

Applicant: **Kalantaryan, Sona**  
Organisation: **Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets**  
Funding Sought: **£654,058.00**

## **DIR30S2\1054**

### **Decreasing climate change accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia**

This project aims to balance conservation of regional biodiversity with the improvement of local livelihoods by addressing the climate change-driven increase in cases of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in a targeted 4,000 ha area of Armenia's Vayots Dzor region. The proposed intervention framework will showcase cost-effective, nature-based solutions to HWC incidents involving bears, which can be scaled and adopted by other municipalities across the country and abroad, as well as empowering rural communities to work towards poverty reduction.

# DIR30S2\1054

Decreasing climate change accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Lelag  
**Surname** Vosguian  
**Organisation** Foundation for the Preservation of  
Wildlife and Cultural Assets  
**Website** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Sona  
**Surname** Kalantaryan  
**Organisation** Foundation for the Preservation of  
Wildlife and Cultural Assets  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Ruben  
**Surname** Khachatryan  
**Organisation** Foundation for the Preservation of  
Wildlife and Cultural Assets  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
<b>Name</b>	Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets
<b>Phone (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]


## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary


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### Q3. Title:


Decreasing climate change accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

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**What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR29S1\1123**

DIR30S1\1083

### Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

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

**Biome 1**

Shrublands &amp; shrubby woodlands

**Biome 2***No Response***Biome 3***No Response***Conservation Action 1**

Species Management

**Conservation Action2**

Land / Water Management

**Conservation Action 3**

Livelihood, Economic &amp; Moral Incentives

**Threat 1**

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

**Threat 2**

Human intrusions &amp; disturbance (recreation, war)

**Threat 3**

Invasive &amp; other problematic species, genes &amp; diseases

**Q5. Summary of project**

**Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.**

This project aims to balance conservation of regional biodiversity with the improvement of local livelihoods by addressing the climate change-driven increase in cases of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in a targeted 4,000 ha area of Armenia's Vayots Dzor region. The proposed intervention framework will showcase cost-effective, nature-based solutions to HWC incidents involving bears, which can be scaled and adopted by other municipalities across the country and abroad, as well as empowering rural communities to work towards poverty reduction.

**Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary****Q6. Country(ies)**

**Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in?**

**Country 1**

Armenia

**Country 2***No Response*

Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response
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Do you require more fields?

No

**Q7. Project dates**

<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End date:</b>	<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):</b>
01 April 2024	31 March 2027	3 years

**Q8. Budget summary**

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Amount:	£215,462.00	£247,322.00	£191,274.00	£ 654,058.00

**Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

**Q10. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?**

For the Y3, activity 4.1. Bear Festival /lumpsum cost for all festival-related activities and costs, there is a [redacted] of unconfirmed funding. If we will not be able to secure this funding, we will reach out to other parties available for Festival Sponsorship. With good planning and PR strategy, we will secure all the funds to organize the festival in the best possible way.

At the same time, the funding was not secured yet, as the planning for Y2026/2027 will be made a year before. We have presented the idea to UCOM and got initial approval for their funding.

**Q11. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?**

No

**Section 4 - Problem statement**

**Q12. Problem the project is trying to address**

**Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with multi-dimensional poverty.**

Despite its 2017 upgrade to UMIC status, 51.7% of the population of Armenia remains below the poverty line [1, 2]. The widening wealth gap between urban (63.6%) and rural (36.4%) populations is exacerbated by external socio-political factors, the effects of which are felt most keenly by rural Armenians in the nation's most underprivileged communities [3, 4, 5, 6].

Due to the skewed distribution of state-sponsored investments favouring urban areas, rural communities have grown more isolated, relying on intrusive and/or consumptive methods of biological resource use [7]. Inefficient and unproductive, such activities – unrestricted grazing, poaching, wild harvesting, logging – are unsustainable both ecologically and economically [8].

In recent months, the need for solutions to human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the Armenian regions has become significantly more urgent. In spite of clear progress observed in the Yeghegis community wherein protective measures (e.g. fences; supplemental feeding stations) and rapid response teams have been established, many communities remain unprotected from intrusion by bears [9]. In these locales, HWC incidents have increased, with residents taking extreme steps to protect their livestock and crops from depredation. Between September and October 2023, there were three instances of bears being trapped by villagers, which represents an unprecedented rise in such control methods when compared to data collected over the past 5 years [10]. The average cost incurred by a single bear attack can reduce a household's monthly income by up to 42% [11].

Since summer 2023, the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Artsakh has caused the displacement of 100,000 people; 1550 of whom have been relocated to Vayots Dzor region [12]. This sudden influx of residents not only places new pressures on local infrastructure, natural resources, and rural economies, but is also likely to increase the incidence of HWC [13].

FWPC manages the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR), a 30,000 ha PPA and biodiversity hotspot located on communal lands in the Vayots Dzor province [14]. Within the scope of this new project, the targeted area of an additional 4,000 ha will integrate vital habitat connectivity between existing protected areas and launch an interventional framework to mitigate HWC incidents involving Syrian brown bears [15]. As an important actor in the sustainable development of communities since 2002, FPWC has witnessed the escalating tensions between people and nature, and is trusted by the Ministry of Environment to find solutions to the interrelated problems of poverty and biodiversity loss in the most economically vulnerable parts of the country [16].

The proposed project seeks to enhance regional biodiversity and improve local livelihoods through the empowerment of rural communities in a pilot scheme mitigating HWC. The project will create jobs, protect species, and manage habitat over the long term, adopting nature-based solutions which balance the needs of both wildlife and people, including: training and employing rangers; planting endemic fruit trees to enhance habitats and serve as buffer zones; installing protective equipment; developing "bear-friendly" local agricultural products and supply chains; instilling responsibility and pride in ecosystem and species conservation in local communities.

## **Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions**

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### **Q13. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements**

**Q13a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be**

## supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

## Q13b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

Thanks to the persistent efforts of FPWC, the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Working Group was officially established in 2022, operating under the Armenian Ministry of Environment. The working group comprises members from the NGO sector, governmental agencies, and the National Academy of Sciences. Its primary goal is to unite efforts, leveraging knowledge and experience to formulate working plans and draft conservation action plans that address HWC across Armenia. FPWC has been instrumental in the steering of this working group; it is from the Foundation's projects that the government gains key circumstantial data required for the drafting of policy and legislation concerning HWC and its impact on rural livelihoods. The proposed project will enable the further development of governmental policy, while also supporting Armenia in meeting its national and international biodiversity and development goals.

At the national level, the project will contribute to a range of NBSAP objectives, as well as specific policy targets as defined by the Ministries of Environment, Economy, and Agriculture, by preserving biodiversity and natural habitats while simultaneously supporting sustainable development and encouraging nature-based solutions to ensure food security and, in turn, the empowerment of rural Armenians to improve economic livelihoods. By managing key habitat and reforestation in the CWR, mitigating HWC and its effects on rural agriculture, and supporting sustainable food production in the Vayots Dzor region, various gains will be made towards Armenia's short- and long-term development strategies [17].

These actions in turn will aid Armenia's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to international environmental policy, at which level the project is aligned with:

- 1) CBD (Articles 6, 7, 8, 11, & 13), by raising public awareness and introducing incentive measures with which in situ conservation of species and habitat can be implemented as a key part of poverty reduction.
- 2) ABS (Articles 8, 9, 21 & 22), through in situ conservation of genetic resources, particularly as they pertain to endangered animal and plant species, specifically the Syrian brown bear (EN) and endemic wild fruit tree species – *Pyrus* spp. (EN); as well as awareness-raising in local communities of the relationship between biodiversity preservation and the required capacity-building to achieve poverty reduction.
- 3) CMS (Article 2.1), by protecting habitat and migration corridors between existing PAs and/or range states for several at-risk species, including: Persian leopard (EN), Bezoar goat (NT), Armenian mouflon (NT), Bearded (NT) and Egyptian (EN) vultures.
- 4) UNFCCC (Article 5), by reducing emissions and maximising CO<sub>2</sub> capture and carbon sequestration through forestation in the CWR.
- 5) Global SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, & 15 [18].

