Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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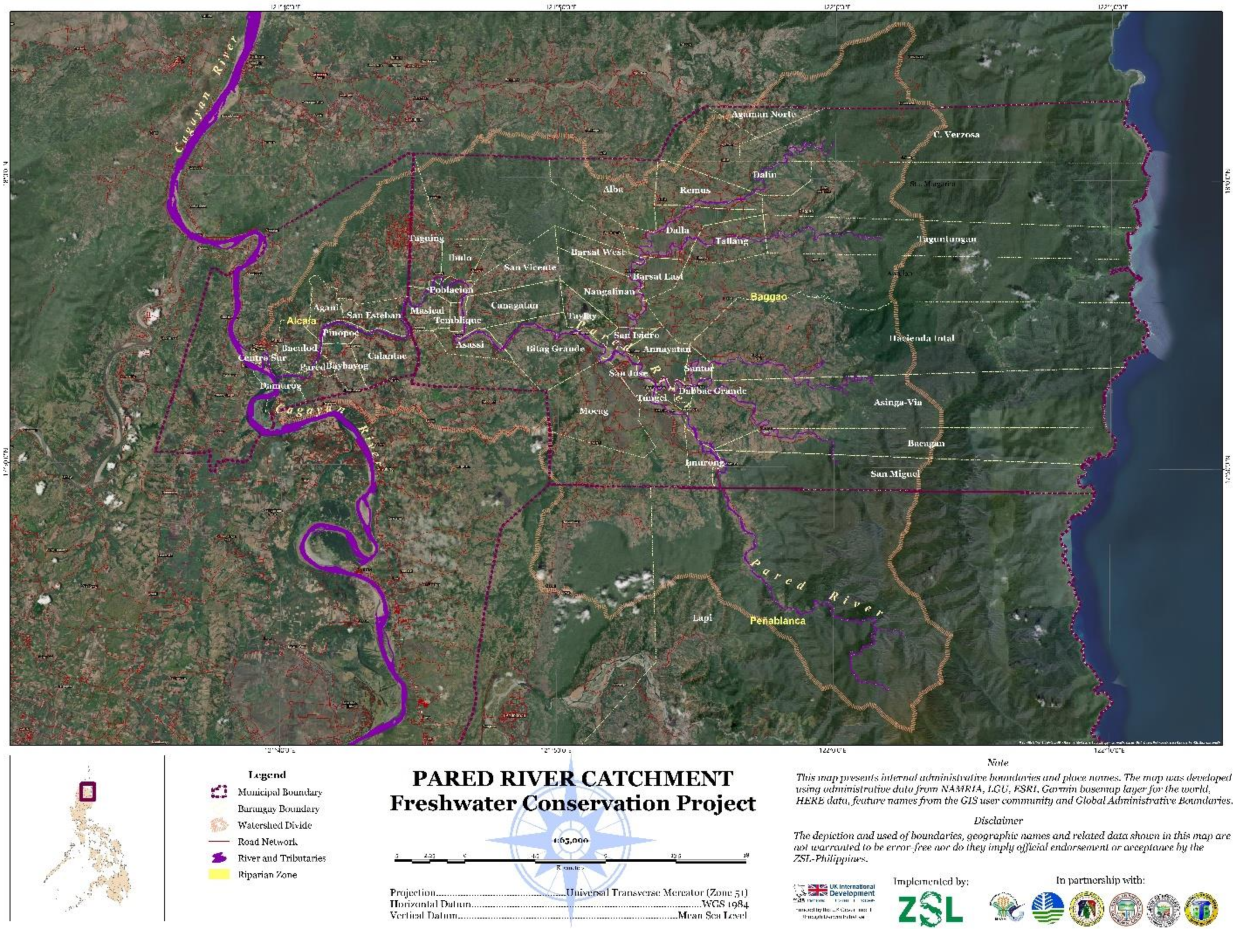
Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	31-005
Project title	Socially and ecologically coherent freshwater protection in Northern Philippines
Country/ies	Philippines
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Project partner(s)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Darwin Initiative grant value	597,784 GBP
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2024- 31 March 2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Alejandro A. Belen
Project website/blog/social media	*Http://www.zsl.org*
Report author(s) and date	Alejandro Belen, Paul Filip Depra, Reynor Aquino, Roldan Dugay, Ana Pinto April 2025

1.

Project summary

Freshwater biodiversity in the Pared River Catchment (PRC) (see map below) is threatened by land-use change, abstraction, exploitation, pollution, climate change, and invasive species. ZSL will work with the recipient communities in 13 key sites and partner government agencies to establish a coherent network of 13 community-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) across the PRC. We will build capacity of communities and government to mitigate threats and better manage riverine resources. We will link FS with Community-managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs) and livelihood diversification to build both ecological and financial resilience.



2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project is strongly collaborative and based on demand from national and local institutions and communities. The Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA - BFAR) is the main in-country partner, leading some key activities such as river warden training, biological assessments, freshwater sanctuary (FS) establishment, patrol support, FS management plan updates, and project representation through the Technical Working Group (TWG) (Annex 4 and Annex 5). The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provides technical advice and supports biodiversity assessments, law enforcement training, riparian restoration, and watershed management, and also participates in the TWG. The Local Government Units (LGUs) of Alcala, Baggao and Penablanca are key partners in field activities, including inception workshops, project planning and formation of Project TWG, riparian and aquatic assessments, site selection for FS establishment, awareness campaigns, FS management and legislation. Community-based people's organizations in 10 sites are responsible for managing their respective freshwater sanctuary, recipients and beneficiaries of Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs), safeguarding and patrolling activities, awareness campaigns, and implementing riparian restoration through tree planting initiatives. Partnerships were built through inclusive engagement processes involving multi-level stakeholders guided by ZSL's FAIRER framework. Comprehensive stakeholder mapping analysis led to the signing of MoUs and MoAs (Annex 6) with partners following a transparent and consensual engagement process. Co-developed Stakeholder Engagement Plans (Annex 7) have been prepared and will continue to guide implementation, ensuring free, prior and informed consent. Participatory approaches were used to ensure fair and equitable selection of sites and stakeholders based on socio-ecological and technical criteria, embedding collaboration in project planning, decision-making and monitoring evaluation and learning. The first year of the project saw major achievements that reflect the strong collaboration with our partners. Key milestones include the signing of collaborative agreements between ZSL, national agencies, and LGUs (see Annex 6); a public Pledge of Commitment during the inception workshop and formation of the TWG

(Annex 8); and the successful completion of biological and socio-economic assessments of the Pared River catchment. These assessments informed the identification of potential FS sites, which were formally endorsed through resolutions by the respective LGUs (Annexes 9 to 11) (see copy of Collaborative agreement in Annex 6). Additionally, a comprehensive digital map and land use map of the Pared River were produced (Annex 12); 10 native tree nurseries were established with 22,000 wildlings planted; eight People's Organizations were organized as FS management bodies, engaging a total of 561 members (53 men, 508 women); and 47 new river wardens (45M, 2F) were trained, alongside 16 wardens from existing FSs who received refresher training (Annex 13). These achievements highlight the project's strength in building inclusive partnerships across national, regional, and local levels. A key lesson learned is that early and continuous engagement of stakeholders, from project conceptualization through design and implementation, it has helped us build a strong sense of ownership and commitment, laying the foundation for sustainability. Challenges encountered included the busy schedules and pre-existing priorities of government partners, compounded by their specific mandates and budget limitations. These were successfully addressed through proactive, flexible engagement strategies and by ensuring that partners saw their priorities reflected in project activities. The strong trust and good relationships developed with partners were critical in sustaining their active involvement despite competing demands. Beyond the formal project partners, a range of relevant local stakeholders have been actively engaged to strengthen the project's impact. The Department of Labor and Employment has supported the registration of People's Organizations (POs) and provided access to livelihood opportunities. The Department of Education has helped advocate environmental conservation to students, with particular emphasis on the protection of freshwater ecosystems (Annex 14). The Department of Agriculture (DA) will provide funding support to POs for their livelihood initiatives and will contribute technical expertise through lectures, particularly when the identified BDFE is aligned with DA's mandate, for example, mushroom cultivation or quail egg production. The National Irrigators Association (NIA) has also supported community livelihoods by purchasing native tree seedlings from the PO nurseries for planting along watersheds and riparian areas. The project also received strong diplomatic support, highlighted by the visit of Her Excellency Laure Beaufils, the British Ambassador to the Philippines on February 18th (Annex 15).The Ambassador visited the project sites, engaging with community members and project partners to better understand the project's achievements and future opportunities. Engaging these additional stakeholders has strengthened technical delivery, created new opportunities for sustainability, and helped amplify awareness of the project's aims among wider audiences.

At the start of the project, baseline consultations confirmed that many stakeholders in remote areas had limited awareness of biodiversity and its links to poverty. In response, the project integrated targeted Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities into multiple events and outputs. Key messages on biodiversity conservation, climate change, waste management, freshwater ecosystem services, the importance and benefits of FSs, and environmental laws were delivered during the biological survey feedback sessions held at all 10 key project sites. These sessions presented the biological and socio-economic findings alongside tailored IEC materials, ensuring that biodiversity messages were directly linked to local contexts and livelihoods. Further outreach activities were carried out during an awareness campaign at Sitio Bayan and San Luis Elementary School (See Annex 14), attended by Grade 5 and 6 students, where biodiversity and conservation issues were communicated through school presentations and interactive discussions. During project presentations to LGUs, POs, and technical stakeholders, the project's objectives, approach, and the issues it seeks to address were consistently explained, supported by visual materials such as maps, survey results, and case studies from the biological assessments. The project's inclusive engagement approach, guided by ZSL's FAIRER Framework, ensured that stakeholders were consulted consistently, that local knowledge and voices were integrated into communication efforts, and that materials and messages were adapted to the socio-cultural contexts of each site. The co-developed Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see Annex 7) also provided a framework to ensure messages on biodiversity-poverty connections were shared equitably across different actor groups.

Understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues has been assessed through facilitated discussions during feedback sessions and awareness activities, allowing the project team to gauge comprehension through participant questions, feedback, and expressed commitments. Evidence of improved awareness includes active community participation in the identification and protection of freshwater sanctuaries, the passage of FS resolutions by LGUs, and engagement of People's Organizations in biodiversity-friendly livelihood activities such as nursery establishment.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1

Activity 1.1- the biological and socio-economic surveys of the Pared River Catchment (PRC), were successfully conducted across the full stretch of the PRC and its tributaries, covering 32 barangays in the municipalities of Alcala, Baggao, and Peñablanca. Using standardised biodiversity assessment methods, 23 transects and 170 sampling stations were established along 59.5km of river system. The biological survey identified 6 aquatic species in Alcala, 15 in Baggao, and 8 in Peñablanca, informing the identification of key biodiversity areas (Annex 9). The socio-economic survey (Annex 11), engaging 522 respondents (277M, 245F), highlighted community dependence on aquatic resources, with 39% engaged in fishing and 38% in farming, and revealed a significant lack of awareness (85.4%) about freshwater sanctuaries.

Activity 1.2- Participatory land-use mapping was carried out with communities in 10 key sites with a total of 549 individuals (M274, F275) including landowners, and representatives from other stakeholders in identified barangays along the PRC, in collaboration with LGUs, DENR (Annex 12). Using community workshops and ground validation, the mapping documented current land use in riparian areas, following IPCC (2003) land cover classifications. Six land cover types were identified: closed canopy forest, open canopy forest, brushland, grassland/denuded areas, cropland, and settlements. The results highlighted significant pressures on riparian zones, with 59.22% converted to cropland and only 1.84% remaining as closed canopy forest, mainly in the headwaters (Annex 10). Through the participatory approach, communities gained a better understanding of riparian conservation issues, helped validate critical areas, and contributed to identifying priority sites for restoration and protection. This activity also supported building local ownership over land-use planning and set the foundation for integrating conservation actions into LGU and community initiatives (Annex 16).

Activity 1.3- 10 potential sites for the establishment of FSs were identified, encompassing a combined no-take zone area of 26 hectares across the three municipalities (see Annex 17). Concurrently, Activity 1.4 produced GIS-generated digital maps of the PRC, including management zoning of the proposed FSs and the riparian areas both sides of the FS.

Activity 1.5- Feedback and validation were prioritised, through a series of consultation meetings with over 670 participants (335 women, 325 men) across the ten barangays (see Annex 18). These meetings served to present assessment findings and proposed FS maps, incorporating local knowledge and concerns consistent with inclusive engagement standards.

Activity 1.6- delivered IEC sessions during consultations and school outreach activities (see Annex 14). These sessions emphasized the ecological significance of FSs, climate change impacts, and biodiversity conservation, thus reinforcing community buy-in and local stewardship.

Activity 1.7- focused on legal groundwork. Barangay-level joint resolutions supporting FS establishment were formulated in Alcala, Baggao, and Peñablanca, and subsequently endorsed to municipal councils (see Annex 19). Eight resolutions were submitted for adoption through Municipal Ordinances, with two ordinances in Alcala (already approved by the Mayor) and Baggao undergoing community consultations.

Activity 1.8- Preparations for demarcating the FSs are ongoing. Markers, billboards, and signages have been procured and are ready for installation upon receipt of the approved Municipal Ordinances (See Annex 20), securing the delineation of the 26-hectare core sanctuary zones.

Output 2.

Under Output 2, awareness-raising and leadership engagement activities have laid the foundation for sustainable FS management. During **Activity 2.1**, FS establishment concepts and network scaling-up ideas were introduced to barangay representatives during consultations.
Activity 2.2 led to the formation or revitalisation of 7 new POs and 1 existing association, involving 561 members, predominantly women (508 female, 53 male), further demonstrating the project's commitment to inclusive and equitable participation as guided by the FAIRER framework.
Preparatory work for **Activity 2.3**, the development and updating of FS management plans, progressed with workshops attended by PO management bodies, DENR, BFAR, and LGU representatives. Updates to Baggao's FS Management Plan are ongoing, awaiting final validation (see Annex 21).
Institutionalisation efforts (**Activity 2.4)** saw the updated FS Management Plan of Baggao integrated into municipal structures, including Agriculture, Environment, and Tourism offices. Plans are underway for integration into the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), ensuring long-term government budget support.
Preliminary discussions toward establishing the PRC FS Network (**Activities 2.5 to 2.7)** were initiated during community consultations, introducing the concept of a network management body to stakeholders. The formation of the network body and its formal presentation to LGUs are scheduled for the next phase once FS site management bodies reach Level 2 operational capacity.

Output 3.
Activity 3.1: The MEAT evaluation for the Baggao FS was rescheduled to Q1 of Year 2 due to difficulty in convening the FSMB, whose members were engaged in farming and pre-election activities. This will allow for more meaningful participation and better-quality data for the assessment.
Activity 3.2: Sixteen CMGs were reformed across Baggao's three sanctuaries to address issues with inactive membership. These groups were retrained and are now equipped to support regular monitoring and local enforcement (see Annex 22).
Activity 3.3: Refresher training sessions were conducted by DENR and BFAR, with a focus on standardizing species identification (moving away from common names) and monitoring techniques. Activities included transect swims, wildlife walks, and biomass estimation through fish catch monitoring.
Activity 3.4: CMGs co-developed annual action plans during training, formalising their schedules for monitoring activities. These plans contribute directly to evidence-based decision-making at the LGU level and support legislative updates to improve sanctuary management.
Activity 3.5: Visual tagging training was completed with seven representatives from partner agencies and academia. Thirty native fish were successfully tagged using VIE tags, enabling more robust tracking of freshwater species in PRC waterways in partnership with BFAR (see Annex 23).
Activity 3.6: The management plans for the PRC FS network are undergoing review and will be finalised upon the establishment of the Freshwater Sanctuary/Protected Area Management Body. This will ensure alignment with local governance structures and current conservation needs.
Activity 3.7: A Freshwater Sanctuary Assistant has been hired to improve data management. Monitoring forms are being consolidated and encoded to support more timely reporting, guide sanctuary expansion, and inform future adaptive management decisions.

Output 4.

Activity 4.1: Law enforcement training was conducted by DENR and BFAR for 47 (M45, F2) participants across the target barangays. These sessions equipped part-time fisherfolk and farmers with practical knowledge and skills to protect FSs through active enforcement and compliance with environmental regulations.
Activity 4.2: River wardens in Baggao's barangays (J. Pallagao, Asinga-Via, and San Miguel) have established regular patrol routines, improving visibility and deterrence in the sanctuaries. This effort reinforces community-led protection alongside formal enforcement mechanisms.

Activity 4.3: Training sessions on nursery development and silviculture were delivered alongside participatory land-use planning. These activities laid the groundwork for improved riparian zone restoration and long-term vegetation management.
Activity 4.4: Ten native tree nurseries have been successfully established, collectively raising around 31,000 seedlings from local mother trees. Community-based organisations (POs) have taken leadership over nursery maintenance and seedling propagation, promoting ownership and continuity of restoration efforts (see Annex 24).
Activity 4.5: CMGs conduct regular monitoring of invasive fish species, with technical support from BFAR, DENR, and local government staff such as the MENR Officer and Municipal Agriculturist. These data inform responsive management strategies for invasive control.
Activity 4.6: Invasive fish management is ongoing under BFAR's Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa program. For trees, the project is applying rainforestation techniques using shade-tolerant native species to phase out invasives without immediate clearing, consistent with DENR guidance (see Annex 25).
Activity 4.7: The original 1:50 planting ratio for replacing invasive trees with native seedlings is no longer being applied. Instead, restoration efforts have shifted towards strategies guided by regular invasive species monitoring under Activity 4.5, in alignment with DENR recommendations to prioritise ecological balance and natural regeneration over large-scale invasive tree removal.
Activity 4.8: Coordination is ongoing with DENR to encourage LGU-level adoption of a policy prohibiting the planting of invasive species. This policy aims to institutionalise improved planting practices and ensure long-term restoration success.
Activity 4.9: Pre-orientation on Community Managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs) has been integrated into local consultation sessions. Community interest in forming savings groups is high, and group formation is scheduled for the next reporting period.
Activity 4.10: Agreements have been made within target communities to allocate a portion of CoMSCA savings toward an environmental fund, which will help finance FS maintenance, warden incentives, and minor infrastructure needs.
Activity 4.11: Starter kits for CoMSCA groups have been procured and will be distributed to support group formation and initial savings operations in the coming months.
Activity 4.12: Initial training for Village Agents has commenced to build local capacity for CoMSCA facilitation and long-term group sustainability.
Activity 4.13: Native tree nursery operations have been identified as potential BDFEs for participating POs. Communities plan to supply seedlings to LGUs and other partners for reforestation, providing an early income-generating opportunity. Training in other BDFEs will follow in the next period.
Activity 4.14: Initial engagement with LGUs is underway to secure funding commitments for future BDFEs. This advocacy will be further developed in Year 2 as community enterprises gain traction.
Activity 4.15: Orientation sessions on CSA and organic farming techniques have begun, promoting resilient, biodiversity-friendly practices that complement FS conservation. Further capacity-building is planned for future implementation phases.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1
Baseline condition: At project inception, 3 mapped FS sites. There was limited understanding of community reliance on freshwater resources, and no participatory processes had been conducted to identify potential sanctuary areas in the main Pared River, however in the tributaries higher awareness was observed. Change recorded to date:
-The entire 95 km stretch of the Pared River, including its tributaries, has been mapped by Q3Y1 and digitised to support site identification. Ten FS sites have been delineated with community input and local government participation, covering a combined estimated area of 126.6 hectares (26ha core zone and 100.6ha buffer zone) (see Annexes 25a-f).
-A socioeconomic assessment was conducted in 10 barangays, with 522 respondents (47% women, 53% men), representing more than 10% of registered households. Results showed that 85.4% were previously unaware of freshwater sanctuaries, while 39% rely on the river system for income and agricultural use (mainly water access for farming) (Annex 11).
-An ecological characterisation and walkover habitat survey was conducted over 235.17 km of riverine stretches, including tributaries. This assessment inventoried native and invasive flora and

