBOs representing households affected by HCC in QECA have the capacity and opportunity to engage effectively with the UWA and local authorities</p>	<p>3.1 By end of year 3, 2 targeted local CBO hubs (with minimum 10 CBO's) have improved institutional, technical and financial capacity (including at least 30% of women in decision-making roles), to advocate for increased conservation benefits for communities, inclusive community participation in decision-making and support community development. Action (Baseline: TBD at start of project; <i>Target: Capacity assessment score/ranking increased by at least one level for 2 targeted CSOs /CBOs</i>)</p>	<p>3.1 CBO capacity assessment tool</p>	<p>Increasing transparency between park authorities and communities will support a better understanding of actions taken in response to HCC, and help to reduce community perceptions of a lack of responses to HCC.</p> <p>Supporting stronger civil society groups will help to ensure that community members feel better represented in decision-making, and better able to access benefits accruing from wildlife (such as proceeds from tourism).</p>

	<p>3.2 By end of year 1, representatives from village development committees (where at least 30% of those in decision-making positions are women) covering at least 4 communities are engaged in development of integrated solutions to HCC <i>(Baseline 2023 – TBD at start of project; Target: 4 communities engaged in development of integrated solutions to HCC)</i></p> <p>3.3 By end of year 3, at least 10 quarterly meetings between UWA, local authorities and CBOs conducted to engage communities around wildlife management and decision-making and to share information on responses to HCC events <i>(Baseline 2023 - no regular meetings established; Target: 10 completed meetings).</i></p> <p>3.4 By end of year 3, 70% of 300 households (~ 1,500 men, women, young people) in frontline communities have improved awareness of 1) community rights and processes to access revenue and other resources from QECA; and 2) responsibilities of government bodies, and of</p>	<p>3.2 Meeting notes and attendance lists</p> <p>3.3 Meeting notes and attendance lists</p> <p>3.4 Baseline and end line community survey. (disaggregated by gender, age).</p>	
--	---	--	--

	<p>communities to support conservation in QECA. (Baseline: to be collected at start of project; Target 70% have improved awareness)</p> <p>3.5 By the end of year 3, men and women living with wildlife in at least 4 conflict hotspots perceive that more effective actions are being taken by authorities to respond to incidences of HCC. (Baseline: 2023: 36% of men and women trust in the authorities to resolve HWC; Target 50% of target HHs)</p>	<p>3.5 Baseline and end line survey; Interviews with CSOs/CBOs. (disaggregated by gender, age).</p>	
<p>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)</p> <p>0.1 Conduct the inception meeting with the key QECA stakeholders</p> <p>Output 1: By the end of year 2, QECA ranger workforce has improved capacity to assess, develop and implement Human Carnivore Conflict mitigation and response actions</p> <p>1.1 Collate baseline data for equipment provisions/availability</p> <p>1.2 Conduct training of QEPA/UWA staff on Conflict to Co-existence (C2C) systems approach.</p> <p>1.3 Train rangers in the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to record HCC events and the efforts of response units and conservation.</p> <p>1.4 Train ranger supervisors/managers in the analysis and adaptive management planning of SMART data to improve management approaches and HCC responses.</p> <p>1.5 Train rangers in First Respondent Training to ensure efficient response to HCC events in QECA</p> <p>Output 2: By the end of year 3, households affected by Human Carnivore Conflict in the QECA have improved income and capacity to reduce its impacts, thus removing the perceived need to kill carnivores in retaliation.</p> <p>2.1 Support community sensitization on C2C approach (around Holistic approaches, tolerance, shared responsibility and promotion of sustainable development)</p> <p>2.2 Conduct gender and inclusion analysis to inform development of action plans, and identify actions to promote gender equality and social inclusion throughout the project.</p>			

2.3 Hold a workshop with communities to collaboratively develop an HCC Action Plan for at least 4 hotspot sites, based on findings from the rapid SAFE assessment.

2.4 Train and equip communities in the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to record HCC events and the efforts of response units and conservation and as 'First Respondents' for HCC events

2.5 Support community patrols to monitor carnivores and potential conflict situations and report and respond to conflict events.

2.6 Repeat HCC assessment and community well-being surveys to reflect on successes and impact of the project, share lessons learned and discuss the project's final evaluation.

2.7 Support co-created livelihood initiatives (e.g. Southern Sector: coffee value addition, commercial crafts, community tourism; Northern Sector: briquette making from invasive plants, milk value addition, zero grazing programs and strengthening Cattle Infrastructure and Vet Services.)

Output 3: By end of year 3, CBOs representing households affected by HCC in QECA have the capacity and opportunity to engage effectively with the UWA and local authorities

3.1. Conduct baselines for CSOs/CBO Capacity Assessment; community engagement in integrated HCC; community awareness of rights and responsibilities; perception of effectiveness of authorities' responses to HCC

3.2 Support institutional capacity development of selected community groups involved in reducing HCC through training.

3.3: Facilitate regular meetings between community groups and park management on conservation challenges, adaptive measures and opportunities and develop shared actions to reduce human carnivore conflict.

3.4 Support CBOs to engage in dialogue and raise awareness with UWA around benefit sharing arrangements and share information/processes with communities including revenue sharing guidelines, and better manage community expectations.

3.5 Support UWA to conduct quarterly QECA Carnivore Conservation Alliance stakeholder partner meetings/ workshops to enable data harmonisation, ensure coherence of actions, leverage technical/financial support and enable adaptive management.

3.6. Conduct second CBO Capacity assessment to measure and evaluate increase in capacity of local CBOs

21. 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?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
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.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	