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

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### Q14. Methodology

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

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

FPWC has drawn on its extensive experience and on surveys of similar projects on HWC and capacity- building successfully led by BirdLife partners, including Darwin projects, when developing this methodology [19]. Valuable feedback from the Darwin Expert Committee has also been gratefully received and incorporated into the design of the project. In addition, data from an ongoing monitoring project in partnership with Bears in Mind has provided sufficient insight into bear behaviour in the Vayots Dzor region, from which management practices may now be developed and implemented [20].

No similar initiatives to manage the impact of HWC on rural livelihoods currently exist within Armenia, though the project is aligned with and builds on earlier work conducted at the local level [21]. Regionally, studies of HWC have identified a correlation between negative attitudes towards bears and financial loss [22]; the project is also informed by research at the global level concerning HWC mitigation for capacity-building [23]. Such research clearly identifies the need for species and habitat management, as well as awareness-raising among local communities, if livelihoods affected by wildlife are to be improved in the long term [24].

In order to achieve the main objectives of increased environmental and economic resilience of ecosystems and people, a key threatened biodiversity hotspot will be conserved through the introduction of protective measures to achieve reduced incidence of climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict. The main outcome of this project is the integration of 4,000 ha of land into existing conservation areas, which will be managed by communities in partnership with FPWC to protect species, increase ecological connectivity, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and reduce poverty by enhancing rural livelihoods through sustainable practices. The goal of tree planting initiatives is to establish a natural barrier between bears and communities. Reforesting areas in CWR with carefully selected, high-value endemic tree species serves the dual purpose of creating an alternative food source for both wildlife and humans. CWR has been selected as the prime planting site through the application of a target plant concept approach, taking into account several factors such as suitability for growing wild fruit and high-value tree species, favourable slopes, soil quality and a strict protection regime [25]. Planting areas are strategically located at a distance of at least 5-10 km from the communities, and there is a particular focus on including the Yeghegis River valley in the restoration process, aiming to revive the natural habitat that was adversely affected by the construction of small hydro power stations.

The main outputs are:

1) Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices - this will be achieved by transforming the target area into a community-based conservation model, through the implementation of PA management plans established with the input of local communities. Awareness-raising and education will assist with capacity-building for ongoing resilience of future generations, with a particular focus on women, in line with gender mainstreaming and global SDGs on gender equality. Beyond the lifespan of the project, rangers will continue to patrol and monitor the target area.

2) Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and



reduce interactions between bears and people - this will be achieved by the growing and planting of 50,000 wild endemic fruit trees, which will create short-term job opportunities for ~100 individuals from disadvantaged groups. Forestation will also create a natural barrier between the target species (threatened local population of bears) and agricultural activities of households which have suffered their depredations [26]. Forestation will increase corridor connectivity for migratory species and allow for freer movement of animals; such corridors are also recommended in HWC buffer zones to divert problem species from human settlements [27]. Wildlife corridors are recommended specifically for bears throughout their global range [28].

3) Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations - this objective will be met by awareness-raising, information sessions, and training in target villages to improve apicultural practices to "bear-proof" means of production. Further, honey-making generally will be supported and households integrated into regional and national supply chains, with an emphasis on instilling conservation awareness, responsibility and pride in target communities via a "bear-friendly" marketing strategy for produce certification.

4) Project scaling and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond - this will be achieved by sharing best practices, disseminating findings, and identifying potential communities in Armenia for whom replication and scaling of project and approaches may prove beneficial.

## **Q15. Capability and Capacity**

**How will the project support the strengthening of capability and capacity of identified local and national partners, and stakeholders during its lifetime at organisational or individual levels? Please provide details of what form this will take, who will benefit (noting GESI considerations), and the post-project value to the country.**

Individual:

Over 400 people will learn about community-based conservation models and how they function; sustainable practices and behaviors. Over 400 people will get in-depth knowledge about human-bear conflict prevention measures, and around 270 people will get knowledge on sustainable moneymaking, of which 20 families will get further consultation chances and means to start beekeeping. At least 15 families will get knowledge on how to develop eco-friendly businesses and later one-on-one mentorship time. Over 100 pupils will participate in eco-clubs to get in-depth knowledge on environmental conservation, civic rights, activism, soft skills, etc.

Organizational:

The project will allow FPWC to gain more data about Yeghegis Valley, which will improve in-situ conservation works. The rangers employed will gain skills and knowledge on disaster management, first aid, bird and mammal identification, etc, serving as eyes and ears for FPWC on the field, again, supporting better conservation in the area.

Regional/National:

The project will allow local community administration, regional government as well as Ministry of Environment of Armenia to better understand and handle human-wildlife conflict cases, having the experience brought with this project. The project will serve as a baseline to develop an HWC action plan, which will not be possible without the data and place-based experience of this project. Identified communities interested in deploying similar actions as in the project, will gain knowledge on HWC based on this project report and further meetings, as well as skills to approach the donors and develop proposals.

## **Q16. Gender equality and social inclusion**

**All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.**

FPWC has previously worked with the target community and has taken its existing gender dimensions into careful consideration during the implementation of this project to ensure that gender inequality is reduced. Armenia is committed to gender mainstreaming in all spheres of public life; this is in line with SDG 5, as well as national policy [29, 30, 31].

Though Armenian rural communities tend to be rooted in traditional gender roles and can be reticent to change, FPWC will invest efforts to engage women through their recruitment for implementation of awareness-raising activities and empowering them as agents of change in the targeted municipalities. While the majority of local population believes in preserving traditional values, preferring the breadwinner of the family be male, the situation on the ground differs, which sees the unfair share of the agricultural duties on women. At the same time, female-headed households remain highly vulnerable due to lack of financial means [32]. This project aims to balance these gaps, and in every activity give women agency to address their own needs and receive support to strengthen their capacities in order to improve remuneration. We will facilitate women's participation in all activities while respecting their cultural and social boundaries and creating safe atmosphere for them to feel comfortable enough to engage.

Our project team and contractors will receive training on gender sensitivity and during the project lifespan quarterly meetings be regularly reminded of the values the project adopts. In addition, the targeted region recently admitted over 1500 refugees from Nagorno Karabakh, who have a long way to go towards integration; our goal will be to support the integration process of these families who live in Yeghegis community.

## **Q17. Change expected**

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

**When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.**

During the lifetime of the project, the short-term benefits will be both environmental and socioeconomic.

Environmental:

1. 4,000 ha of a threatened biodiversity hotspot is integrated into existing PPA, area patrolled by rangers, species monitoring, implementation of sustainable management plan created with input of local community.
2. Increased connectivity, enhanced habitats and restored landscapes through conservation actions, including planting of 50,000 wild endemic fruit trees.
3. HWC and risks of poaching decreased by installation of fencing, alarm system, protection of area, and awareness-raising.

Socioeconomic:

1. Creation of green jobs for at least 100 individuals employed in tree-nursery/planting activities, 4 local rangers hired and trained.
2. Increased capacity, agency, and income for 100 individuals who practice honey-making through trainings,

integration with supply chains, support to 10 disadvantaged families to launch honey-based activities, including access to "organic" and "bear-friendly" certifications and marketing strategies.

3. Population of two target villages (1,100) and municipality (6,000) benefit from safer environments, decreased HWC and increased environmental awareness and agency as they are involved in and empowered by PPA sustainable management plan.

In the long-term, FPWC will continue to monitor and maintain changes in order to sustain impact of project beyond its completion; environmental components will be harmonised with CWR regular activities and communities will continue to be supported in their adherence to the approach. In terms of scaling the project, FPWC's community-centric PPA model allows for adaptation of this pilot to different parts of the country, with inclusive and empowering modes of governance in accordance with a given region's cultural and environmental idiosyncrasies, while also expanding protected areas in Armenia.