fauna. Three invasive tree species (5,246 individuals) and multiple invasive aquatic species were identified. The overall biological condition of the PRC was determined to be poor, highlighting the urgency of intervention (Annex 10).
-Ten new FS sites were delineated through participatory processes involving barangay officials, fisherfolk, farmers, and local government representatives. These sites were formally endorsed through community resolutions, reflecting local acceptance and ownership.
Evidence: Mapping outputs and GIS shapefiles, socio-economic survey report (and respondent database, ecological assessment reports, participatory land-use maps, signed community resolutions.
All indicators under Output 1 have demonstrated strong progress. **Indicator 1.1** is complete, with the project expanding FSs from a baseline of 7ha to a total of 33ha (7ha across 3 existing sanctuaries and 26ha across 10 newly established ones). **Indicator 1.2** has been met and exceeded, with community participation surpassing the 10% minimum threshold. For **Indicator 1.3**, over 235km of riparian zones have been ecologically characterised, and participatory land-use mapping has been completed. **Indicator 1.4** is also complete, with the delineation of 126.6 hectares of sanctuary zones, 26ha designated as core zones and 100.6ha as buffer zones.
The project is well on track to fully achieve Output 1, with substantial baseline data generated and strong community and stakeholder engagement in the identification process. Monitoring of this Output is being conducted through GIS data, and official records of community consultations and endorsements.

Output 2

Baseline condition: At project inception, three existing FSs in Baggao had limited co-management structures and no formal mechanisms to support expansion or coordination of FS efforts. There were no trained FS champions, no formally endorsed FS in new sites, and no governance structures across the Pared River Catchment (PRC) to support replication and sustainability. Change recorded to date:
-Four FS champions from the original FSs were trained by Q4Y1, exceeding the project target. These champions are now actively engaging in the 10 newly identified sites to promote FS as an effective strategy for riverine conservation and ecosystem protection. (Annex 26).
-Ten new FSs were endorsed at the barangay level and proposed to municipal governments through local resolutions. A total core no-take zone area of 26 hectares has been delineated and formally recommended to LGUs for legislative approval. Municipal-level resolutions declaring the proposed FSs have been reviewed and adopted, strengthening local policy backing.
-Seven new FS Management Boards (FSMBs) and one existing women's group have been organised or formalised, involving approximately 400 members in total. These include farmers, fisherfolk, and other river users who were oriented on their roles and responsibilities as FS managers and stewards of the catchment's natural resources.
-One FS Management Plan has been updated, covering the three original FSs in Baggao. This updated plan was developed through a participatory planning process involving the reformed FSMB, local stakeholders, and representatives from DENR, BFAR, and the LGU.
-The establishment of the PRC-wide FS Network Management Board (NMB), which will connect FSMBs across the catchment to facilitate coordination and peer learning, is planned for Y2.
Evidence: FS champion training attendance and activity logs; barangay and municipal resolutions; organisational profiles and orientation reports of FSMBs and POs; updated FS Management Plan; signed stakeholder meeting minutes.
Progress under Output 2 has been positive overall. **Indicators 2.1** and **2.2** are complete, with both exceeding their original targets. **Indicator 2.3** is on track, showing consistent implementation aligned with planned timelines. For **Indicator 2.4**, early progress has been made, and additional Freshwater Sanctuary Management Plans (FSMPs) are scheduled for development in Y2. **Indicator 2.5** is planned for implementation in Q4Y2.
Overall, progress under Output 2 is strong. Key community structures are in place and functioning, and the model for co-management is being actively tested and refined in practice. The project remains on track to achieve this Output by project close, with further progress expected in the coming quarters.

Output 3

Baseline condition: At the beginning of the project, there were only three CMGs in place, with limited monitoring capacity, no formal use of the Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT), and no fish tagging programme or species monitoring protocol across the FS in the PRC. Change recorded to date:
-Due to scheduling constraints related to the national elections and the campaigning commitments of FSMB committee leads, the training on the FS MEAT is now planned for Q1Y2. This is to ensure broad and safe participation and maintain the quality of engagement. The activity remains a high priority in the upcoming reporting period.
-The MEAT assessments of the 10 newly established FS are scheduled for Y3, in line with the indicator targeting Level 3 (Sustained Effectiveness). Preparatory steps, including orientation and training design, are underway.
Sixteen CMG members from the three existing FSs in Baggao have been retrained, building on their foundational roles in monitoring and enforcement. Their training included methods for visual monitoring, data recording, and community engagement, in partnership with BFAR and DENR. Expansion and formation of CMGs in the 10 new sites is planned for Y2, aiming for at least five active members per FS site.
-The project has initiated native fish tagging, with 30 individual native fish species marked using Visual Implant Elastomer (VIE) techniques (See Annex 27). This marks the beginning of a longer-term study to monitor fish residency and sanctuary effectiveness, which will ultimately contribute to a peer-reviewed publication by project close.
Evidence: Workshop schedules; training attendance sheets; CMG retraining reports; VIE fish tagging logs (Annex 27) and tagging photos; technical support records from BFAR and DENR.
Progress under Output 3 is underway with several activities moving forward. **Indicator 3.1** is currently in progress, and we hope to complete in Q1Y2. **Indicator 3.2** is scheduled for Y3 and remains on track. For **Indicator 3.3**, early progress has been made, with further expansion to additional sites planned in Year 2. **Output Indicator 3.4** has been initiated and is ongoing, contributing steadily toward the target of 500 individuals.
Although full achievement of the Output 3 indicators is expected later in the project cycle, early implementation steps have begun and systems are being established to support participatory monitoring and management effectiveness assessment. The project remains on track to achieve this Output, with intensified implementation planned in Y2.

<u>Output 4</u>
Baseline condition: At the start of the project, there were no River Wardens assigned to the newly identified FS, no CoMSCA-linked environment funds, and no implementation of sustainable livelihood activities or habitat restoration efforts in the target areas. Local enforcement systems and alternative income-generating strategies were largely informal and unsupported by technical agencies. Change recorded to date:
-47 River Wardens have been trained and are in the process of being endorsed for deputization across the 10 newly identified key FS sites. This includes capacity-building delivered in partnership with BFAR, DENR, and ZSL, laying the foundation for strengthened community-based enforcement mechanisms. Final appointments and full deployment are expected to be completed in early Y2.
-Implementation of sustainable livelihood practices, including native species silviculture, climate-smart agriculture, and small enterprise initiatives such as quail egg and mushroom production has been scheduled for Y2. These interventions are designed to convert at least 25ha of land for sustainable use and are expected to generate measurable benefits in both income and environmental stewardship.
-The project aims to reach at least 100 beneficiaries with sustainable livelihood interventions by Y3, resulting in an average income increase of PhP 4,800 (~£70) annually per household, which represents approximately 5% of annual household expenditure. Preparations for these livelihood activities are underway and on schedule.
-With regard to habitat restoration, the original plan to clear 10 ha of riparian land of invasive plant species and replant with native vegetation has been adapted. Based on DENR guidance, the project has adjusted its approach: rather than immediate removal, invasive tree species will temporarily serve as nurse trees to shelter newly planted native species. These invasive species will be phased out after 2–3 years once native trees are well-established.
-Environment funds linked to Community Managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs) have begun accumulating inputs toward the annual target of PHP 3,600 (~£55) per group. These

funds are being earmarked to support freshwater sanctuary protection and the conservation of riverine resources. Fund disbursement mechanisms and priority investment areas are being finalised in Y2.
Evidence: River Warden training completion logs and endorsement documents (see Annex 13); livelihood planning records and baseline income data; correspondence with DENR; native tree planting protocols; CoMSCA fund tracking sheets and budget planning tools.
Progress under Output 4 is advancing steadily. **Indicator 4.1** is on track, with progress made and the remaining eight sites pending final endorsement in Q2Y2. **Indicator 4.2** is scheduled for Y2 and remains on track. Implementation of activities under **Indicator 4.3** is planned for Years 2 to 3 and is progressing as anticipated. For **Indicator 4.4**, an adjusted strategy for invasive plant removal has been adopted, with native planting now underway in line with DENR recommendations. **Indicator 4.5** is in progress, with CoMSCA environmental fund mechanisms already in place and linked to supporting FS activities.
The project has made solid early gains under Output 4, particularly in community enforcement and financial readiness. Y2 will focus on scaling up implementation of livelihood and habitat interventions, following adaptive strategies aligned with technical guidance and community capacities.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

