Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	31-010
Project title	Decreasing climate change accelerated human-wildlife conflict in Armenia.
Country/ies	Armenia
Lead Partner	Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets
Project partner(s)	Stichting BirdLife Europe
Darwin Initiative grant value	569,833 GBP
Start/end dates of the project	April 2024 – March 2027
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024 – March 2025
Project Leader name	Ruben Khachatryan
Project website/blog/social media	Fpwc.org
Report author(s) and date	Ruben Khachatryan, Tsovinar Hovhannisyan

1. Project summary

This project addresses the growing challenge of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in Armenia's Vayots Dzor region, particularly bear incursions into rural settlements driven by climate change, habitat degradation, and food scarcity. These incidents threaten both biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities. The project focuses on the Yeghegis Valley, expanding the conservation area by 4,000 hectares and implementing cost-effective, nature-based solutions to mitigate habitat loss and degradation and human-wildlife conflict. Doing so aims to protect key wildlife populations—especially large carnivores—and strengthen the resilience of rural households reliant on small-scale farming and livestock, who are most affected by these conflicts. FPWC was identified through community consultations, ecological field assessments, and wildlife movement and incident data analysis. Located in the mountainous landscapes of Vayots Dzor, the project area serves as an essential habitat corridor and biodiversity hotspot. The approach is designed to be scalable and replicable in other regions facing similar climate and conservation pressures.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The project is implemented closely with BirdLife Europe (BLE), the official monitoring and evaluation partner. BLE's involvement is based on the specific MEL capacity needs identified by FPWC, and their support has been instrumental in ensuring a robust evaluation framework for the project. We developed a comprehensive MEL plan with BLE, established key evaluation processes, and aligned our approach with international best practices.

Throughout the project, we have maintained ongoing and effective communication with BLE. In November 2024, a BLE representative conducted a site visit, during which we jointly reviewed and refined the MEL plan. The visit also aligned the project's results framework with the newly updated Darwin Initiative standard indicators, which had changed since the original project approval. Based on this, BLE provided recommendations to adjust the logical framework. While these amendments have not received formal approval from BCF, we have continued to refine the

framework in close consultation with BLE to ensure the project remains results-oriented and adaptable.
The project aims to enhance environmental and communication initiatives in local communities by collaborating with several local organizations and governmental entities.
Partnerships have been established with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (MoESCS), the National Center for Education Development and Innovation, the Vayots Dzor Municipality, and local community mayors, who play an active role in implementing the project. These collaborations ensure the smooth execution of the project, particularly for Eco-Clubs, and provide vital support for key activities within the project framework.
The project team collaborates closely with the mayors of the Yeghegis consolidated community to ensure effective and transparent communication and foster local ownership of project activities. The community administration plays a key role in supporting the project's implementation by helping to disseminate announcements, facilitating community meetings, and providing timely feedback. This ongoing cooperation ensures that project activities are responsive to local needs and aligned with community priorities, ultimately contributing to the project's success and sustainability.
Currently, three beekeeping supplier companies are engaged as input providers. The project team collaborates with these suppliers to ensure the timely delivery of inputs and supplies, supporting the project's smooth operation.
The British Embassy in Yerevan is a key partner in promoting the project. Meanwhile, on March 19, 2025, Ambassador John Gallagher of the British Embassy visited the FPWC office in Yerevan. During the visit, the project leader provided an overview of the project, highlighting its focus on enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting vulnerable biodiversity areas. Ambassador Gallagher underscored the critical environmental challenges and emphasized the strategic importance of Armenia hosting COP17, particularly for economic development and national security.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1. Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices.

1.1. Integration of the 4000ha land into CWR (Y1 – May-January)

FPWC has made notable progress in acquiring 3,027.53 hectares of land for inclusion in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR). The acquisition process is advancing smoothly despite procedural complexities, such as community council approvals and public consultations. The community has shown strong support, with FPWC Director Ruben Khachatryan meeting with the Yeghegis community to explain the project’s conservation goals. The final agreements for the remaining lands will be signed once mapping inconsistencies are resolved.

1.2 Stakeholder outreach/consultations for PA management plan adaptation (Y1 – June-July)

FPWC’s project team, particularly its stakeholder engagement expert, played a key role in gathering insights and feedback from community administrative bodies and local institutions throughout the integrated area to ensure a comprehensive and locally grounded approach. Stakeholder engagement efforts also began with the involvement of Greenwise LLC, an environmental consultancy tasked with coordinating the development of the Management Plan. This parallel outreach effort helped identify local needs, resource dependencies, and opportunities for collaboration at an early stage.
Simultaneously, internal consultations were held with FPWC operational staff to align the plan with institutional priorities and field realities. Informed by these inputs and research from the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (NAS RA) on Human-Wildlife Conflict, a foundation has been established for the draft plan. Final community consultations are scheduled for May Y2, ensuring community stakeholders give feedback on the drafted Management Plan.