## Q18. Pathway to change

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

This project is designed to achieve the following pathway to change:

By 1) integrating 4,000-ha of communal lands into a PPA and 2) adopting land restoration practices that enhance habitats and 3) increase range areas and migratory corridors, while also 4) raising awareness among local communities of nature-based solutions to 5) balancing their livelihoods with conservation actions, FPWC expects to see the following outputs:

Improved connectivity conservation for 13,000 ha and with a wider impact on total area of 50,000 ha of biodiversity hotspot as existing PPAs become contiguous habitat, which will maintain and expand range of target species in order to reduce HWC incidence. This in turn will positively impact agricultural production in surrounding villages, the inhabitants of which will be further supported in adopting best practices for long-term HWC mitigation, improved food security and sustainable economic growth.

Once scaled, this project could be replicated in similarly vulnerable communities across Armenia where exist the same threats to nature and people. The project's lasting impact will be increased environmental and socioeconomic resilience for ecosystems and rural communities in Armenia through the protection of threatened biodiversity hotspots and the development of nature-based solutions and green jobs.

## Q19. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

**Q19a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?**

A key milestone for this project will be the change of land status and subsequent legal protections sought by the reforestation initiative. In line with Armenian environmental law, once the trees are planted and newly-formed forest cover is established, FPWC will apply for changing the land status of the planted area to a protected community forest. The ongoing management of this newly-forested area, along with continuing need for rangers in the vicinity, will not only create permanent positions for rural people, but also improve local attitudes towards wildlife which will assist in fostering greater appreciation for and responsibility towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Beyond the immediate community benefits, data and evidence from





this pilot will be made available to others via both official (e.g. government) and social (e.g. FPWC media; local broadcasting) channels. We will also share best practices through key partners at BirdLife and IUCN.

**Q19b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?**

We see particular potential in this project for Replication scaling, of all or part(s) of the project, both in-country as well as internationally. In Armenia's rural regions, HWC is on the rise. By piloting nature-based solutions to coexistence between people and bears, it is likely that similar approaches could be adopted by other municipalities, with adjustments made for the specificities of each community's context.

Given the number of range states of subpopulations of the European brown bear, and the prevalence of its involvement in HWC cases, is likely that the dissemination of knowledge through open-access channels will also allow for Replication scaling in other countries. Such cost-effective and capacity-focused methods will be of particular value in low-income countries where bears and people live in close proximity (e.g. Afghanistan; Iran; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Ukraine; Uzbekistan) [33].

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

-  Evidence, References, Map
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-  pdf 5.61 MB

## Section 7 - Risk Management

### Q20. Risk Management

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<b>Fiduciary</b> Funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated).	High	Insignificant	Rare	Staff members of FPWC are guided by internal regulations of the Foundation, which excludes any such mishandling of funds. The Foundation's financial director controls all financial transactions; these are verified with the project coordinators and the manager. A mandatory annual financial independent audit will foresee any such risk.	Minor

<b>Safeguarding</b>	"Doing harm", incl. sexual exploitation abuse and harassment, staff safety and welfare, or unintended harm.	Average	Insignificant	Rare	FPWC's safeguarding policy will be shared with all (downstream) partners and enforced with a zero-tolerance policy on bullying, harassment, and sexual exploitation/abuse to ensure that everyone involved is protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin.	Minor
<b>Delivery Chain</b>	Lack of communication between project partners, component managers, and stakeholders, etc., which could lead to challenges in implementation.	High	Likely	Rare	FPWC will maintain clear communication channels, host regular team meetings, foster a culture of open communication, and ensure documentation is clear, comprehensive, and readily available. These measures enhance transparency, minimise misunderstandings, and promote collaboration, in order to reduce the likelihood of project delays or errors.	Minor
<b>Risk 4</b>	Low level of female engagement.	Moderate	Possible	Possible	Considering the sociocultural context of Armenia, the key to success will be approaching this issue realistically and clearly assessing the obstacles to women's full participation. We will create spaces for women with specific activities within the project where they will feel safe enough to participate and contribute their voices.	Moderat

<b>Risk 5</b>	The unstable geopolitical situation in Armenia and the wider Caucasus region.	High	Possible	Possible	For the past three years, FPWC has been working despite the unstable sociopolitical climate, wherein the potential for conflict escalation creates challenges for project implementation. By maintaining clear sight of goals, we do our best to continue projects for the sake of the future of Armenia's ecologically- and economically-resilient communities.	Moderate
<b>Risk 6</b>	Low level of participation from local stakeholders, e.g. unwillingness to be part of the change; lack of involvement in project components; etc.	High	Likely	Rare	We will involve the local community members in all possible activities that are applicable as key actors of the project implementation. Close collaboration with local authorities and ongoing monitoring of the project's successes will be in place to ensure we address locals' expectations and needs while reaching our goals.	Minor

## Q21. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).


No


## Section 8 - Workplan

### Q22. Workplan

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

 [BCF Workplan FPWC final](#)

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## Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

## Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

The project's M&E will be organized and curated by the project partner, Birdlife Europe. BLE will act as an external evaluator, providing an unbiased perspective and an independent assessment of project success. Brecht Verhelst will oversee our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process, ensuring strict adherence to Darwin Initiative standards. Itri Levent Erkol will have biannual visits to manage the M&E process.

Before each activity, FPWC staff will undergo comprehensive training by our M&E team, empowering them to seamlessly implement technical reporting and data collection protocols. This forms the basis for a systematic approach to M&E.

Using the logical framework of the project as a foundation, we will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation plan. This plan will outline the baseline data or methods for collecting baseline data (in cases where it is unavailable) for each output indicator.

Constant communication between FPWC staff and our M&E team/project partner is paramount. The FPWC staff will maintain regular contact, diligently reporting on project progress and delivering requested data. This ongoing communication ensures the identification and prompt addressing of emerging gaps, fostering agility in our project management.

We will incorporate various methods to capture a broader project perspective. Surveys and interviews will gather qualitative insights from project beneficiaries and stakeholders. For each project component Specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be established for quantitative measurement of project performance. We will also explore some technology-driven solutions to enhance efficiency in real-time data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Itri Levent Erkol's biannual visits are opportunities for collaborative learning and improvement. During these visits, the M&E expert will engage with project staff, review the M&E plan, and make adjustments as needed. This iterative process will ensure our M&E framework evolves with the project's dynamic landscape.

Approximately [REDACTED] of the project budget is dedicated to M&E, which includes the environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment. At the same time, £[REDACTED] from £[REDACTED] is the matched funding by BLE. The funds dedicated to M&E requested from BCF is approximately 4% of the total requested budget.

**Total project budget for M&E (£)**

£[REDACTED]

**(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**

**Total project budget for M&E (%)**

[REDACTED]

**(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**

**Number of days planned for M&E**

99


## Section 10 - Logical Framework


### Q24. Logical Framework (logframe)


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

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 [BCF St2\\_LogFrame FPWC](#)

 27/11/2023

 06:58:51

 pdf 266.98 KB

#### Impact:

Increased environmental and economic resilience of ecosystems and people through the protection of threatened biodiversity hotspot and introduced protective measures to achieve reduced incidence of climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict.

#### Outcome:

4,000 ha of land integrated into existing conservation areas and managed by communities in partnership with FPWC to protect species, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and enhance rural livelihoods through sustainable practices.

#### Project Outputs

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##### Output 1:

Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices.

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##### Output 2:

Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.

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##### Output 3:

Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change-resilient land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations.

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##### Output 4:

Scaling up project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.

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##### Output 5:

*No Response*

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#### Do you require more Output fields?