-**Outcome Indicator 0.1:** Significant progress has been made toward this output. Ten new FSs have been endorsed through barangay and municipal resolutions across the three target municipalities, with core zones totalling 26 ha, well above our 17ha target (Annex25a to f and Annex 17). These are in addition to the three existing FSs in Baggao, bringing the network to 13 FS. The next step will be the formal demarcation and operationalisation of these sites. Work on the co-management framework is scheduled for Y2, with the establishment of the FS Network Management Body and its integration into provincial governance and funding systems.
-**Outcome Indicator 0.2**: The FS Management Plan covering the three original FS in Baggao has been updated and endorsed by the FS Management Body. This updated plan serves as the foundation for the wider FS Network monitoring framework, which is scheduled for development and municipal endorsement in Y2. Once completed, it will facilitate standardised monitoring across the 13 FSs and guide adaptive management.
-**Outcome Indicator 0.3**: Baseline data collection is underway, including Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) assessments and species tagging (Annexes 9 and 23). Early analysis is being conducted to determine whether the 30% increase is a suitable and realistic target for all five species across all project sites. This will inform any necessary revisions to the indicator or methodologies. Full assessments will continue through Y2 and 3.
-**Outcome Indicator 0.4:** Significant initial progress has been made, with 10 native forest nurseries established in the target sites. Collectively, they have produced approximately 31,000 wildlings of native sun- and shade-tolerant tree species, to be planted across 36 hectares of identified riparian zones (Annex 24). These livelihood activities are being implemented by local people's organisations and are aligned with FS conservation goals, including reforestation, climate resilience, and sustainable income generation.
-**Outcome Indicator 0.5**: Pre-orientations on CoMSCAs have been completed in all 10 key sites, integrated with PO formation and FS governance planning. These sessions included socioeconomic result feedbacking to help community members understand their financial landscape and build readiness for CoMSCA roll-out. Full implementation and tracking of financial outcomes are planned for Y2-3.
The outcome indicators provide a robust framework for assessing both the ecological and social dimensions of freshwater sanctuary management in the PRC. Based on progress to date, the project is on track to achieve the intended Outcome by the end of the funding period. The establishment of the FS network has exceeded the area target, governance mechanisms are being built, and livelihoods and monitoring systems are moving forward as planned. Remaining actions to ensure outcome achievement include:
-Completing demarcation and operationalisation of the new FS;
-Establishing and capacitating the FS Network Management Body, including provincial-level integration and budgeting;
-Developing and endorsing the FS Network Monitoring Framework;
-Finalising livelihood programme implementation and tracking their financial impact;

-Continuing ecological baseline and monitoring work, with periodic evaluation of native fish populations.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome Level Assumptions

Assumption 1: COVID-19 impacts will not significantly limit project activities. This assumption largely held true. COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, and there are currently no related limitations to project implementation. However, intermittent security issues due to insurgency in Sitio Bayan, Peñablanca occasionally affect scheduling. These risks have been managed through continuous coordination with LGUs and Barangay officials, who help monitor the situation and notify the team when it is safe to proceed with community visits.

Assumption 2: Government agencies support the Freshwater Sanctuary (FS) model. Strong support has been confirmed. BFAR has integrated FSs into its BASIL programme and regularly monitors and supports FSs. DENR has requested FS expansion to other municipalities and included FSs as Local Conservation Areas in its 2025 - 2040 Environment and Natural Resources Framework.

Assumption 3: Data analysis effectively guides FS site selection. This assumption holds. Biological and social data have informed the identification of potential FS sites across the PRC, particularly in Alcala, Baggao, and Peñablanca.

Assumption 4: Stakeholders will collaborate to manage the FS network. Preparatory work is underway. Ten new proposed FSs have been identified, and orientations with LGUs and POs have begun to build understanding of the FS network model. The network will formally be established by Q2Y3.

Assumption 5 & 17: Government commitment to financially support FS networks. Confirmed. BFAR has allocated funds for FSMP updates, and LGUs continue to provide incentives for River Wardens. Additionally, BFAR has supplied uniforms and signage, while some LGUs have committed to FSMP adoption through ordinances.

Assumption 6 & 14: Local governments adopt and replicate FS models. Barangays in Alcala and Baggao have passed resolutions endorsing new FS sites and developed ordinances approved by municipal legislative bodies. These ordinances support replication and sustainability of the FS model.

Assumption 7: Community buy-in supports FS establishment and sustainability. Validated. Communities have expressed strong support for FSs, with evidence including increased ecotourism and restoration of native species. This has led to economic benefits for local guides and residents.

Output Level Assumptions

Assumption 8: Community consultations lead to FS acceptance. Confirmed. During consultations, communities were informed of FS benefits and expressed willingness to establish FSs in their areas.

Assumption 9 & 12: Drone data supports site analysis despite equipment issues. Partially held. The DENR's drone was non-functional; however, the project lead used personal equipment to ensure drone mapping and documentation were completed, with assistance from student interns.

Assumption 10 & 11: Analysis and community support guide threat mitigation. Analysis of threats and conditions across the PRC informed site selection and management strategies. Community and barangay support was secured through consultations and legislative actions.

Assumption 13: Local champions are willing to engage. Confirmed. Four champions from existing FSs in Baggao were trained and will support new FS establishment in other municipalities.

Assumption 15 & 21: FSMBs and River Wardens are effective governance mechanisms. Confirmed. LGU Baggao has reorganized its FSMB and organised seven POs to manage new FSs. River Wardens' patrol reports are now essential in LGU decision-making, ordinance amendments, and FSMP updates.

Assumption 16: Stakeholders share learning through forums. Confirmed. A forum with 65 participants (47 M, 18 F) facilitated knowledge-sharing, with outputs including roadmaps, best practices, and plans to overcome challenges.

Assumption 18: MEAT is a suitable assessment tool. MEAT continues to be the most appropriate tool for evaluating FS management effectiveness, particularly in governance and biological performance.
Assumption 19, 20 & 23: Community engagement in monitoring and enforcement. Confirmed. Volunteers have joined CMGs and participated in fish movement studies and enforcement. A total of 47 River Wardens from 10 sites were trained and endorsed for deputation by LGUs.
Assumption 22: Networked FSs provide more effective catchment protection. Preliminary evidence supports this. A provincial-level FS network is being formed across three municipalities, enabling more comprehensive protection of riverine species and riparian habitats.
Assumption 24 & 25: River Wardens are effective and information is used by GOs. Held. Illegal activities have decreased significantly in Baggao FSs. Patrolling reports are required for incentives and are integrated into FSMP updates and policy-making.
Assumption 26: Stakeholders adopt sustainable practices. Confirmed. FSs have been institutionalised in DENR's Local Conservation Area framework and BFAR's regular programme. This alignment promotes long-term sustainable practices.
Assumption 27 - 30: CoMSCAs strengthen FS efforts and community conservation. Strongly validated. Pre-orientations and feedbacking activities show strong interest in CoMSCAs for financial literacy and community resilience. CoMSCAs provide both financial and environmental support, such as funding marker replacements and river clean-ups. They also drive behaviour change and active FS participation.
Assumption 31: LGUs provide incentives for River Wardens. Confirmed. LGUs include River Warden incentives in their adopted FSMPs. While social incentives are less emphasised, most wardens benefit from national crop insurance schemes.

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

The project is significantly contributing to biodiversity conservation through the identification and legal recognition of 10 new FSs within the Pared River Catchment (PRC), based on the outcomes of comprehensive biological and socio-economic surveys. These new FS sites collectively cover 26 hectares of designated no-take zones, expanding protected freshwater habitat from a baseline of 7 hectares to a cumulative 33 hectares. Each site is anchored in community co-management, with local resolutions and municipal ordinances formally submitted and approved by barangay councils and LGU legislative bodies. The establishment of FS management bodies across all sites provides a platform for sustained protection of freshwater ecosystems and native species, contributing to long-term biodiversity outcomes.
As well as ecological protection, the project is laying foundations for improved resilience and wellbeing among local stakeholders. The establishment of FS management bodies is fostering inclusive participation and local leadership in natural resource governance. These community institutions will be further capacitated on FS management, including monitoring, enforcement, and sustainable use planning. Through the integration of livelihood strategies and future training, the project aims to strengthen household income opportunities and promote equitable access to riverine resources, contributing to multidimensional poverty reduction in the region.
While the project is still in its early stages, these developments demonstrate strong progress toward establishing an effective, sustainable FS network that simultaneously supports biodiversity conservation and improves community wellbeing.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

During this reporting period, the project has supported implementation of the Philippines National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) by expanding freshwater protection through the establishment of 10 new Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS), increasing the core no-take zone from 7 to 33 hectares. This contributes to the national target of increasing inland wetland coverage by 20% and supports the NBSAP objective to establish freshwater biodiversity baselines and monitoring systems. At the local level, the project has supported the Pared River Basin Management Plan and Water Code of the Philippines through the approval of barangay and municipal ordinances, formation of FS management bodies, and plans for capacity-building and monitoring frameworks. Internationally, the project contributes to global commitments under the

CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Targets 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 13), the Ramsar Convention (Goals 1, 3, and 4), the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and relevant SDG targets (including 1.2, 4.7, 6.6, 13.1, 15.1, and 15.9) through biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration, and livelihood diversification. The project also supports the implementation of the BASIL programme (BFAR FOO 199) through its freshwater habitat focus. In this past year, the project engaged with the British Ambassador to the Philippines, who visited the sites, highlighting the project's alignment with national development and environmental priorities as mentioned in Q.2 of this report. While no formal reports were submitted to Convention focal points, this engagement strengthened visibility and relevance to national and international frameworks.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

Karayan Ket Biag project directly contributes to the reduction of multidimensional poverty in the Pared River Catchment by addressing intertwined environmental, economic, social, and governance challenges. Through the establishment of community-managed FSs, the creation of CoMSCAs, and the promotion of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs), the project delivers integrated outcomes for biodiversity conservation and community well-being.

Baseline socioeconomic surveys conducted across 522 households (47% F, 53% M) in ten barangays revealed high levels of vulnerability: 39% of households rely directly on the river for farming and fishing livelihoods, yet 85.4% of respondents had no awareness of freshwater sanctuaries. Food insecurity was pronounced, with 83% of households reporting worry over food availability. Additionally, 75% of respondents were not members of any savings or microfinance group, and 78% lacked access to loans, indicating severe financial exclusion. Only 58% of households reported membership in any form of people's organisation, underscoring the limited avenues for collective action.

Against this baseline, the project's first year of implementation shows meaningful steps towards reducing these vulnerabilities:

Under Outcome Indicator 0.1, ten new Freshwater Sanctuaries have been delineated, covering 26 hectares of legally recognised no-take zones through barangay and municipal ordinances. This builds the foundation for improved ecosystem service provision, supporting food and water security in the long term.

To strengthen governance and community empowerment, management bodies for each FS have been established (Output Indicator 2.3), involving over 400 community members. These institutions increase local participation in conservation decision-making, directly responding to baseline findings that 36% of respondents were unaware of environmental laws.