1.3 Adaptation of the management plan for the integrated area (Y1 November – Y2 July)

The adaptation of the Management Plan for the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR) is progressing steadily. Greenwise LLC, the contracted consultancy, has been leading the technical

development of the plan, while FPWC project staff have remained actively engaged throughout the process. In particular, contributions from FPWC's stakeholder engagement expert and field team have ensured that the plan reflects the community's realities, land use dynamics, and on-the-ground conservation challenges.
A significant milestone was the completion of a socio-economic baseline assessment, which has informed the identification of strategic priorities for the new planning period. In parallel, the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of the NAS RA has provided critical research on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC)—an emerging issue for the area. These findings will be fully integrated into the Management Plan with tailored mitigation strategies.
The plan covers 2026–2030 and is currently in draft form. It is being reviewed and refined through an iterative process involving technical experts and FPWC staff. Richard Cuthbert, Conservation Director at the World Land Trust, will visit soon to further enhance the quality of the document through expert review and alignment with international standards. The final version of the Management Plan is now expected by the end of Q2, Year 2, allowing adequate time for stakeholder validation and expert input.

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)

During Year 1, preparatory work was undertaken to support installing site infrastructure across key visitor areas of the Yeghegis community. Metal carcasses for signboards and informational panels have already been prepared, and the design phase for visuals and content is underway. These materials will serve both navigational and educational purposes for visitors: signboards.
In parallel, consultations with local community administrations have been conducted to identify the most suitable and visible locations for the signs, ensuring local relevance and minimizing landscape disruption.
For the bear-proof waste bins, a technical task has been assigned to the FPWC engineer, who is developing a locally produced model to minimize production costs. The design prioritizes durability, bear-resistance, and compatibility with existing municipal waste collection systems to ensure practical and efficient garbage removal without requiring additional infrastructure.
Per the project timeline, the procurement and installation of the bins and the construction of a new ranger station are scheduled for Year 2.

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)

Printed materials were prepared and disseminated during activities under 1.4.3 and 1.4.4, including community meetings, school visits, and distribution through local administrative offices. These materials are accessible via the following link: Printing materials.

1.4.3. Meetings with community members about community-based conservation models and how they function; sustainable practices and behaviours. Over 400 people to attend. (Y1 August-October)

During this reporting period, the project team developed a presentation focused on community-based conservation models and their practical implementation. The presentation outlined strategies for protecting these areas, actively engaging in restoring forested ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development. Additionally, it emphasized proactive measures to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, specifically aiming to reduce the frequency of visits to bear habitats. The workshops were organized and successfully conducted within the target communities.
The meetings were targeted at the administrative bodies of community settlements, regional representatives, and various local community stakeholders. Subsequent meetings concentrated on different stakeholder groups, allowing us to have more detailed discussions with participants. Meetings were held in all 12 settlements of the Yeghegis community.

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)

Under Activity 1.4, the project team developed a proposal and curriculum to ensure the smooth operation of the activity. In this regard, a presentation covering key topics on human-bear conflict was developed and finalized, with a focus on mitigation strategies and methods to prevent bear attacks. The project team has also developed educational materials for distribution across the target area.
During the reporting period, the project conducted educational workshops in 12 settlements within the Yeghegis consolidated community. These workshops were designed to engage a diverse audience, including younger and older participants, with specific sessions tailored for upper-grade children. To support this effort, arrangements have been made with six schools in Shatin, Artabuynk, Aghnjadzor, Karaglukh, Yeghegis, and Taratumb. During the reporting period, these schools hosted sessions as part of the workshop implementation. The meetings at schools were targeting both high school pupils and teachers.

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 them with necessary equipment (Y1 – June-September)

At the beginning of Q2, FPWC employed four rangers from the Yeghegis community. They were equipped with the necessary gadgets and outwear and participated in various training sessions. These included early wildfire detection and prevention, workshops on mammal and bird identification with guidance from the Conservation Manager, first aid and disaster preparedness training, and introductions to human-wildlife conflict. The Conservation Manager works closely with the ranger team to coordinate daily work.
The rangers also received training on the legal frameworks governing conservation and protected areas, covering key national and international laws, regulations, and policies they need to enforce effectively in their daily operations. Topics included themes such as legal protocols for wildlife protection, anti-poaching laws, habitat preservation, and the role of rangers in monitoring and reporting violations. All of these trainings ensure the rangers are well-prepared to protect nature. These trainings are organized internally by the FPWC lawyer, and rangers are given the necessary forms to record any illegal cases they encounter during their daily work.
During this reporting period, rangers participated in a two-day training on "Disaster Response and First Aid," held at FPWC's eco-center in Urtsadzor, Ararat region. The main objectives of the training were to enhance preparedness for responding to emergencies, provide effective first aid with limited or no equipment, and promote safe behavior in crises. We highly value the safety of our rangers, and similar training will be recurring.
The training consisted of both theoretical presentations and practical exercises. The theoretical sessions taught participants about various medical emergencies and the appropriate first aid steps for each. The practical sessions allowed participants to develop hands-on skills, including placing a person in recovery, bandaging, stopping bleeding, immobilizing injuries, and other essential first aid procedures. Participants applied the knowledge and abilities newly acquired in conditions resembling real-life emergencies through simulated emergency scenarios. At the beginning and end of the course, participants completed pre- and post-training knowledge assessment questionnaires to evaluate their progress.