No

#### Activities

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



- 1.1 Integration of the 4000ha land into CWR (Y1 – May-January)
  - 1.2 Stakeholder outreach/consultations for PA management plan adaptation (Y1 – June-July)
  - 1.3 Adaptation of the management plan for the integrated area (Y1 November – Y2 July)
  - 1.4 Awareness raising activities (Y1)
    - 1.4.1. Site engineering (installation of signboards, informational signs, ranger station, bear-proof bins in key touristic destinations (Y1 July - Y2 June)
    - 1.4.2. Printing materials on the community-based conservation and conservation/biodiversity value of the targeted site/communities to be disseminated in the targeted settlements (Y1 – July-September)
    - 1.4.3. Meetings with community members about community-based conservation models and how it functions; sustainable practices and behaviours. Over 400 people to attend. (Y1 August-October)
    - 1.4.4. Workshops with local stakeholders and the most vulnerable households about human-bear conflict prevention measures. Over 400 people to attend. (Y1 August-October)
  - 1.5 Ranger recruitment (Y1)
    - 1.5.1. Hiring, training rangers (first aid certification, basics on wildfire prevention, bird and mammal identification, workshops on HWC), providing with necessary equipment (Y1 – June-September)
    - 1.5.2. Rangers assigned to land plots for patrolling and monitoring (Y1- October)
  - 1.6. Youth outreach and awareness raising. Establishment of three eco-clubs for youth in targeted settlements. (Y2-3)
    - 1.6.1. Curriculum Development for the Eco-Clubs (Y2 – May-August)
    - 1.6.2. Open call for the youth to join the eco-clubs (Y2 – September)
    - 1.6.3. Eco-club classes for at least 100 pupils (Y2 October – Y3 May)
    - 1.6.4. Summer School for distinguished eco-club members, up to 20 pupils (Y3 June-July)
- 
- 2.1 Wild fruit trees grown and planted (Y1-2)
    - 2.1.1. Mapping of the areas favorable for tree planting (Y1)
    - 2.1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment for the tree planting (Y1)
    - 2.1.3. Growing the trees in the tree nurseries (at least 5 people employed) (Y2 March-October)
    - 2.1.4. Planting the trees (seasonal work for at least 100 locals) (Y2 October-Novemner)
  - 2.2. In-situ conservation of the integrated lands (Y1-3)
    - 2.2.1. Biodiversity monitoring of the area through camera trapping and rangers' involvement (Y1-3)
    - 2.2.2. Assessment and monitoring of human-wildlife conflict in Yeghegis Community/valley (Y1 July - November; Y2 April - November; Y3 April - November)
    - 2.2.3. Creation of Biodiversity Database of Yeghegis Valley (Y1 October – Y3 January)
    - 2.2.4. Identification of key movement paths and routes of large mammals (Y21 October - Y3 December)
- 
- 3.1. Informational sessions for the local communities about nature-based solutions, green jobs, sustainable production of local agricultural products (Y1-2)
    - 3.1.1. Mapping stakeholders for eco-friendly initiatives involving identifying interests and involvement of local businesses, entrepreneurs (Y1 November – December)
    - 3.1.2. Organization of workshops on identified topics/directions (Y1 January – March)
    - 3.1.3. Further mentorship of participants to assist in their endeavors (at least 15 families getting one-on-one mentorship time with professionals to upscale their business) (Y2 quarterly meetings)
  - 3.2. Enhancing honey-making in the community by workshops, sub-grants and providing electric fencing (Y1-2)
    - 3.2.1. Workshops in sustainable honey making practices for active beekeepers for over 150 people (Y1 November – February)
    - 3.2.2. Identification of underprivileged families (with the stress on women engagement and refugees from Artsakh) who are willing to start beekeeping but do not have knowledge or resources (Y1 October-November)
    - 3.2.3. Workshops for identified families in 3.2.2. to start beekeeping (over 120 people) (Y1 November – February)
    - 3.2.4. Need assessment and allocation of minimum means to start beekeeping for at least 20 families (Y1 October - March)
    - 3.2.5. Follow-up meetings with new beekeepers to evaluate the process and address ongoing challenges they might face (Y2 quarterly meetings)

3.2.6. Establishing beekeeping plots for community members within the conserved area, strategically located outside biodiversity core zones to prevent any contact with wild populations of bees and other wildlife. (Y1 March – Y2 May)

3.3. Purchase and allocation of at least 20 electric fences (20ha in total) to the communities to protect villagers' beehives from bear intrusions (Y2)

4.1. Bear Festival: organization of the festival in Yeghegis community with the participation of all direct and indirect stakeholders to showcase the project achievements, advertise local products, and to advocate for the traditional management of human-bear conflict in the region, etc. (Y3 July – September)

4.2. Environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment including the impact of beekeeping on the ecosystem and the community. (Y1 – baseline; Y3 – impact assessment)

4.3. Elaboration of a project report, which will include best practices and lessons learned to be disseminated in local, regional and international levels (Y3 October-November)

4.3.1. Sharing the obtained knowledge among the main actors working in the Vayots dzor region, including organisations working with human-wildlife conflict across the country, scientific community and international organizations (IUCN HWCC Specialist Group) (Y3 December – February)

4.3.2. Collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Group to draft an action plan for reducing and preventing human-bear conflicts. (Y1 January-March, Y2 January – March, Y3 November - March)

4.4. Publications on project findings, best practices and lessons learned for general public to be disseminated for wider audience in Armenia, in the Caucasus eco-region and beyond (Y3, August-December)

4.5. Identification of potential communities and donors in Armenia and beyond for scaling and/or replication of the project Y3 (November - February)

4.5.1. Identification and preliminary meetings with potential communities willing to deploy similar actions (Y3 November)

4.5.2. Workshops with identified communities to help launch similar projects, workshops on how to develop project proposals (Y3 December – January)

4.5.3. Identification of potential donors willing to support similar actions for identified communities (Y3 December - February)


## Section 11 - Budget and Funding


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### Q25. Budget

**Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.**

 [BCF Budget over 100k FPWC Final](#)

 24/11/2023

 13:41:00

 xlsx 100.58 KB

### Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

**This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.**

**Q26a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?**

- Development of existing/past activities

**Please provide details:**

The project builds on previous actions taken by FPWC in the project area. Starting in 2016, the Vardahovit settlement of Yeghegis community settlements allocated around 1000ha of land to FPWC on perpetuity for conservation purposes rejecting a mining project. Since then FPWC has been cooperating with the community integrating new lands into CWR and introducing community-based conservation model. Key to our success has always been understanding and addressing needs of our targeted communities (drinking/irrigation water, solar energy, agricultural equipment, etc). Addressing HWC is one of those issues that will allow us to ensure the locals live in safe and resilient environment, in harmony with nature.

FPWC has been providing electric fences to targeted settlements, and in 2023, with the support of Bears In Mind, we formed the "Rapid Response Group" to gather comprehensive data on bear attacks, established site-specific wild fruit orchards to provide alternative source of food and nutrition for the wildlife in the long-term; organized supplemental feeding program for the bears feeding them with seasonal fruits and vegetables bought from the locals suffered from bear attacks.

The proposed project is based on the data gathered during past actions suggesting holistic approach and encompassing much bigger scale of activities.

**Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?**

- No

**Q27. Value for Money**

**Please demonstrate why your project is good value for money in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness of each pound spend (economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity). Why is it the best feasible project for the amount of money to be spent?**

The project budget is designed to ensure project sustainability and allow communities to have more skills, means, and knowledge to be more resilient.

By fulfilling the project's main goal - HWC mitigation, locals will have fewer losses due to wildlife attacks and more skills and means to improve their livelihood. Having two local coordinators and four rangers and in-kind contributions by FPWC and settlements will cut down transportation and operational costs.

The funds directed to human resources are calculated to ensure sufficient salaries for project staff, which is paramount to implementing the project in the best possible way.

The purchase of capital items and service deliveries will follow the Procurement Policy of FPWC, to get the best price/quality delivery, as well as DI requirements.

FPWC will apply to the RA Government to get the VAT exemption for the project (which is about 20%), so in case of any purchase or service that includes VAT, it will be exempted. The budget numbers already include prices without VAT.

The project leader, accountant, and financial director of FPWC will ensure every transfer within the grant is made for the core benefit of the targeted community and project goals.

The project partner, BLE, is not requesting any funds, as there was an opportunity to cover their engagement with their own funds funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust, which is secured.