In terms of financial literacy and resilience, the project has initiated CoMSCA pre-orientations across all ten sites (Outcome Indicator 0.5), a critical response to baseline findings that three-quarters of households lacked access to savings mechanisms. These community-managed savings groups will enable at least 100 households (>50% women) to build annual savings of PHP7,500 (£110) per member by project end, contributing to financial stability and reducing vulnerability to economic shocks.

Livelihood diversification is also underway. Ten native tree nurseries were established as Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (Outcome Indicator 0.4), raising over 31,000 seedlings for planting across 36 hectares of riparian zones. This addresses not only the environmental degradation highlighted in the baseline but also creates new income opportunities in sustainable forestry, mushroom production, and agroforestry initiatives, linking to Output Indicator 4.2 and 4.3 on sustainable livelihoods and income improvement.

Complementary environmental restoration activities are helping to reverse degradation drivers. Native tree planting along riparian areas, supported by nursery outputs, responds to severe erosion and water quality issues flagged in the environmental baseline.

Indirectly, the project's governance interventions, such as the formation of FS Management Boards and Community Monitoring Groups (Output Indicators 2.3 and 3.3), strengthen institutional resilience. The early and deliberate inclusion of women in management bodies and CoMSCAs also addresses gender-based barriers to participation identified in the baseline demographic data. By restoring ecosystem services, expanding financial inclusion, building local governance capacity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods, the *Karayan Ket Biag* project addresses multiple dimensions of poverty, aligned to the Darwin Initiative's multidimensional poverty reduction goals. Progress is closely monitored against Outcome Indicators 0.1, 0.4, 0.5,

and Output Indicators 2.3, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.5, ensuring a coherent, measurable contribution to biodiversity conservation and sustainable human development

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

Our project is assessed as GESI sensitive, as it has integrated gender equality and social inclusion considerations throughout its design and implementation, while recognising areas for further improvement. GESI contexts were taken into account from the outset, with women actively involved in the inception workshop before the project formally began. Nearly half of the members of the established Project Technical Working Group are women (see Annex 4 and 8). Women's groups in the community have been consistently engaged throughout implementation, including in project presentations, feedback sessions on biological and socio-economic survey results, and various trainings and community workshops, where women often comprised the majority of participants (Annex 18).

A gender mainstreaming workshop (Annex 28) was conducted in support of International Women's Day on 10th March, attended by 28 women and one man from the three project municipalities, along with national government partners such as BFAR and DENR. The event provided an important space for dialogue and capacity-building around gender and conservation. Social inclusion has also been prioritised across key project components, including during community planning, biological assessments, and socio-economic surveys in the ten potential FS sites. Community acceptance, particularly from women and other underrepresented groups, was considered a key criterion alongside biological suitability in site selection.

Inclusive processes were also followed in FS orientations, updates to FS management bodies and plans, and the development of project safeguards such as the FAIRER framework and Grievance Mechanism (Annex 7 and 29). These efforts helped ensure that local voices were reflected in decision-making and that structures were in place for ongoing participation and accountability. However, we recognise that gender mainstreaming activities would have ideally been conducted earlier in the project. We will address this by integrating gender-focused sessions into future staff training and planning, and by continuing to strengthen our approach to GESI across all project components.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

During the reporting period, the project employed a combination of baseline biological and socio-economic surveys (Annexes 9 to 11), riparian habitat assessments, and participatory land-use mapping to monitor and evaluate progress towards its objectives. The riverine habitat of the Pared River Catchment was characterised through walkover surveys, freshwater sampling, and community mapping exercises. The biological surveys covered 59.5km of river stretch across 32 barangays, establishing baseline data on aquatic biodiversity and informing the selection of ten sites for Freshwater Sanctuary establishment. A socio-economic survey of 522 respondents provided insights into freshwater resource use and community capacity needs. 23 transects with a total of 46km and 170 sampling stations were established during the aquatic and morphological assessment of Pared River, and a total of 4 invasive fish species and 10 native species identified. While in the riparian areas, 74 morpho-species, with 51 genera belonging to 29 families were documented in all the sampling stations. The landuse planning and mapping were focused in the 10 identified potential sites for FS establishment. As to the results, the total hectarages of for rehab or reforestation areas along PRC and within the 10 sites are 7.27 ha. for Alcala, 36.07ha, Baggao and 8ha. In Penablanca, Cagayan.

Participatory methods were employed throughout, ensuring local knowledge and priorities were integrated into the project design. Information gathered through these surveys has been critical for identifying FS sites, guiding restoration planning, and developing community engagement strategies. Evidence was collected using standard survey templates, maps, meeting minutes, and training records, and is being used to inform both technical outputs and community-led actions.

Outputs have directly contributed to the achievement of project outcomes. The establishment of ten new FSs, supported by barangay resolutions and municipal ordinances, represents significant progress towards building a socio-ecologically coherent network of protected areas. Updated and newly developed FS Management Plans have laid the groundwork for improved governance. The project-initiated fish tagging activities to monitor native species and trained Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) and River Wardens to ensure regular surveillance of FS areas.

Quantitative indicators such as the number of FSs created, area delineated, and number of trained individuals are being tracked systematically. Qualitative indicators, including increased awareness of freshwater ecosystems and community commitment to FS management, are measured through consultations and feedback sessions. In July/August, focus group discussions (Annex 30) were conducted in four barangays (Pinopoc, Calantac, Agani, and San Esteban) in Alcala, Cagayan, to gain insights into community perceptions of their freshwater resources, identify challenges, and gather feedback on the FS approach. These sessions engaged a wide range of participants, including women, youth, farmers, religious leaders, fisherfolk, and barangay officials, ensuring diverse perspectives were heard. The discussions revealed strong local support for FSs, especially as a means to restore fish stocks and improve water quality. The cultural, economic, and recreational value of the river was widely recognised. However, concerns were raised about potential restrictions on fishing and the lack of alternative livelihood options. These insights have been important in shaping more responsive and inclusive implementation strategies, including plans to introduce BDFEs and hold general assemblies to ensure transparency and broad-based community support.

While the core M&E framework remains unchanged, minor adjustments were necessary. The MEAT evaluation, originally scheduled for Y1, is now planned for Y2 due to local election activities affecting stakeholder availability. Additionally, early integration of CoMSCA (Community Managed Savings and Credit Associations) orientations into community meetings helped strengthen financial literacy and early buy-in.

Monitoring and evaluation responsibilities are shared between ZSL, DENR, BFAR, and LGU partners. Regular Technical Working Group meetings and field reviews facilitate information sharing and adaptive management. Feedback sessions were conducted with community groups following the focus group discussions to validate findings, share preliminary insights, and ensure community voices were accurately reflected. This process not only strengthened transparency but also reinforced community ownership of the project's monitoring processes. M&E work has been implemented in close collaboration with local partners. DENR and BFAR teams co-facilitated key activities such as field validation, indicator tracking, and documentation of progress. LGU focal points provided critical support in community coordination and technical

inputs. Community organisations play a key role in monitoring sanctuary conditions and reporting threats, and are gradually being supported to take on more autonomous monitoring roles.
Areas identified for improvement include better timing of evaluations to avoid political disruptions, strengthening community-based monitoring systems, and consolidating field data more efficiently. In the coming period, the project will focus on completing MEAT assessments, formalising the FS network monitoring framework, enhancing reporting by CMGs and River Wardens, and exploring the introduction of mobile-based data collection tools to improve data quality and timeliness.

8. Lessons learnt

Early and inclusive strategic planning, particularly around setting targets and indicators, was key to the successful delivery of Year 1 outputs. Involving partner agencies in planning and pre-implementation activities also helped ensure alignment and ensured a sense of shared ownership. However, it would have been beneficial to begin full implementation of the FAIRER principles earlier in the project cycle to more fully embed inclusive and equitable approaches from the outset. Coordination with partner institutions also proved essential to avoid clashes with existing mandates and schedules. We will now present project work plans during their official planning workshops to support better integration. These lessons have directly informed our Y2 planning. We will be reviewing the logframe and submitting a Change Request in the coming weeks.

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

We have already responded to key feedback from the previous review in our Half Year Report in October. In the HYR we outlined how site selection and prioritisation are being led by local communities through participatory assessments to ensure alignment with local priorities and the development of a coherent network. We also confirmed that our Pathway to Change had been refined and committed to providing further detail. To ensure sustainability and relevance, livelihood diversification options are being shaped by our technical team to reflect climate resilience and long-term viability. We also reported on our continued collaboration with DENR, a key partner under an MoU currently in development, with joint work underway on integrated catchment and river basin approaches. In response to concerns around watershed protection and community safeguards, we are applying ZSL's FAIRER framework, which includes grievance mechanisms to help identify and manage any risks related to land and water use conflicts. Please refer to the updated project Risk Register (Annex 31) for further information on emerging risks and our mitigation strategies.

10. Risk Management

Two new risks emerged this year that were not previously accounted for: an unusually intense and prolonged typhoon season in the Philippines and a localised incident of armed conflict in one of the key project areas (Sitio Bayan, Brgy. Lapi, Peñablanca). Both have caused temporary delays to planned field activities and limited safe community engagement. In response, we adapted by adjusting activity schedules within the same quarter where possible and followed the advice of LGU partners to ensure safety. These risks and mitigation measures have been added to our updated project Risk Register (Annex 31), which is submitted with this report.