1.5.2. Rangers assigned to land plots for patrolling and monitoring (Y1- October)

As of October Y1, four rangers have been assigned to patrol and monitor the Yeghegis Valley, ensuring complete area coverage. Their work is coordinated by FPWC's Conservation Manager, who oversees scheduling, reporting, and prioritization of patrol routes.
Each ranger has been assigned to monitor a specific valley section, including routine patrolling, biodiversity observations, identifying threats, and communicating with residents. While the patrol zones are designated, assignments remain flexible and are adjusted seasonally based on emerging conservation priorities. This includes increased monitoring during hunting season, in known poaching hotspots, livestock grazing periods, fire-prone months, and periods of wildlife migration.
This adaptive approach ensures that rangers can respond to dynamic environmental conditions and human activity patterns, contributing to more effective protection and stewardship of the landscape.

1.6. Youth outreach and awareness raising. Establishment of three eco-clubs for youth in targeted settlements. (Y2-3)

1.6.1-1.6.4 activities are scheduled for Y2 and Y3. Yet**,** the project team has actively engaged with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia and the affiliated National Center for Educational Development and Innovation Foundation. During these discussions, we presented a detailed eco-club curriculum, a comprehensive risk matrix, and an implementation strategy.

Following their expert review, the National Center for Educational Development and Innovation Foundation positively evaluated the proposed program. Subsequently, the Ministry officially approved the introduction of eco-clubs within the Yeghegis community's educational institutions. This approval represents a critical milestone, as Armenian educational legislation requires that all extracurricular initiatives involving schools receive prior consent from both the Ministry and the National Center. The endorsement confirms the program's compliance with national education standards and enables its formal implementation in partner schools.

Output 2. Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.

2.1 Wild fruit trees grown and planted (Y1-2)

2.1.1. Mapping of the areas favourable for tree planting (Y1)

Under this output, key preparatory steps for ecosystem restoration have been successfully initiated. Restoration sites have been selected based on ecological suitability and their potential for successful regeneration. These areas have been precisely delineated using GIS mapping, allowing for accurate planning, implementation, and long-term monitoring of restoration activities. FPWC is finalizing agreements with the community to secure perpetual contracts for a 20-hectare land plot, ensuring complete control over its future management and sustained conservation outcomes.

2.1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment for the tree planting (Y1)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a critical upcoming action. While originally scheduled for completion in Year 1, the EIA was postponed to Year 2 due to unforeseen technical challenges. Nevertheless, all preparatory work is now on track, and the EIA is expected to be completed by September 2025. We have already identified an experienced company that will conduct the environmental impact assessment (EIA). This assessment will ensure that the restoration activities are aligned with environmental safeguards and national compliance requirements. Currently, the FPWC staff is gathering the initial required documentation and information to provide to the EIA experts so that they can start the process.

2.1.3. Growing the trees in the tree nurseries (at least five people employed) (Y2 March-October)

The seed stratification process began for selected native species in January 2025 and for oaks in November 2024. In March, the successfully germinated seeds were sown into a specially prepared, peat-free soil mixture, which aligns with our commitment to sustainable practices and reducing carbon-intensive inputs. A closed root system ensures optimal root development and higher survival rates during out-planting.

Throughout the growth period, the seedlings will be under the close supervision of a qualified agronomist who monitors plant health, root formation, and overall nursery conditions. By the end of September 2025, we anticipate having a healthy stock of seedlings ready for out-planting at the designated restoration sites.

2.2. Planting the trees (seasonal work for at least 100 locals) (Y2 October-November)

This activity is on track for Y2. Tree planting is scheduled to start in October 2025.

2.3. Forestation activities establish a baseline for increased corridor connectivity and enhancement of habitats

2.3.1 In-situ conservation of the integrated lands (Y1-3)

By hiring new rangers, we have initiated protecting the targeted areas in collaboration with other FPWC rangers. The rangers report to the Conservation Manager monthly and share selected photos and videos.

Additionally, FPWC has incorporated and now protects an additional 3027.53 ha as part of the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge. This expansion has positively impacted by safeguarding natural habitats and foraging grounds for wildlife, which helps minimize human-wildlife conflict in the area.