**Q28. Capital items**

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

10% of the project budget will be directed to the capital costs.

Signboards and informational signs will be placed in the areas to be included in CWR for conservation, as well as around settlements, as a part of site engineering to allow locals and tourists to be aware of wildlife, conservation sites, etc. FPWC rangers will ensure the signboards are intact.

As FPWC will continue employing the rangers with its own means, the ranger station will be operational after the project.

Bear-proof bins will be given to the settlements to which the respective tourist site belongs, to organize the waste management under the governmental system.

Cameras and binoculars will be used by rangers, and we will continue using camera traps for monitoring.

Mobile electric fences will be given to the community and they will be obligated by the agreement with FPWC to use those for local population needs.

## **Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics**

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### **Q29. Safeguarding**

**All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.**

**Please upload the following required policies:**

- **Safeguarding Policy**: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy**: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct**: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, including compliance with IASC 6 Principles.

**If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.**

**Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.**

**If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.**

FPWC's safeguarding policies (Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy, Child Safeguarding policy statement, environmental and social guarantees framework, Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing policy, Social Media Policy, etc.) are in practice to ensure a safe working environment and healthy relations with stakeholders. The project staff is aware of these policies, while the new staff members and service providers will have training by FPWC's HR to be well aware of these policies. BLE, as a project partner, also has a strong safeguarding policies framework, and staff members are well aware of those policies. For all international experts and staff members, FPWC HR will do an additional training to introduce the cultural background of the communities we target, and

share FPWC's values, to ensure everybody is on the same page. All the policies will be presented to staff engaged in this project upon signing agreements that will also state the obligation of employees to follow the safeguarding policies.

In case of any allegations and complaints, HR will discuss the matters with FPWC's board to address the issues according to RA law and FPWC's safeguarding policies, ensuring anonymity of complaints, and prioritizing maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for each person involved.

## Q30. Ethics

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

FPWC is committed to upholding the highest standards of good ethical practice in all aspects of its work. This project will meet all legal and ethical obligations in Armenia and the EU, and will include the following of an institutional ethics review process.

The rights, privacy, safety and health of those impacted directly and indirectly by project activities will be respected, including that of all members of project staff and downstream partners. Research on and monitoring of animals, as well as interventions in habitats, will be conducted with the responsibility of minimising the risk of suffering and reducing risks of disruptions.

The project will directly be involved in supporting underprivileged families, refugees, women, and youth, and in all activities preliminary analysis will be done and staff will be reminded once more to respect cultural differences, closely examine the needs of engaged stakeholders, and address those when applicable, instead of implying any assumptions. All the workshop trainers and educators contracted under this project will be chosen based on their experience and understanding of all cultural and social peculiarities.

At last, FPWC has a strong understanding, that conservation is not possible without an anthropological approach, and project will be directed with that idea.

## Section 13 - British embassy or high commission engagement

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### Q31. British embassy or high commission engagement


**It is important for UK Government representatives to understand if UK funding might be spent in the project country/ies.**


**Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project.**


Yes

**Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.**

 [231122 Letter from HMA John Gallagher](#)

 22/11/2023

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## Section 14 - Project Staff

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### Q32. Project staff

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ruben Khachatryan	<b>Project Leader</b>	60	Checked
Karine Gharibyan	Accountant	50	Checked
Tsovinar Hovhannisyan	Conservation Manager	60	Checked
Gegham Margaryan	Local Coordinator, Stakeholder relations manager	60	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
to be hired	Education and training officer	50	Checked
to be hired	Administrative Assistant	90	Checked
to be hired	Awareness-Raising, Communications & Public Engagement Expert	70	Checked
Andranik Gyonjyan	Human-wildlife conflict expert	50	Checked
Sona Kalantaryan	Component Leader - Tree Growing & Planting	40	Checked
to be hired (4 people)	Rangers	100	Checked
Itri Levent Erkol	Monitoring and Evaluation Expert	7	Checked
Brecht Verhelst	Monitoring and Evaluation Overseer	3	Checked

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

 [FPWC, BLE Staff final](#)

 27/11/2023

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Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

## Section 15 - Project Partners

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### Q33. Project Partners

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

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included. The order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead partner name: Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets

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Website address: www.fpwc.org

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Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC), an Armenian environmental organization, is the lead of this project. Since its creation in 2002, the FPWC has been empowering local communities to conserve species, protect habitats, and drive sustainable development in Armenia.

As the project leader, the FPWC will develop and implement all on-the-ground activities, including integration of target territory in a protected area; conservation and land management; patrolling and monitoring of protected area; biodiversity assessment and species monitoring; research on human-wildlife conflict and implementation of mitigating/prevention measures; community outreach; support to local honey-making activities; trainings, workshops, and awareness-raising activities for project stakeholders and beneficiaries, including youth.

The FPWC has led hundreds of conservation and sustainable development projects in partnership with local communities in Armenia and has previously collaborated on multiple occasions with the targeted municipalities. The Foundation has the capability, capacity, experience, and team necessary to lead this project successfully.

Recognized in Armenia as an ally to local, vulnerable, remote communities, the FPWC also has privileged access to different levels of local and national leadership, which will facilitate the scaled replication of this project.

International/In-country Partner:  International

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Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£ [REDACTED]

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Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):

Yes

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Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?

Yes

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## Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

<b>1. Partner Name:</b>	Stichting BirdLife Europe (BLE)
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/">https://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/</a>
<b>What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	<p>BirdLife International is a worldwide partnership of 120 national conservation NGOs working to protect birds, their habitats and global biodiversity. Stichting BirdLife Europe (BLE) is its Europe and Central Asia division with 45 member organizations. BLE's uniquely local-to-global approach enables it to deliver high-impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.</p> <p>As the project's international partner based in Brussels, BLE will provide expertise and support FPWC in monitoring, evaluation, and scaling activities, including data collection and analysis for environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments; evaluation of performance indicators; survey of scaling mechanisms for replication of the project in other communities; dissemination of project results to be accessed online and free by the international community and through BirdLife network of partners; reporting to Darwin.</p> <p>BirdLife's involvement in this project will ensure that the highest international and European standards in terms of safeguarding, M&amp;E, reporting, and dissemination of results are respected.</p>
<b>International/In-country Partner:</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> International
<b>Allocated budget:</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

<b>2. Partner Name:</b>	No Response
<b>Website address:</b>	No Response
<b>What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	No Response
<b>International/In-country Partner:</b>	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
<b>Allocated budget:</b>	No Response



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**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):**  Yes  
 No

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Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?  Yes  
 No

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**3. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

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**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

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**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes  
 No

---

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?  Yes  
 No

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**4. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):**  Yes  
 No

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Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?  Yes  
 No

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):**  Yes  
 No

---

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?  Yes  
 No

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

---

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

---

**International/In-country Partner:**  International  
 In-country

---

**Allocated budget:** *No Response*

---

**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):**  Yes  
 No

---

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?  Yes  
 No


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


*No Response*

**Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.**

 [Letters of support COMBINED](#)

 26/11/2023

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## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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## Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead partner.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 2002
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other (if selected, please explain below)
Other explained	Foundation
How is your organisation currently funded?	Grant awards from international and local organizations, as well as local corporate partners, support FPWC in its environmental, community development, and educational projects. In addition to that, FPWC has a daughter LLC, which works in the field of eco-tourism and generated income is used for FPWC's conservation projects.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims	FPWC's mission is to protect and conserve wildlife and natural heritage, synergizing sustainable community development, environmental education, and behavior change. We are driven by a commitment to sustainable and empowered community development, resilient livelihoods, and transformative environmental stewardship.
Activities	Conservation: protection of habitats and species in Refuge, landscape restoration, tree-planting. Community development: investments in infrastructures and capacity, creation of green jobs. Education and Awareness: annual environmental film festival, free eco-clubs. Animal Welfare: rescue, treatment, and rehabilitation of injured and mistreated wild animals. Adcovacy to improve legal frameworks in Armenia.
Achievements	FPWC is conservation pioneer in Armenia: 2002, created the first Privately-Protected Area in the South Caucasus, today 30,000-ha; created first wildlife rescue centre in Armenia. Achievements include funding over 150 renewable energy projects in underserved communities, engaging over 5,500 disadvantaged youth in educational and awareness-raising activities, reforestation project-over90% survival rate.