11. Scalability and durability

The project has been designed with long-term sustainability in mind, building on ZSL's proven history in the Philippines where over 95% of CoMSCAs remain active five years after establishment. Key to this durability is the Village Agent model, which enables ongoing capacity-building and peer-to-peer support beyond the project's life.
Project stakeholders/adopters, including LGUs, People's Organizations, and community members, have been involved from the outset. They have been engaged through participatory planning, biological and socioeconomic assessments, and the co-development of FS management plans. Awareness-raising and social marketing have helped communicate the

benefits of FS and CoMSCA models in terms of biodiversity protection and livelihood resilience, fostering early buy-in and behaviour change.
The project aligns with existing policies such as the Pared River Basin Management Plan and BFAR's BASIL Programme, and is implemented in close partnership with DENR and LGUs. This alignment, along with the institutionalisation of FS management through barangay and municipal ordinances, ensures that structures established during the project are embedded in local governance and natural resource management systems.
The creation of CoMSCA Environmental Funds will provide locally controlled, sustained financing for FS management and enforcement. LGU partners have already committed in-kind and technical support, further anchoring the project within local systems.
In line with the project's exit strategy, we are supporting the establishment of FS management bodies and municipal-level networks, supported by clear monitoring frameworks and data-sharing protocols with government. These steps aim to ensure the ongoing conservation and replication of community-based freshwater protection after project close.
Combined, these efforts demonstrate that both the approach and benefits of the project are attractive to adopters, cost-effective, and positioned to scale and endure beyond the funded period.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has made consistent efforts to promote the Darwin Initiative and recognise the UK Government's support throughout implementation. All communication materials, including brochures, tarpaulins, booklets, and t-shirts, used for project activities including community meetings, and project presentations featured the Darwin Initiative branding.

The project team has introduced the programme and the Darwin Initiative to key local government units, community leaders, and project stakeholders. We have also engaged with digital platforms such as Instagram (Annex 32) to share project updates and milestones, and we ensure that content referencing this project acknowledges the Darwin Initiative and links back to BCF's official channels where possible.

13. Safeguarding

14. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**234,558.20**	**234,812.66**		

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 (£)			• DENR Staff Costs • BFAR Staff Costs • LGU Alcala – Staff Costs • LGU Baggao – Staff Costs, River Warden Incentives • LGU Peñablanca Staff Costs • Staff Costs – LGUs within Region 2 and CSU Schools • Partners Counterpart – Supplies and materials, Labor for nursery management, transportation, and venue
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Over the past year, the project design has been refined to enhance sustainability and scale. One key enhancement has been the integration of a stepwise community engagement model, drawing from lessons learned during Y1. This model ensures that community consent, inclusive planning, and capacity development are sequenced appropriately, improving the effectiveness of sanctuary establishment and livelihood support interventions. Additionally, the project has aligned its exit strategy with local government priorities and budgeting cycles to support institutional uptake and continuity beyond the funding period.

One significant challenge encountered was navigating shifting priorities of local government partners, which at times delayed planned activities. This was addressed through sustained engagement, formalised partnerships via MOUs, and adaptive scheduling. These efforts have now secured strong buy-in and participation from key LGU stakeholders.

Finally, we acknowledge the support from the Darwin Initiative in helping us uphold safeguarding and inclusive conservation standards. The ongoing integration of FAIRER Conservation principles has proven critical in guiding both strategic and operational decisions, especially where social and ecological challenges intersect.

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

One of the most outstanding achievements of the project has been the community-led expansion of freshwater sanctuary networks across three municipalities in the Cagayan Valley, Philippines. Through an inclusive and participatory process, ten community sites have now endorsed the designation or improvement of freshwater sanctuaries, a milestone reached well ahead of schedule. Clear and transparent project presentations, evidenced by the Local Government Unit's (LGU) issuance of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for project implementation and partnership, were instrumental in securing their support.
The recently implemented FAIRER (Fair, Accountable, Inclusive, Respectful, Ethical, Reflective) framework will be integrated into community engagement activities and will serve as a guide that will help ensure equitable and inclusive partnership building. This framework will help foster trust and collaboration among stakeholders and the project team. Importantly, the project has also strengthened the foundation for long-term sustainability by formalising partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding and Agreement with both government agencies and people's organisations and institutionalization of FS network management plan into the Pared River Integrated Watershed Management Plan and Provincial Local Government Unit Development plan. This will be complemented by training and technical support for climate-resilient livelihood development, ensuring that biodiversity protection is closely tied to poverty reduction and resilience goals.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

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

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Effective, sustainable networks of community-based freshwater protected areas collectively manage and conserve riverine resources in the northern Philippines, benefitting biodiversity while improving resilience and well-being of local stakeholders	10 key sites that have potential for the establishment of Freshwater sanctuary were identified based on the results of the biological and socio-economic survey. 26 hectares in total is the no take zone of the 10 new FS within the Pared River catchment. Management bodies has been formed and later to be trained on FS management. Barangay resolutions and municipal ordinance were formulated, submitted and approved by the barangay councils and legislative body of LGUs	
Outcome The riverine resources of the Pared River Catchment are better protected by an effective and socio-ecologically coherent network of co-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) which benefit associated communities.		
Outcome indicator 0.1 A network of 13 FS totalling at least 17 ha core zone (from a baseline of 7ha in Y1) is established by Q4Y2 and supported through a sustainably financed co-management framework by Q2Y3.	Preparatory activities for the establishment of the FS network are underway. Ten new Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) have been identified in Alcala, Baggao, and Peñablanca. Four FS in Alcala have been formally declared through Municipal Ordinances (see Section 3.3 and Annex 25 and Annex 17). Four in Baggao are in the final stages of the declaration process, pending official signatures. Coordination is ongoing with Peñablanca LGU to support the declaration of the remaining two FS.	-FS network orientation with the Management bodies, brgy. Councils and partners (LGUs - Provincial and Municipal, DENR and BFAR -Formation of FS network management body -Signing of MOU between the 3 LGUs, Provincial Government and FS Network management body
Outcome indicator 0.2, FS management is strengthened through the establishment of a FS Network monitoring framework/plan endorsed by municipal government by Q4Y1 and Q2Y3 (baseline = 0 frameworks/plans)	The management plan for the 7ha baseline Freshwater Sanctuary in Baggao has been updated by the FS Management Body to reflect current priorities and monitoring protocols. This contributes to the development of the broader FS Network monitoring framework. Endorsement and integration into municipal planning are underway. Evidence provided in Section 3.3.	-Development of FS management plan of the 10 new FS

Outcome indicator 0.3 Five fish species native to the PRC (green-belt mullet; giant mottled eel; bighead catfish; black snakehead; Bia goby) exhibit a 30% increase in abundance within new FS by Q4Y3 (baselines to be established as FS are created)	Baseline data collection is ongoing, including CPUE assessments and species tagging across selected FS sites. Initial analysis is assessing the feasibility of the 30% target across all five species and locations. This analysis will guide potential refinement of targets or methodologies, with full assessments continuing into Y2 and Y3. Evidence provided in Section 3.3 and Annex 9 and Annex 23. .	-Formation and training of volunteer community monitoring group -Continue tagging of native fish species
Outcome indicator 0.4 10 community-based sustainable livelihood programmes are established on at least 35ha - from a baseline of 0ha in Q1Y1 - of riparian area within and surrounding FS by Q4Y2	Ten native forest tree nurseries have been established as biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs) by organised People's Organizations in 10 key sites. A total of 31,000 native tree seedlings have been raised for planting across 36ha of designated riparian restoration areas within and around the FS network. Evidence provided in Section 3.3 and Annex 24.	-Transplanting of seedlings raised from nurseries in identified 10 key sites for areas of rehabilitation/restoration of riparian ecosystem functions of the PRC -Identify suitable and feasible BDFEs of POs
Outcome indicator 0.5 100 household representatives (>50% female) are members of CoMSCAs established in FS communities and are reporting improved livelihoods (financial resilience through increased annual savings and access to loans of at least 7500PHP (£110) / person) by Q4Y3 (baseline = 0 HHs)	Initial CoMSCA pre-orientations have been conducted across 10 key FS community sites, integrated into the formation of People's Organizations, socio-economic survey results feedback sessions, and FS management body meetings. These activities have laid the groundwork for formal CoMSCA group establishment and inclusion of female members. Evidence provided in Section 3.3.	-CoMSCA establishment in 10 key sites
Output 1 Through human and biological surveys, ten Freshwater Sanctuary sites have been identified to conserve riverine resources within the Pared River Catchment (PRC) and represent a socio ecologically coherent network of protection.		
Output indicator 1.1 The PRC (95 km) has been mapped by Q3Y1, digitised maps created and used to identify 10 areas for FS establishment (baseline = 0ha)	The full stretch of the Pared River Catchment, including its tributaries, has been mapped, and digitised maps have been developed. Ten priority sites for freshwater sanctuary (FS) establishment have been identified through this mapping, covering a total area of approximately 940 hectares, including land use classifications. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 17.	

Output indicator 1.2, A socio-economic assessment of a minimum of 10% of registered households in 10 barangays characterises both how communities use and value freshwater resources, and the capacity needs to develop sustainable interventions by Q3Y1 (baseline of 0 assessments)	Socio-economic assessments were conducted across 10 key barangays, reaching 522 household respondents (47% F, 53% M), exceeding the 10% sample requirement. Results show that 85.4% of respondents were not aware of freshwater sanctuaries, while 39% rely on the river for livelihood and agricultural needs. Household profiles averaged 4 - 5 members with shared roles between men and women. These findings inform community capacity development and targeted intervention planning. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 11.	-Conduct FS awareness campaign
Output indicator 1.3 A total of at least 50ha across the 10 identified areas is ecologically characterised and assessed through walkover habitat surveys and participatory land-use mapping by Q2Y1 informs FS establishment (baseline = 0 assessments)	Ecological characterisation and habitat assessments were conducted along 235.17 km of the Pared River and its tributaries, identifying native and invasive flora and fauna in riparian and aquatic zones. Findings included 3 invasive tree species (5,246 individuals) and 4 invasive fish species, with results indicating overall poor biological condition. Riparian surveys covered 12 km using 6 transects and 18 quadrats, while aquatic assessments spanned 46 km with 23 transects and 170 sampling stations. Results were shared with 660 community members (325 males, 335 females) to inform FS planning. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 10.	-Endorsement of copy of biological and socio-economic report with partner LGUs and national Government to inform them about the current condition of PRC and baseline in formulating policies and mitigation measures
Output indicator 1.4 Using consolidated data from participatory approaches 10 new FS in the PRC have been delineated by Q3Y1 (baseline = 0ha)	Ten new Freshwater Sanctuary sites, covering a total of 26 hectares of core zone, were identified and delineated through participatory approaches involving barangay officials, fisherfolk, farmers, and local government representatives. The sites were accepted by communities and formalised through the formulation and approval of local resolutions. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 25.	-Installation of markers, billboards, training on FS establishment and management,
Output 2. A sustainable model of FS co management is developed through community empowerment, capacity building, and government resourcing		
Output indicator 2.1. Three community members from existing FS in the PRC are trained as ‘FS champions’ to support replication in new sites by Q4Y1 (baseline = 0)	Four community members from existing FS sites were trained as FS Champions and have begun actively advocating for Freshwater Sanctuaries as an effective strategy for conserving freshwater ecosystems and native species across the 10 new key sites. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 26.	-Involvement of the trained FS champion in FS establishment in key sites