2.3.2. Identification of key movement paths and routes of large mammals (Y2 October - Y3 December)

Based on the surveys and assessments, the FPWC team has identified key areas and habitats to improve connectivity and enhance migratory corridors. To be completed in Y3.

2.4. Biodiversity and human-wildlife coexistence in Yeghegis Valley are better understood through improved knowledge systems and data availability

2.4.1. Biodiversity monitoring of the area through camera trapping and rangers' involvement (Y1-3)

During the project's first year, the FPWC Conservation Team, along with rangers and in collaboration with experts from the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, implemented comprehensive biodiversity monitoring across the project area. Efforts focused on mammals and birds, with particular attention given to species listed on the IUCN and national Red Lists, such as large raptors and threatened mammal populations.

Mammal surveys were conducted systematically across the landscape, while bird monitoring activities followed a structured schedule throughout the year. The team also initiated targeted monitoring of Brown bears in the Yeghegis Valley using camera traps, aiming to understand their behavior and habitat use better.

Preliminary surveys on the area's flora were launched, focusing on endemic plant species. The information gathered will help identify key habitats and improve ecological connectivity across the landscape. All field data have been systematically collected and recorded through specialized platforms to support ongoing conservation planning.

2.4.2. Assessment and monitoring of human-wildlife conflict in Yeghegis Community/valley (Y1 July - November; Y2 April - November; Y3 April - November)

FPWC systematically monitored and mitigated human-bear conflicts within the Yeghegis Valley. Throughout the reporting period, FPWC rangers operated as a Rapid Response Group, responding to reported bear attacks, conducting field investigations to verify incidents, and collecting supporting evidence, such as photographs, videos, and tracking signs.

FPWC deployed camera traps across community settlements to enhance understanding of conflict patterns, gathering valuable data on the behavior, age, and sex of bears involved in human-wildlife conflicts. Additionally, regular patrols and close collaboration with local communities enabled the collection of detailed incident reports, helping to identify seasonal trends and contributing factors to bear incursions.

Beyond data collection, FPWC conducted community engagement activities, including awareness-raising meetings and practical training focused on preventive measures against bear attacks. These efforts have already contributed to a noticeable decrease in reported bear incidents during the peak conflict months, highlighting the positive impact of combining monitoring with proactive community involvement.

2.4.3. Creation of Biodiversity Database of Yeghegis Valley (Y1 October – Y3 January)

The development of the biodiversity database is currently underway. Data collection efforts are in progress, with specialists in mammalogy, ornithology, and botany actively contributing to the compilation of records. A new software system, *Smart Birds*, has been acquired to facilitate the electronic registration of field observations. This platform will enable the systematic data collection, providing critical evidence to ensure data-driven conservation measures. By the end of Year 3, we aim to publish a printed edition of the database as a checklist, providing a comprehensive overview of the region's rich biodiversity.

Output 3. Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change-resilient land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations.

3.1. Informational sessions for the local communities about nature-based solutions, green jobs, and 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)

Under this activity, the project aims to enhance entrepreneurial practices in the Yeghegis community by providing specialized workshops on nature-based solutions, green jobs, and the sustainable production of local agricultural products. This initiative supports sustainable agriculture and helps mitigate human-wildlife conflicts related to climate change. The activity also aims to improve participants' knowledge of product marketing, upgrade their skills, and increase brand awareness through environmental solutions.

Following the workshops, 15 selected participants will receive annual mentoring to help scale their businesses. The target group includes entrepreneurs selling agricultural products, tourism, hotel businesses, souvenir production, handicrafts, woodworking, cafes, restaurants, or other activities.

During this reporting period, an announcement was developed and disseminated through administrative channels and the Vayots Dzor municipality website to attract businesses and entrepreneurs from community settlements to join the initiative.

We have also posted physical announcements in the settlements of the targeted community, but the registration process is a bit slower than anticipated. We will finalize the participant registration by the end of April.

An open call for experts has been announced, and candidates have been interviewed for the training program. Three trainers have been selected based on their background, and a training curriculum has been proposed to cover distinct topics in agriculture and tourism. The curricula vitae of the selected experts are available.

3.1.2. Organization of workshops on identified topics/directions (Y1 January – March)

Participant registration is still open, and the workshops will take place in May 2025.

3.2. Further mentorship of participants to assist in their endeavours

On track for Y2.

3.3. Workshops in sustainable honey making practices for active beekeepers for over 150 people (Y1 November – February)

Under Activity 3.2.1, the Project aims to improve beekeeping practices in the Yeghegis community by offering specialized one-day training sessions on "Sustainable Beekeeping: The Synergy of Ecological System Conservation and Agricultural Productivity," targeting active beekeepers. This initiative promotes sustainable agriculture and helps mitigate human-wildlife conflicts associated with climate change. A proposal for the training initiative was developed and finalized. To support this effort, the project team launched training sessions for beekeepers. They created and distributed an official announcement about the training sessions throughout the Yeghegis community to inform and attract participants from all 12 settlements. The announcements were circulated through the community mayors and the settlements.