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead partner that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed.

**These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.**

<b>Contract/Project 1 Title</b>	Caucasus Wildlife Refuge and Keepers of the Wild
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	██████████ EUR
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)</b>	Since 2011, ongoing
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	FPWC is the main implementor and coordinator of this project.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	The CWR was established by the FPWC as a Privately Protected Area (PPA). Its area is about 30,000 hectares, it's a crucial habitat for a range of endangered species, a part of the wildlife migration corridor in southern Armenia. It is an important part of the South-Caucasian biodiversity hotspot. The project is funded within the World Land Trust's Keepers of the Wild project: a network of rangers working on the front line of conservation. They safeguard some of the world's most threatened species and the incredible habitats in which they are found.
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	██ Richard Cuthbert, Director of Conservation, World Land Trust ██ Charlotte Beckham, Conservation Programme Manager, World Land Trust
<b>Contract/Project 2 Title</b>	Reduction of poverty in Urtsadzor community cluster by developing (self) employment opportunities
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	██████████ EUR
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>	2 years (01.02.2016 – 01.01.2018)
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	FPWC was the lead applicant and main implementor of the project.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	With an overall objective of reducing poverty in the Urtsadzor cluster through income generation based on sustainable management, the proposed project aims to raise the capacity and knowledge of the targeted rural population by offering them new income sources; such as organic farming/gardening and marketing of homemade products, eco-tourism, and sustainable harvesting of wild crops and herbs and the processing of these into quality products. The specific objectives of the project: 1) Capacity-building towards increasing skills and knowledge, 2) Creation of income and employment opportunities based on sustainable use of natural resources, and 3) Fostering inter-communal cooperation.
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	Line Urban, Cooperation Officer, EU Delegation to Armenia ██

<b>Contract/Project 3 Title</b>	Great Bear Rescue
<b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>	████████████████████
<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>	Since 2016, ongoing
<b>Role of organisation in project</b>	FPWC is the main implementor and coordinator of this project.
<b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>	The Great Bear Rescue's goal is to free all tortured bears in Armenia held in captivity and, after thorough veterinary checks and assessment, rehabilitate and eventually release those that are physically and mentally equipped to fend for themselves in the wild. Those that are not viable for release will be given a permanent home in sanctuaries where they will be well cared for, well-fed, and have the freedom to express natural bear behavior.
<b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)</b>	Alan Knight OBE - CEO of the International Animal Rescue ████████████████████

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

Yes

## Section 17 - Certification

### Q.35 Certification

**If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.**

**Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.**

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets

**I apply for a grant of**

£575,833.00

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





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

- I have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.

Checked





Name Ruben Khachatryan





Position in the organisation Director





Signature (please upload e-signature)  [Ruben Khachatryan Signature](#)  
 24/11/2023  
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Date 27 November 2023





**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**

 [Financial Audit Report FPWC 2021 compressed](#)  
 16/11/2023  
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**Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF**

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## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked

I have attached the below documents to my application:	
• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant, as a single PDF.	Checked
• my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
• my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

### We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

### Data protection and use of personal data

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

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



Project Title: Decreasing climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Increased environmental and economic resilience of ecosystems and people through the protection of threatened biodiversity hotspot and introduced protective measures to achieve reduced incidence of climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> 4,000 ha of land integrated into existing conservation areas and managed by communities in partnership with FPWC to protect species, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and enhance rural livelihoods through sustainable practices.</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> 4,000-ha target territory is transformed into community-based conservation area by the end of Y1 <b>[DI-D01]</b></p> <p><b>0.2</b> Key movements paths routes for large mammals are identified and secured; degraded areas are identified; restoration mechanisms developed and implemented <b>[DI-E01]</b></p>	<p><b>0.1</b> Decisions of targeted municipalities; FPWC/project reports; land agreements</p> <p><b>0.2</b> FPWC/project reports; systematic photo/video captures tracking vegetation recovery over the course of the lifetime of project; camera-traps' footage analysis, M&amp;E reports</p>	<p><b>0.1</b> Communities are willing to advance partnership with FPWC through transforming targeted territories into community-based conservation areas</p> <p><b>0.2</b> Climatic factors are favourable to growth of local wild trees (plant care/irrigation will be adapted according to dryness of season; minimum survival rate for trees grown in FPWC's experience is of 85%); Area is not further degraded (a Management Plan for the Protected Area developed with local community input, will be implemented alongside an educational campaign to promote conservation-focused behavioural changes in local populations)</p>

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	<p><b>0.3</b> The occurrences of human/wildlife conflicts diminish by ≥15% every year following implementation of Protected Area Management Plan, dissemination of educational and awareness- raising materials and trainings( ≥400 individuals participate in community-based conservation and sustainable lifestyle trainings, ≥400 individuals participate in HWC training, ≥100 youth join eco-clubs and summer school, ≥1000 people from Armenia join Bear Festival held in the targeted community), planting of fruit trees (50,000 native wild fruit trees planted; ≥ 100 people have short and long period green jobs), implementation of technical protective measures (electric fences, site engineering) (<i>YO baseline = 60 cases of bear intrusion and damages to beehives, fruit trees, animals in 12 target villages</i>) <b>[DI-D15]</b></p>	<p><b>0.3</b> Targeted municipalities' reports; reports from rangers; participant lists &amp; questionnaires; adopted management plan and work plans; photo/video footages; FPWC/project reports summarising media stories; M&amp;E reports</p>	<p><b>0.3</b> Management Plan is shared with key stakeholders and beneficiaries, well understood and effectively implemented (educational and awareness-raising materials are effective tools to incite behavioural changes where human/wildlife conflict is caused by human activity/negligence). Community inhabitants are willing to install technical protective measures (these are effective tools to dissuade bears from intruding in villages, homes, gardens and beehives: this technology has been successfully tested by the FPWC in other regions with comparable dynamics) Planting wild endemic fruit trees serve as natural barrier from intruding in villages and homes</p>
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	<p><b>0.4</b> The occurrence of poaching and putting snares diminishes by the end of Y3 (<i>Y0 baseline = 10</i>) [DI-D18]</p> <p><b>0.5</b> ≥270 members of local communities*, particularly women from disadvantaged groups and refugees from Artsakh, have been engaged in remunerative and entrepreneurial activities, specifically sustainable honey-making practices, ≥20 families get financial support to start beekeeping and ≥50 families see income increase within this project by the end of Y3. [DI-E02]</p> <p><b>0.6</b> Workshops on sustainable upskilling and capacity- building activities have enabled ≥100</p>	<p><b>0.4</b> Targeted municipalities' reports; reports from rangers; animal rescue papers and reports from Environmental and Mining Inspection Budy of Armenia; FPWC/project reports summarising media stories; M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>0.5</b> Lists of capacity building events; FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports, photo/video reports; social media channels</p> <p><b>0.6</b> Training lists of participants; surveys among participants (pre- and post-training); FPWC/project</p>	<p><b>0.4</b> Community inhabitants are willing to install technical protective measures and adopt bear-friendly attitude (<i>these are effective tools to dissuade bears from intruding in villages, homes, gardens and beehives: this technology has been successfully tested by the FPWC Vayots Dzor and other regions of Armenia with comparable dynamics</i>)</p> <p><b>0.5</b> Local populations, especially women from disadvantaged groups, are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so</p> <p><b>0.6</b> Local populations, especially women from disadvantaged groups, are interested in</p>
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Project Title: Decreasing climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia

	<p>members of local communities*, particularly disadvantaged families, to gain know-how and experience in the production, merchandising and positioning of local products (like honey), including support to “organic”, certificate or “bear-friendly” status and ≥15 families get one-on-one mentorship to develop their eco-friendly businesses by the end of Y2. <b>[D1-A04]</b></p> <p><i>*Target locations consists in 12 villages (around 6,000 population) that face threats and vulnerabilities typical of countless communities in Armenia today. This pilot will be lead in a very focused area, as there are immense possibilities of replication scaling.</i></p>	<p>reports; media reports; M&amp;E reports, photo/video reports,</p>	<p>participating in activities and empowered to do so</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Target location is transformed into community-based conservation area by the end of Y1 <b>[D1-D12]</b></p> <p><b>1.2</b> Protected Area Management Plan elaborated with the input of</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Decisions of targeted municipalities; agreements; FPWC/project reports</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Protected Area Management Plan; reports from the meetings with communities</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Beneficiary communities are willing to transform target locations into community-based conservation areas</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Local communities are interested in participating in elaboration of Plan</p>

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	<p>local communities by the end of Y1 <b>[D1-B01]</b></p> <p><b>1.3</b> Awareness-raising and educational materials elaborated and disseminated in targeted settlements in Y1 <b>[D1-B05]</b></p> <p><b>1.4</b> Awareness-raising and educational materials shared with local communities during informational sessions held in target villages and attended by ≥400 individuals (minimum 50% women) who have a clearer idea of sustainable practises and behaviours by the end of Y1 <b>[DI-A05]</b></p> <p><b>1.5</b> Over 400 individuals (min 50% women) from the most vulnerable households attended meetings on human-bear conflict prevention measures by the end of Y1 <b>[DI-C13]</b></p> <p><b>1.6</b> Target area is patrolled and monitored by 4 rangers who are</p>	<p><b>1.3</b> Awareness raising and educational materials; reports from focus group meetings (to test materials); FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Lists of beneficiaries of capacity building events; FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Participant lists, photo/video footage, social media publications, participant feedback, FPWC/project reports, M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>1.6</b> FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports; periodic reports from rangers</p>	<p><b>1.3</b> Members of local communities have more awareness of biodiversity value of the area, community-based conservation and their role in it.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Local populations are interested in participating in capacity building activities and feels more empowered to be engaged in community-bases conservation of their area</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Local population has more knowledge on the issue, has clear understanding of do's and don'ts and the negative attitude towards wildlife attacks is reduced.</p> <p><b>1.6</b> Trained and equipped rangers are able to enforce Management Plan, catch, warn</p>
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	<p>hired, trained and equipped by the end of Y1 [<b>DI-A01</b>]</p> <p><b>1.7</b> Eco-club curriculum elaborated and at least 100 pupils attended eco-clubs and at least 20 of them gain opportunity to deepen their knowledge on conservation, environmental activism, HWC, etc. during summer school by Y3 [<b>DI-A06</b>]</p>	<p><b>1.7</b> Eco-club curriculum, trainers' reports, participant lists, participant feedbacks, photo/video footage, social media publications, FPWC project reports, M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>and deter intruders and that their roles are legitimised by local authorities</p> <p><b>1.7</b> Youth will have better understanding of environmental issues in their community, and will be comfortable raising the issues and keeping local and regional government accountable for environmental decisions.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> 50,000 wild/endemic fruit trees are grown in nursery within the first half of Y2 [<b>DI-D04</b>]</p> <p><b>2.2</b> 50,000 wild/endemic fruit trees are planted in target location by the end of Y2 [<b>DI-D10</b>]</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Tree nursery and planting activities create short- and long-term green jobs for ≥100 individuals from local communities, particularly women from disadvantaged groups (minimum 50% of</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Nursery manuals and daily registrations; FPWC/project reports; photos and media stories; M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>2.2</b> FPWC/project reports; planting agreements; photos and media stories; M&amp;E reports, survival rates, measurements.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> FPWC/project reports; transfer/planting agreements; photos and media stories; M&amp;E reports</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Climatic conditions are favourable to growth of trees</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Climatic conditions are favourable to growth of trees</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Local populations, especially women from disadvantaged groups, are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so</p>

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	<p>attendees), by the end of Y2 [<b>DI-D11</b>]</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Forestation activities establish a baseline for increased corridor connectivity and enhancement of habitats [<b>DI-D04</b>]</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Protection of area, increase of corridor connectivity and enhancement of habitats; biodiversity monitoring of the area; assessment and monitoring of HWC in Yehegis community/valley; creation of biodiversity database for Yehegis Valley by the end of Y3 [<b>DI-B11</b>]</p>	<p><b>2.4</b> FPWC/project reports; monitoring reports by rangers; baseline study (Y3); M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>2.5</b> FPWC/project reports; monitoring reports &amp; camera trapping by rangers; photos and media stories; M&amp;E reports</p>	<p><b>2.4</b> Planting efforts establish successfully; camera traps are effective for monitoring movements and collecting data on species</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Planting efforts establish successfully; camera traps are effective for monitoring movements and collecting data on species</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change-resilient land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> 6 informational sessions held in target settlements about nature-based solutions, green jobs and the sustainable production of local agricultural products are attended by ≥100 (minimum 50% women) by the end of Y1 [<b>DI-C13</b>]</p> <p><b>3.2</b> At least 15 families got one-on-one mentorship time and</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Lists of beneficiaries of awareness-raising sessions; pre-and post- needs assessment reports; FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Meeting reports, list of beneficiaries, mentor reports,</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Local populations are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Targeted families are empowered to make changes</p>

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	<p>developed their eco-friendly business on a quarterly basis by the end of Y2 <b>[DI-B10]</b></p> <p><b>3.3</b> ≥150 individuals from local communities (minimum 50% women) who are already active beekeepers suffering from human/bear conflict gain additional expertise for sustainable honey-making, by the end of Y2 <b>[DI-A11]</b></p> <p><b>3.4</b> 20-ha area is equipped with technical means to protect villages’ beehives from bear intrusion within the first half of Y2 <b>[DI-D10]</b></p> <p><b>3.5</b> ≥120 individuals from target villages who have never worked with honey gain capacity, including tools, resources and know-how for sustainable honey-making, including support in accessing to “organic” within the first half of Y2 <b>[DI-D11]</b></p> <p><b>3.6</b> At least 20 families receive remunerative means of support</p>	<p>FPWC/project reports, M&amp;E reports, photos, videos, success stories.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Lists of beneficiaries of capacity-building sessions; pre- and post- needs assessment reports; FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports; certification evidence</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Purchase/donation agreements; photos and media stories; FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Lists of beneficiaries of capacity-building sessions; pre- and post- needs assessment reports; FPWC/project reports M&amp;E reports;</p> <p><b>3.6</b> Agreements with beneficiaries, reports from</p>	<p>and work harder to develop their business.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Local populations are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Installation of technical protective means is an effective tool to dissuade bears from intruding in beehives</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Local populations are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so</p> <p><b>3.6</b> Local populations are interested in participating in</p>
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Project Title: Decreasing climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia

	<p>to start beekeeping and improve their knowledge during quarterly meetings with experts <b>[DI-D16]</b></p> <p><b>3.7</b> At least 20 mobile electric fences with the cover of 20ha land are installed and used by local population to secure beehives and orchards <b>[DI-D02]</b></p> <p><b>3.8</b> ≥50 families (minimum 50% women) see their income increasing by ≥10% from honey-making endeavours by the end of Y3 <b>[DI-B10]</b></p>	<p>follow-up meetings, participant lists, photo/video footage, social media publications, project and M&amp;E reports.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> Procurement documents, agreements with community to allocate the fences, data on how many people are using the fences and for what purposes, project and M&amp;E reports.</p> <p><b>3.8</b> FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports</p>	<p>activities and empowered to do so</p> <p><b>3.7</b> Community administration is willing to distribute the fences fairly and do the further maintenance and management (gathering during the off season and installing fences next year, fixing in case of any issues, etc.).</p> <p><b>3.8</b> Quality products are produced and adequately positioned on the market with the engagement of private sector active in the field</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Scaling up project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Over 1000 individuals from different regions of Armenia participated in the Bear Festival, and over 30 stands of locally produced goods presented, bear-friendly technologies and initiatives were showcased and project publications disseminated among participants <b>[DI-A12]</b></p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Event planning documents, event reports, data on participants, photo/video footage, project and M&amp;E reports.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Project impact demonstrates successful application methods; yield of produce is improved; "bear-smart"/"-friendly" status achieved.</p>