Output indicator 2.2. 10 new FS covering a cumulative area of at least 10ha core no-take zone are endorsed through barangay and municipal government ordinances by Q3Y1 (baseline of zero ordinances)	A total of 26 ha of core no-take zones for 10 new FS have been endorsed through resolutions to the LGU legislative body for adoption and approval. Municipal resolutions declaring the proposed FS have been reviewed and approved by the LGUs. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annexes 19 and 20.	-Facilitate meeting with brgy. Council; -discuss formulation Resolution adapting the approve municipal ordinance of FS
Output indicator 2.3 10 new FS Management Boards (FSMBs) are established to ensure at least 50 river and land-users are represented in decision-making by Q4Y1, (baseline of 0 people)	Seven farmers/fisherfolk organizations and one women's group, comprising a total of 400 members, have been formed into FS Management Boards (FSMBs). Orientation sessions were conducted for PO/FSMB officers and members on their roles and functions in managing their respective freshwater sanctuaries. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annexes 19 and 20.	-Strengthening of the all the FS management body of the 10 key sites
Output indicator 2.4. 13 FS Management Plans (FSMPs) are created/renewed in Tagalog and are endorsed and incorporated into municipal/regional governance structures by Q4Y2 (baseline = 3)	One FS management plan has been updated, covering the three existing FS of Baggao. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 21.	-Conduct participatory planning workshop for the development of FS management plan
Output indicator 2.5 PRC FS Network Management Board (NMB) of 25 people is established by Q4Y2, in order to facilitate knowledge sharing, skills development and problem-solving of those involved across the PRC FS network (baseline = 0 people)	This output has not yet been addressed in the reporting period.	-Formation of FS network management plan Discussion with the member of PO as management body of FS, their roles and responsibilities in FS management
Output 3. The management effectiveness of the FS network is measurably improved through increased capacity and participatory monitoring.		
Output indicator 3.1 At least 60 FS stakeholders are trained over a cumulative period of 1.1 week in the application of the FS Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) by Q4Y1 (baseline of 0 people)	We hope to complete this in Q1Y2 due to scheduling challenges. The FS Management Board (FSMB) committee leads were unable to participate in the planned workshop during Q4Y1 as they were involved in campaigning for the national election. The workshop will be rescheduled for Q1Y2, and training will proceed as planned. Evidence will be provided in future reports.	-Conduct evaluation through MEAT of the existing FS
Output indicator 3.2 Through MEAT assessment, all 10 new sites are achieving Level 3 (Sustained effectiveness) in by Q4Y3.	This output has not yet been addressed in the reporting period.	-MEAT workshop/ FS evaluation
Output indicator 3.3 Community Monitoring Groups (CMG) are established/renewed in all 13 FS - with at least five members per site by Q1Y1 - with training from BFAR, DENR and ZSL initiated by Q2Y2 and native and non-native species surveys established (baseline = 3 CMGs)	So far, 16 CMG members from the 3 existing FS in Baggao have been retrained. This activity is part of the process of establishing and renewing CMGs for all 13 FS. Further work on training by BFAR, DENR, and ZSL is expected to continue in Q2Y2, with the establishment of native and non-native species surveys also underway.	-Formation and training of CMG in 10 new FS

Output indicator 3.4 500 individual native fish are visually marked within the FS between Q1Y2 and Q4Y3 in order to determine residency and better understand the effectiveness of the network to protect mobile aquatic fauna resulting in a peer-reviewed publication (baseline = 0 papers)	To date, 30 native fish species have been tagged using Visual Implant Elastomer (VIE) for tracking. This activity is part of the broader effort to reach the target of marking 500 individual native fish by Q4Y3, contributing to a deeper understanding of residency patterns and the effectiveness of the FS network in protecting mobile aquatic fauna. A peer-reviewed publication is expected based on the results of this tagging work. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 23.	-Continue tagging of native fish species
Output 4. Key government and community stakeholders are supporting an integrated response to identified threats to riverine resources in the Freshwater Sanctuaries		
Output indicator 4.1 60 sustainably funded River Wardens are in place across the 10 new FS with training from BFAR, DENR and ZSL by Q2Y2 (baseline of 0 people)	47 River Wardens have been trained and endorsed for deputization across the 10 key sites. Evidence provided in Section 3.2 and Annex 13.	-Deputization of RW and signing of appointment
Output indicator 4.2 By Q2Y2, 25ha of land within or adjacent to FS has been converted to support sustainable livelihood management practices including native species silviculture, climate-smart agriculture, and quail egg and mushroom production (baseline = 0ha)	This output has not yet been addressed in the reporting period.	-BDFE identification -Writing up BDFE proposals -Identify funding institutions
Output indicator 4.3 At least 100 beneficiaries are engaging in sustainable livelihood improvement practices by Q4Y3 resulting in an average increase in annual income of PhP4,800 (£70) / year equating to 5% of annual household expenditure. (baseline of 0 people)	This output has not yet been addressed in the reporting period.	-Registration of organized POs as beneficiaries of BDFEs
Output indicator 4.4.10ha of riparian land is cleared of invasive plants and replaced with native species from local nurseries by Q2Y2 (baseline of 0ha)	Due to a recommendation from DENR, the planned cutting of invasive trees has been adjusted. DENR did not approve the cutting permit but suggested planting native trees first, using invasive trees as nurse trees. After 2-3 years, once the native trees have matured, the invasive trees can be removed. The initial focus is now on planting native trees in the riparian zones.	-Planting native shade loving trees
Output indicator 4.5 Environment funds linked to CoMSCAs each have a cumulative annual input of at least PHP3600 (£55) per cycle by Q4Y2 and these are being used to support activities to support FS and/or riverine resources (baseline = PHP0)	This output has not yet been addressed in the reporting period.	-EF funds orientation based on -- EF manual of ZSL

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: Effective, sustainable networks of community-based freshwater protected areas collectively manage and conserve riverine resources in the northern Philippines, benefitting biodiversity while improving resilience and well-being of local stakeholders			
Outcome: The riverine resources of the Pared River Catchment are better protected by an effective and socio-ecologically coherent network of co-managed Freshwater Sanctuaries (FS) which benefit associated communities.	0.1 A network of 13 FS totalling at least 17 ha core zone (from a baseline of 7ha in Y1) are established by Q4Y2 and supported through a sustainably financed co-management framework by Q2Y3. (DI-D01 **Core**) 0.2 FS management is strengthened through the establishment of a FS Network monitoring framework/plan endorsed by municipal government by Q4Y1 and Q2Y3 (baseline = 0 frameworks/plans) (DI-B01 Core). 0.3 Five fish species native to the PRC (green-belt mullet; giant mottled eel; bighead catfish; black snakehead; Bia goby) exhibit a 30% increase in abundance within new FS by Q4Y3 (baselines to be established as FS are created) (DI-D04). 0.4 10 community-based sustainable livelihood programmes are established on at least 35ha - from a baseline of 0ha in Q1Y1 - of riparian area within and surrounding FS by Q4Y2 (DI-D01 **Core**). 0.5 100 household representatives (>50% female) are members of CoMSCAs established in FS communities and are reporting improved livelihoods (financial resilience through increased annual savings and access to loans of at least 7500PHP (£110) / person) by Q4Y3 (baseline = 0 HHs) (DI-D16).	0.1 Barangay ordinances including protected area coverage; FSMB establishment; GO financial commitments; CoMSCA EF reports; disaggregated by protection status pre- and post-project. 0.2 Monitoring records; updated FSMPs; FS Network monitoring framework delivery plan; disaggregated by language, type of plan, habitat type. 0.3 CMG fisheries independent monitoring records disaggregated by species. 0.4 Intervention maps; # of native species nurseries/organic farming initiatives/climate-resilient agriculture, quail egg and mushroom production and	The impact of COVID-19 in the project area does not significantly limit and/or impact project activities. There is a regional and national willingness to adopt Freshwater Sanctuaries as an effective conservation intervention for aquatic resources. Biological and social data analysis successfully informs the identification of potential sites to establish a

		Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) 0.5 CoMSCA summaries, loan use and membership data; disaggregated by gender and loan use.	robust network of FS. Stakeholders work together to establish an effective network of management and implementation for Freshwater Sanctuaries. GOs are willing to commit funding to FS network. GOs are adopted as a model for replication.
Output 1 Through human and biological surveys, ten Freshwater Sanctuary sites have been identified to conserve riverine resources within the Pared River Catchment (PRC) and represent a socio-ecologically coherent network of protection.	1.1 The PRC (95 km) has been mapped by Q3Y1, digitised maps created and used to identify 10 areas for FS establishment (baseline = 0ha) (DI-B11) 1.2 A socio-economic assessment of a minimum of 10% of registered households in 10 barangays characterises both how communities use and value freshwater resources, and the capacity needs to develop sustainable interventions by Q3Y1 (baseline of 0 assessments) (DI-C04 **Core**). 1.3 A total of at least 50ha across the 10 identified areas is ecologically characterised and assessed through walkover habitat	1.1 Digital Maps including identified FS sites; disaggregated by habitat type. 1.2 Key-informant interview / Focus Group Discussion / Socio-economic survey reports; data disaggregated by household gender, age group, livelihoods and resource use. 1.2 Land-use maps; Habitat survey using BAMS methodology report; disaggregated by	There is community buy-in to the Freshwater Sanctuary model. Drones work under tropical conditions and appropriate permits are secured. Analysis yields sites that

	surveys and participatory land-use mapping by Q2Y1 informs FS establishment (baseline = 0 assessments) (DI-C03 **Core**) 1.4 Using consolidated data from participatory approaches 10 new FS in the PRC have been delineated by Q3Y1 (baseline = 0ha) (DI-B11).	assessment method and habitat type. 1.4 Consolidated data report and maps; disaggregated by habitat type.	adequately protect the Pared River catchment from identified threats. Communities support the establishment of sites that protect the Pared River catchment from identified threats. Drone equipment and operator provided by DENR.
Output 2 A sustainable model of FS co-management is developed through community empowerment, capacity building, and government resourcing	2.1 Three community members from existing FS in the PRC are trained as 'FS champions' to support replication in new sites by Q4Y1 (baseline = 0) **(DI-A01** Core**).** 2.2 10 new FS covering a cumulative area of at least 10ha core no-take zone are endorsed through barangay and municipal government ordinances by Q3Y1 (baseline of zero ordinances) **(DI-D03 Core).** 2.3 10 new FS Management Boards (FSMBs) are established to ensure at least 50 river and land-users are represented in decision-making by Q4Y1, (baseline of 0 people) (DI-B05 **Core**). 2.4. 13 FS Management Plans (FSMPs) are created/renewed in Tagalog and are endorsed and incorporated into municipal/regional governance structures by Q4Y2 (baseline = 3) **(DI-B01 Core).**	2.1 Training materials and pre- and post-training assessments; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, training type, and trainees' employment status at end of project. 2.2 Barangay ordinances; disaggregated by policy type. 2.3 FSMB ToRs and membership; meeting minutes; FSMPs; updated governance documents; disaggregated by	Identified champions are willing to take on the role and engage in the establishment of new FS. Barangays are willing to create ordinances. FSMB are effective governance structures.

	2.5 PRC FS Network Management Board (NMB) of 25 people is established by Q4Y2, in order to facilitate knowledge sharing, skills development and problem-solving of those involved across the PRC FS network (baseline = 0 people) (DI-B05) 2.6 Through the PRCFSNMB, an average of at least PHP10,000 (~£150) per new FS per year in GO funding is secured from LGUs and national agencies by Q2Y3 (baseline = PhP0).	gender, age group, and type of community organisation. 2.4. 13 FSMPs in Tagalog and 1 FSNMP, with evidence of endorsement; disaggregated by language, habitat type, and plan type. 2.5 FSNMB ToRs and membership, meeting minutes; disaggregated by gender, age group, type of community organisation. 2.6 FS budgets are written in to LGU and National GO spending plans.	Stakeholders are willing to attend a forum and share experiences. LGUs and national GOs are willing to financially support FS.
Output 3 The management effectiveness of the FS network is measurably improved through increased capacity and participatory monitoring.	3.1 At least 60 FS stakeholders are trained over a cumulative period of 1.5 week in the application of the FS Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) by Q4Y1 (baseline of 0 people) **(DI-A01 Core).** 3.2 Through MEAT assessment, all 10 new sites are achieving Level 3 (Sustained effectiveness) in by Q4Y3. 3.3 Community Monitoring Groups (CMG) are established/renewed in all 13 FS - with at least five members per site by Q1Y1 - with training from BFAR, DENR and ZSL initiated by Q2Y2 and native and non-native species surveys established (baseline = 3 CMGs) (DI-A03). 3.4 500 individual native fish are visually marked within the FS between Q1Y2 and Q4Y3 in order to determine residency and	3.1 Training records; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, training type, and employment status of trainees at end of project. 3.2 MEAT report; data disaggregated by management effectiveness, policy, budget and enforcement. 3.3 CMG training reports, with pre- and post-training assessments; CMG monitoring reports.	MEAT is an appropriate assessment tool for FS. Community members are willing to become part of CMGs. Communities support fish movement studies.

	better understand the effectiveness of the network to protect mobile aquatic fauna resulting in a peer-reviewed publication (baseline = 0 papers) (DI-C17).		3.4 Study report and peer-reviewed paper.	GOs/FSMBs effectively utilise information from CMGs. Networked FS are more effective for catchment level protection compared to individual FS.
Output 4. Key government and community stakeholders are supporting an integrated response to identified threats to riverine resources in the Freshwater Sanctuaries	4.1 60 sustainably funded River Wardens are in place across the 10 new FS with training from BFAR, DENR and ZSL by Q2Y2 (baseline of 0 people) (DI-A01 **Core**). 4.2 By Q2Y2, 25ha of land within or adjacent to FS has been converted to support sustainable livelihood management practices including native species silviculture, climate-smart agriculture, and quail egg and mushroom production (baseline = 0ha) (DI-D01 Core). 4.3 At least 100 beneficiaries are engaging in sustainable livelihood improvement practices by Q4Y3 resulting in an average increase in annual	4.1 River warden training materials, para-legal training materials, pre- and post-training assessments, arrest reports; disaggregated by gender, age group, stakeholder type, training type, and trainees' employment status at end of project. 4.2. Land-use maps, reports on livelihood practices; disaggregated by practice/land use type and extent pre- and post-project. 4.3 Training materials, intervention maps; data disaggregated by gender, age group, and livelihood improvement practice type. Sales data.	Community members agree to be River Wardens. River Wardens are an effective mechanism for preventing illegal activities in FS. GOs effectively utilise information from River Wardens. Stakeholders are willing to adopt more sustainable practices. Communities buy-in to benefits of CoMSCAs. Availability of funds and savings and support of the community. Communities are motivated to support freshwater management and conservation activities. CoMSCAs strengthen FS. Financial and social incentives of river wardens provided by LGUs.	

	income of PhP4,800 (£70) / year equating to 5% of annual household expenditure. (baseline of 0 people) (DI-B10). 4.4.10ha of riparian land is cleared of invasive plants and replaced with native species from local nurseries by Q2Y2 (baseline of 0ha) (DI-D12). 4.5 Environment funds linked to CoMSCAs each have a cumulative annual input of at least PHP3600 (£55) per cycle by Q4Y2 and these are being used to support activities to support FS and/or riverine resources (baseline = PHP0).	4.4 Habitat survey reports; intervention maps; disaggregated by threat/driver type and habitat type. 4.5 Environment fund records and proposed budget for fund spending in place	

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)

Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Output 1.
1.1 Conduct biological and socio-economic surveys of the Pared River Catchment
1.2 Participatory land-use mapping along PRC communities
1.3 Identification of ten 10 potential sites for freshwater protected area establishment
1.4 Development of digital maps of PRC and proposed FSs
1.5 Consultation meeting with selected barangays (villages) along PRC feedbacking the results of surveys, and maps of 10 proposed FSs
1.6 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) on FSs establishment and management objectives, benefits to local communities, and the importance of freshwater ecosystems.
1.7 Legalization of 10 proposed FS within PRC through barangay resolutions and municipal Ordinances
1.8 Demarcation of 10 proposed FSs with at least 10 hectares core zone

Output 2.
2.1 Attend municipal and barangay sessions with the champions to present FS establishments and scaling up concepts of FS into a network
2.2 Formation of FS management councils
2.3 Development of FS management plans (for Alcala) and updating (for Baggao, Penablanca) to include new established FSs
2.4 Adoption and institutionalization of FS management plans in LGU with allocated annual budgets

2.5 Conduct consultative meetings to the FS Management Bodies and discuss networking of FSs in PRC
2.6 Formation of PRC FS network management body recognized by the three LGUs within PRC
2.7 Presentation of FS network management body structure and roles to LGUs legislative body for adaption through resolution
2.8 Representation of FS network management body into LGUs Municipal Development Council
2.9 Participatory planning workshop for the development of PRC FS network management plan
2.10 Adoption and institutionalization of FS network management plan into provincial development plans to ensure budget allocation
2.11 Organizational development and management training of FS management body i.e., leadership training

Output 3.
3.1 Conduct MEAT workshops and assessments in all 13 sites and FS networks
3.2 Formation/reformation of Community Monitoring Group in all 13 sites
3.3 Training on Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (BAMS) for CMG using the DENR BMB technical bulletin.
3.4 Development of CMG monitoring plan/yearly action plan based on FS network management plan
3.5 Identification of native fish species in PRC using visual tagging in close partnership with BFAR
3.6 Review and updating of FS and FS networks management plans
3.7 Management of FS monitoring data and preparation of related reports for reference in the improvement of FSs and networks

Output 4.
4.1 Law enforcement and paralegal training for river wardens in all 13 sites provided by DENR and BFAR
4.2 Regular patrolling in FS areas (Zones)
4.3 Skills training on silviculture and nursery establishment
4.4 Establishment of community based- native trees nurseries.
4.5 Inventory of invasive species in FS through regular monitoring by CMG
4.6 Mitigation action on invasive trees and freshwater fish species implemented by river warden in partnerships with the DENR and BFAR
4.7 Planting of native trees, fruit trees, bamboo in riverbanks with a 1:50 ratio (1 cleared invasive replace with 50 seedlings of native trees)
4.8 Adoption/implementation of policy on no planting of invasive species by DENR and adaption by local governments
4.9 Formation and establishment of CoMSCAs in all 13 sites within the PRC
4.10 Creation of environmental fund included in the CoMSCA groups to support community-led activities e.g., FS management
4.11 CoMSCA kits provided for the first operations of savers group
4.12 Village Agents (VA) training
4.13 Identification and training in biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs) e.g. mushroom farming, quail egg production, charcoal making using corn husk.
4.14 Lobby for funding by local governments of identified BDFEs
4.15 Introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Organic Farming

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.	
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)?	x
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.	