During the reporting period, one-day training sessions were organized for active beekeepers focusing on practical and ecological aspects of beekeeping. The primary focus of the training was to enhance existing beekeeping practices, strengthen participants' knowledge, and promote the correct use of medicines, among other topics. At the end of the sessions, participants were awarded certificates.

3.4. A 20-ha area is equipped with technical means to protect villages' beehives from bear intrusion within the first half of Y2

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

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

The conservation team is currently working on identifying suitable plots for beekeeping. These plots will be close to and comfortable from the community's residential areas and located outside biodiversity core zones.

We have finalized the technical description for the electric fences, which will be mobile and powered with solar energy. The purchase and installation of the fences is scheduled for Y2.

3.5. ≥120 individuals from target villages who have never worked with honey gain capacity, including tools, resources, and know-how for sustainable honey-making within the first half of Y2

3.5.1. Identification of underprivileged families (with the stress on women's engagement and refugees from Artsakh) who are willing to start beekeeping but do not have knowledge or resources (Y1 October-November)

Our local coordinator disseminated the workshop announcement among the local population with the support of the Vayots Dzor and Yeghegis community administrative bodies, ensuring broad outreach. The coordinator also obtained contact information for refugees from Artsakh and contacted them directly. We aimed to engage individuals who are new to beekeeping or have never practiced it. During this phase, we received strong support from local community members and administrative representatives of the settlements, who helped ensure that the workshop announcement reached underprivileged residents.

3.5.2. Workshops for identified families to start beekeeping (over 120 people) (Y1 November – February)

As part of the Project framework, a two-day training session on "Sustainable Beekeeping: The Synergy of Ecological System Conservation and Agricultural Productivity" was conducted for aspiring beekeepers. The training addressed a significant gap in both knowledge and skills among participants, highlighting the need for proper management practices within the beekeeping sector. Despite this gap, there was a strong interest from applicants, underscoring the demand for such educational initiatives.

To meet this need, a comprehensive curriculum was developed for the two-day program, covering the entire beekeeping cycle and providing participants with essential foundational knowledge. Participants who passed the exam successfully were awarded certificates upon completing the training. Additionally, a selection process was carried out to identify those eligible for further technical assistance in beekeeping, ensuring continued support for developing their beekeeping activities.

3.6. At least 20 families receive remunerative means of support to start beekeeping and improve their knowledge during quarterly meetings with experts

To be implemented in Y2

3.6.1. Need assessment and allocation of minimum means to start beekeeping for at least 20 families (Y1 October - March)

After the training sessions, the start-up beekeepers were selected to determine eligibility for follow-up support. To this end, selection criteria have been developed and used to choose participants.

- Test results: The beneficiary must meet the minimum test threshold of 30% less than the maximum score (140-100%). Beneficiaries who score the highest points will be selected to participate in the technical assistance program, which will provide the necessary equipment to develop their business.
- The program's implementation requires the following conditions: an appropriate territory and a document confirming the right to own or lease land.
- Availability of fixed assets: land and necessary working capital for the program launch.
- Purposeful use of the acquired bee colonies for at least three years, and replenishing a certain number of colonies with their funds in case of a decrease in the number of bee colonies.
- Have a business mindset to implement the program.
- The beneficiary undertakes to use the provided property for a purpose.
- The program gave preference to women and refugees from Artsakh.

To equip participants with beekeeping tools and equipment, the project collaborates with three main supplier companies, selected through a closed tender: Veterinary Pharmacy LLC, Beekeeping Forge CJSC, and Armen Yesayan SE. These companies provide beehive supplies and materials to the project beneficiaries.

3.6.2. Follow-up meetings with new beekeepers to evaluate the process and address ongoing challenges they might face (Y2 quarterly meetings)
To be implemented in Y2.

Output 4. Scaling up the project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.
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)
To be implemented in Y2.

4.2. Environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment, including the impact of beekeeping on the ecosystem and the community. (Y1 – baseline; Y3 – impact assessment)
For the reporting period, the aim was to conduct a baseline assessment of the environmental and socioeconomic situation in the Yeghegis Valley and, based on this assessment, conduct an impact assessment in Year 3.
Baseline assessments have provided valuable insights into the local community. Both men and women rated the idea of coexisting with wild animals, including bears, relatively low (3–5 on a 10-point scale). However, women showed greater openness to coexistence when informed about conflict prevention, indicating a stronger receptiveness to knowledge and mitigation strategies. Men reported feeling significantly less safe, especially at night, in areas where bears are present. Electric fences were the most effective preventive measure, followed by forest restoration and trained response teams. Educational efforts were rated the least effective. Despite this, focus groups, interviews, and project trainings highlight an alarmingly low awareness of human-wildlife conflict (HWC), often leading to escalated tensions. Bear attacks affected 17% of respondents, with financial damage being the most severe consequence. Environmental concerns included bear attacks, rainfall shortages, and water scarcity. Men prioritized mining and geological risks, while women were more concerned about natural hazards and water issues. Beekeeping is limited, challenged by bear threats and a lack of skills, while wild plant collection is widespread but mostly unregulated.