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	<p><b>4.2</b> Environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments, best practises and lessons learned have been identified and shared with local, regional and international partners (including through design of Project Report to be shared via IUCN, World Land Trust networks and local organizations) by the end of Y3 <b>[DI-C03]</b></p> <p><b>4.3</b> Project report and publications produced to disseminate findings of Project and made available through open-access publication platforms as well as action plan for human-bear conflict is drafted with cooperation of Min. of Environment of RA (by the end of Y3) <b>[DI-C10]</b></p> <p><b>4.4</b> Potential communities for capacitation and scaling mechanisms have been identified and meetings are organized with them by the end of Y3 <b>[DI-C07]</b></p>	<p><b>4.2</b> FPWC records, with the support of BLE; records of different partnership networks (BirdLife); M&amp;E reports</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Publications; statistical reports from on-line portals; action plan draft, M&amp;E reports;</p> <p><b>4.4</b> FPWC/project reports; M&amp;E reports</p>	<p><b>4.2</b> Environmental and socioeconomic assessments have provided findings that can be adapted to other regions: BLE's local to global approach will be used</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Findings are conclusive and ready to be shared</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Prospective communities are interested in replication of the model for establishment of community-based conservation areas</p>
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	<p><b>4.5</b> Prospective donor entities have been identified and reached out to for capacitation scaling of project in target villages and/or replication scaling of project in other regions of the Municipality, Province and country by the end of Y3 [<b>DI-D05</b>]</p>	<p><b>4.5</b> FPWC/project reports; communications summary reports; MoUs; M&amp;E Reports</p>	<p><b>4.5</b> Donor entities are interested in supporting this model of protected areas in Armenia that benefit nature and people</p>
<p><b>Activities</b> (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. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)</p> <p>1.1 Integration of the 4000ha land into CWR (Y1 – May-January)</p> <p>1.2 Stakeholder outreach/consultations for PA management plan adaptation (Y1 – June-July)</p> <p>1.3 Adaptation of the management plan for the integrated area (Y1 November – Y2 July)</p> <p>1.4 Awareness raising activities (Y1)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.4.1. Site engineering (installation of signboards, informational signs, ranger station, bear-proof bins in key touristic destinations (Y1 July - Y2 June)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.4.2. Printing materials on the community-based conservation and conservation/biodiversity value of the targeted site/communities to be disseminated in the targeted settlements (Y1 – July-September)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.4.3. Meetings with community members about community-based conservation models and how it functions; sustainable practices and behaviours. Over 400 people to attend. (Y1 August-October)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.4.4. Workshops with local stakeholders and the most vulnerable households about human-bear conflict prevention measures. Over 400 people to attend. (Y1 August-October)</p> <p>1.5 Ranger recruitment (Y1)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.5.1. Hiring, training rangers (first aid certification, basics on wildfire prevention, bird and mammal identification, workshops on HWC), providing with necessary equipment (Y1 – June-September)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.5.2. Rangers assigned to land plots for patrolling and monitoring (Y1- October)</p> <p>1.6. Youth outreach and awareness raising. Establishment of three eco-clubs for youth in targeted settlements. (Y2-3)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1.6.1. Curriculum Development for the Eco-Clubs (Y2 – May-August)</p>			

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- 1.6.2. Open call for the youth to join the eco-clubs (Y2 – September)
- 1.6.3. Eco-club classes for at least 100 pupils (Y2 October – Y3 May)
- 1.6.4. Summer School for distinguished eco-club members, up to 20 pupils (Y3 June-July)
- 2.1 Wild fruit trees grown and planted (Y1-2)
  - 2.1.1. Mapping of the areas favorable for tree planting (Y1)
  - 2.1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment for the tree planting (Y1)
  - 2.1.3. Growing the trees in the tree nurseries (at least 5 people employed) (Y2 March-October)
  - 2.1.4. Planting the trees (seasonal work for at least 100 locals) (Y2 October-November)
- 2.2. In-situ conservation of the integrated lands (Y1-3)
  - 2.2.1. Biodiversity monitoring of the area through camera trapping and rangers' involvement (Y1-3)
  - 2.2.2. Assessment and monitoring of human-wildlife conflict in Yeghegis Community/valley (Y1 July - November; Y2 April - November; Y3 April - November)
  - 2.2.3. Creation of Biodiversity Database of Yeghegis Valley (Y1 October – Y3 January)
  - 2.2.4. Identification of key movement paths and routes of large mammals (Y21 October - Y3 December)
- 3.1. Informational sessions for the local communities about nature-based solutions, green jobs, sustainable production of local agricultural products (Y1-2)
  - 3.1.1. Mapping stakeholders for eco-friendly initiatives involving identifying interests and involvement of local businesses, entrepreneurs (Y1 November – December)
  - 3.1.2. Organization of workshops on identified topics/directions (Y1 January – March)
  - 3.1.3. Further mentorship of participants to assist in their endeavors (at least 15 families getting one-on-one mentorship time with professionals to upscale their business) (Y2 quarterly meetings)
- 3.2. Enhancing honey-making in the community by workshops, sub-grants and providing electric fencing (Y1-2)
  - 3.2.1. Workshops in sustainable honey making practices for active beekeepers for over 150 people (Y1 November – February)
  - 3.2.2. Identification of underprivileged families (with the stress on women engagement and refugees from Artsakh) who are willing to start beekeeping but do not have knowledge or resources (Y1 October-November)
  - 3.2.3. Workshops for identified families in 3.2.2. to start beekeeping (over 120 people) (Y1 November – February)
  - 3.2.4. Need assessment and allocation of minimum means to start beekeeping for at least 20 families (Y1 October - March)
  - 3.2.5. Follow-up meetings with new beekeepers to evaluate the process and address ongoing challenges they might face (Y2 quarterly meetings)

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- 3.2.6. Establishing beekeeping plots for community members within the conserved area, strategically located outside biodiversity core zones to prevent any contact with wild populations of bees and other wildlife. (Y1 March – Y2 May)
- 3.3. Purchase and allocation of at least 20 electric fences (20ha in total) to the communities to protect villagers’ beehives from bear intrusions (Y2)
- 4.1. Bear Festival: organization of the festival in Yeghegis community with the participation of all direct and indirect stakeholders to showcase the project achievements, advertise local products, and to advocate for the traditional management of human-bear conflict in the region, etc. (Y3 July – September)
- 4.2. Environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment including the impact of beekeeping on the ecosystem and the community. (Y1 – baseline; Y3 – impact assessment)
- 4.3. Elaboration of a project report, which will include best practices and lessons learned to be disseminated in local, regional and international levels (Y3 October-November)
- 4.3.1. Sharing the obtained knowledge among the main actors working in the Vayots dzor region, including organisations working with human-wildlife conflict across the country, scientific community and international organizations (IUCN HWCC Specialist Group) (Y3 December – February)
- 4.3.2. Collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Group to draft an action plan for reducing and preventing human-bear conflicts. (Y1 January-March, Y2 January – March, Y3 November - March)
- 4.4. Publications on project findings, best practices and lessons learned for general public to be disseminated for wider audience in Armenia, in the Caucasus eco-region and beyond (Y3, August-December)
- 4.5. Identification of potential communities and donors in Armenia and beyond for scaling and/or replication of the project Y3 (November - February)
- 4.5.1. Identification and preliminary meetings with potential communities willing to deploy similar actions (Y3 November)
- 4.5.2. Workshops with identified communities to help launch similar projects, workshops on how to develop project proposals (Y3 December – January)
- 4.5.3. Identification of potential donors willing to support similar actions for identified communities (Y3 December - February)