These assessments are highly valuable for informing project activities, offering essential insights into human-wildlife conflict (HWC), its underlying issues, and contributing factors. Access to the assessment reports is available.

4.3. Elaboration of a project report, which will include best practices and lessons learned to be disseminated at the local, regional, and international levels (Y3 October-November)
4.3.1. Sharing the obtained knowledge among the leading actors working in the Vayots dzor region, including organisations working with human-wildlife conflict across the country, the scientific community, and international organizations (IUCN HWCC Specialist Group) (Y3 December – February)
On track for Y3.

4.4. 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)
FPWC, along with other NGOs and state agencies including WWF Armenia, the Environmental Protection and Inspection Body, the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of NAS Armenia, the Division of Emergency Agencies under the Internal Affairs Ministry, and others from the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Working Group, initiated and facilitated by the Ministry of Environment (MoE), met at the MoE to discuss the emerging human-bear conflict situation in the Vayots Dzor region. FPWC presented data gathered up to that point and data from previous years, drawing the attention of state agencies and the conservation community to the fact that the conflict is accelerating compared to the last decade. There is a clear need to unite efforts to reduce the impacts of these attacks on the community and residents while preserving and

conserving wildlife and their habitats. Furthermore, all parties agreed on and worked on the initial draft of the document, outlining the necessary actions to mitigate the conflict and serving as a work plan for 2024 and 2025. This contributed to the development of the first-ever HBC Action Plan.

4.5. Publications on project findings, best practices, and lessons learned for the general public to be disseminated for a broader audience in Armenia, in the Caucasus eco-region, and beyond (Y3, August-December)
4.6. Identification of potential communities and donors in Armenia and beyond for scaling and/or replication of the project Y3 (November - February)
On track for Y3.

Have the Activities been carried out in the manner and time planned?
While the project has encountered some delays due to justifiable technical and procedural factors, all postponed components are already in active preparation.
The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the tree-planting activities, initially scheduled for Year 1, has been rescheduled for Year 2. This adjustment was necessary due to the country's limited availability of reliable and qualified EIA service providers and the time required to finalize perpetuity contracts for the selected land plots.
Additionally, the training sessions for local stakeholders on eco-friendly initiatives have been postponed for similar reasons, primarily due to extended preparatory timelines.
Both cases have already completed significant groundwork: experts have been identified, planning is well underway, and implementation is set to begin in May 2025. These adjustments ensure that quality is not compromised and that project objectives remain achievable within the timeframe.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

OUTPUT 1. Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices.
FPWC has acquired 3,027.53 hectares of land for permanent conservation in the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR). The acquisition process, which involved community consultations and formal approvals, is progressing well. Mapping discrepancies are being resolved, and the remaining lands will soon be formally incorporated, significantly expanding the protected area.
Consultations with local stakeholders, coordinated by Greenwise LLC, have helped shape the development of the Management Plan. These consultations identified key community needs and opportunities for collaboration. The draft plan, which integrates research on human-wildlife conflict, is nearing completion. Final community feedback will be gathered in May, Year 2.
The adaptation of the Management Plan is progressing with input from Greenwise LLC and FPWC staff. Key elements, including a socioeconomic baseline and research on human-wildlife conflict, have shaped the plan’s direction. The draft plan is under review, and an expert review by Richard Cuthbert will ensure its alignment with international standards. Following stakeholder validation, the final version is expected by the end of Q2, Year 2.
Four rangers have been successfully hired, trained, and equipped to perform their duties. The FPWC Conservation Manager provided comprehensive training on mammal and bird identification and delivered essential guidelines for biodiversity monitoring. The FPWC Lawyer conducted an in-depth training on the legal frameworks governing their work. Additionally, the rangers received training in first aid, disaster management, and fire prevention. The rangers are fully equipped and have the necessary skills and capacity to conduct patrols, monitor biodiversity, and effectively track incidents of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC).
Before the community meetings, FPWC held a kick-off meeting, inviting representatives from all key stakeholder groups, local conservation organizations, community leaders, regional leaders, governmental representatives, and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Armenia. The kick-off meeting took place on May 13th. It was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment of Armenia, the Vayots Dzor regional municipality, the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and various environmental organizations. Several vital provisions were identified during the discussion to guide the Foundation's activities. Ambassador John Gallagher, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

United Kingdom to RA, delivered a speech emphasizing the significance of collaborative efforts in project implementation.
16 workshops were conducted in the Vayots Dzor, Yeghegis Consolidated Community, focusing on conservation mechanisms aimed at preserving natural ecosystems, safeguarding cultural heritage, and protecting biodiversity. These initiatives emphasized integrated environmental protection, sustainable tourism, and active community engagement as key strategies for long-term resilience.
The workshops engaged more than 400 participants from the target communities, with 45% of attendees being women, reflecting a strong commitment to inclusivity and gender balance. Each session delivered specialized education designed to promote sustainable practices and environmental stewardship at the local level.
Through these comprehensive training programs, participants gained valuable knowledge and practical strategies for enhancing community resilience in the face of ongoing environmental challenges. The workshops increased awareness and equipped community members with actionable tools to support the sustainable development and conservation efforts of Yeghegis and the broader Vayots Dzor region.
During this reporting period, 16 workshops were conducted on human-bear conflict. 401 participants (45% women) from the target communities participated in the sessions. Participants gained specialized skills and knowledge through these sessions to promote sustainable agriculture while mitigating human-wildlife conflicts exacerbated by climate change. They also learned strategies for protecting these areas, actively restoring forested ecosystems, and promoting sustainable development.
As of March 31, 2025, 436 individuals have participated in the survey after training sessions for both human-bear conflict and community-based conservation models. Nearly 400 participants rated the course highly, emphasizing its relevance to their needs. The information was delivered clearly and understandably, with 96% of participants confirming that the course content was relevant to the local situation. Furthermore, 95% of the participants found the course beneficial and reported feeling better prepared to handle human-bear conflict scenarios. Additionally, 92% of participants deemed the discussions on the topic adequate, expressing confidence that they would be able to address and resolve arising issues. The participants suggested more complex solutions that were relevant to their community. There is a strong request to provide electric fences, particularly in areas near forests, and to protect beehives. It is recommended that the number of electric fences available be increased and that each farmer receives adequate support in securing their property with these fences. It is recommended to continue organizing such training sessions regularly, with a suggested frequency of once or twice a year. Organizing practical workshops, especially those focused on afforestation activities, is also recommended to improve the effectiveness of wildlife management and environmental protection strategies.

OUTPUT 2. Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.
Since July 2024, the seed collection process has started for the targeted 50,000 seedlings. The seedlings are being grown at FPWC tree nurseries in a closed-root system. Photos from the seed stratification process and tree nurseries can be found here.
Based on initial research conducted in the Yeghegis Gorge and the wider Vayots Dzor region, our expert team recommends establishing a mixed forest that closely resembles the natural forest composition of the area. Oak and wild pear, identified as the dominant native species, will form the core of this restoration effort. The proposed species composition includes 40% oak, 20% wild pear, and the remaining 40% will consist of other native wild fruit tree species, as detailed below. The inclusion of oak is particularly significant, as findings from a pilot study in Iran indicate that in our region, up to 15% of the Brown Bear's diet in autumn and early winter consists of acorns. This highlights the ecological importance of oak for supporting local wildlife.
The following trees are selected for the restoration of the 20ha area:
Quercus macranthera – Caucasian Oak
Pyrus salicifolia – Wild Pear
Malus orientalis – Wild Apple
Prunus fenzliana – Wild Almond
Elaeagnus angustifolia – Oleaster
Crataegus orientalis – Oriental Hawthorn

Prunus divaricata – Cherry Plum

The first year of biodiversity monitoring yielded significant insights into the status of mammals, birds, and flora across the project area. Data were systematically collected using standardized field methods and digital recording platforms, providing a strong baseline for ongoing conservation efforts.

Mammal monitoring: Systematic mammal surveys yielded 90 observations, representing approximately 200 individual animals. Among these, around 170 individuals were identified as Bezoar goats (*Capra aegagrus aegagrus*), confirming a robust population within the area. In total, ten different mammal species were documented during the reporting period.

In addition to regular surveys, targeted winter counts of Bezoar goats were conducted between December and January, coinciding with the period when adult males gather with females and juveniles. These seasonal counts facilitated more accurate assessments and recorded a total of 150 individual Bezoar goats.

Brown bear monitoring (*Ursus arctos*) was initiated in the Yeghegis Valley, with camera traps strategically deployed in areas of known activity. Preliminary findings suggest the presence of approximately 20 adult individuals within the study area. This information is critical for understanding local bear population dynamics and addressing recent incidents of bears entering nearby villages.

Bird monitoring: Bird monitoring was conducted twice a month throughout the project area using transect and watchpoint survey methods. All data were recorded through a specialized bird monitoring platform following scientific protocols.

A total of 1,255 bird observations were collected, representing 19,116 individual birds and resulting in the identification of 103 species. Special focus was placed on the globally endangered Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*). Surveys revealed two new breeding sites, one successfully fledged two chicks, while the other failed during the hatching stage.

Bearded Vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*) were also closely monitored, with five active nests identified within the project area and adjacent territories. All five nests successfully produced chicks, indicating a higher breeding success rate than the Egyptian Vulture. Observations showed that Bearded Vultures effectively coexist with Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), suggesting they are better adapted to ecological pressures.

Key threats identified for Egyptian Vultures included human disturbance, food scarcity, and intense competition with other raptor species, particularly the Bearded Vulture and Golden Eagle.

Flora: During the reporting period, initial surveys of the project area's flora were launched, focusing on endemic plant species. Special attention was given to the wild pear populations native to the region. Data collection aimed to identify critical habitats and assess the potential for improving ecological connectivity and supporting migratory corridors. This foundational work will guide habitat restoration and management strategies in the future.

Human-Wildlife Conflict monitoring and assessment: Within the framework of the Darwin Initiative project, FPWC has collected data on bear attacks in the Yeghegis Valley over the past year. It is important to note that bear attacks were recorded primarily from April to October, with a notable increase in incidents during the spring and autumn months. This seasonal pattern reflects the heightened movement of bears during these periods, likely linked to changes in food availability and mating behaviors.

FPWC rangers acted as a Rapid Response Group, responding promptly to each reported bear attack. The team verified each incident through direct investigation and gathering supporting evidence. This included collecting photographic and video footage and tracking and physical evidence, which confirmed that bears indeed caused the attacks. Data on each incident, including the attack's location, time, and nature, was systematically recorded to monitor trends and inform future mitigation efforts.

Human-bear conflict data were gathered through a combination of on-the-ground reports from affected communities and ranger patrols (HWC assessments).

In addition, FPWC installed camera traps in the villages of the Yeghegis community to study the age, sex, and behaviour patterns of nuisance bears (Annex 4).

Based on data collected by FPWC and information provided by official authorities, 108 bear attacks were recorded in the Vayots Dzor region, with 67 occurring in the Yeghegis community cluster. This indicates that over 50% of the attacks are concentrated in the Yeghegis Valley. Analysis of data gathered by our rangers through interviews, along with information from the camera traps, revealed that subadult bears were responsible for 17 out of the 67 attacks in

Yeghegis. Approximately 30% of the attacks were caused by young bears, aged 2 to 3 years, searching for food in nearby settlements (Annex 5).
Most of these incidents were recorded in April and May, when bears actively foraged and often targeted easy food sources to avoid competition with adult bears.
Due to FPWC's conservation efforts, including organized meetings with community members and courses on HWC, residents are informed and trained on how to protect their private property and implement preventive measures against bear attacks. As a result, the number of bear attacks has significantly decreased compared to the April-May records of 2024 (Annex 6).

OUTPUT 3. Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change resilient land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations.
During the reporting period, over 150 beekeepers from the Yeghegis consolidated community, who face human-bear conflicts, gained additional expertise in sustainable honey production (Indicator 3.3).
A total of seven targeted training sessions were conducted for active beekeepers who sought to expand their knowledge of modern beekeeping practices. These sessions were specifically tailored to address the needs and challenges faced by beekeepers in the region.
In total, 151 individuals from the target communities, including 30% women, participated in the training sessions. The curriculum covered key topics such as disease prevention and treatment in beekeeping, hive management, and strategies for marketing honey and other bee products. Upon successful completion of the training, all 151 participants received certificates acknowledging the knowledge and skills they had acquired.
Five training sessions were organized for startup beekeepers, including those newly engaged and established beekeeping entities**.** The sessions were designed to build foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary for sustainable honey production. Interest in the training was high, with 153 individuals from the target communities expressing a desire to enhance their expertise in the field, compared to the target.
The sessions were attended by 153 participants from the Yeghegis communities (47% of whom were women) with little or no prior beekeeping experience. The training covered essential topics, including introductory hive management, sustainable practices, and the fundamentals of honey production.
All 153 participants, nearly half of whom were women, completed the training and received certificates recognizing their participation and the competencies they acquired.
As of March 31, 2025, 243 individuals have participated in the survey after training sessions. *See Annex 7 for the tables that reflect the training evaluation.*
The training evaluation indicated high satisfaction levels, with 243 participants stating that the information was delivered clearly. The training materials significantly enhanced participants' understanding of the topic, contributing nearly 100% to their comprehension, ensuring the overall success of the training for this target group. Ninety-nine percent of participants are ready to apply the knowledge gained from the training sessions in their beekeeping practices. The most important and engaging topics for participants included beekeeping, disease management, sales and business strategies, honey processing and storage, hygiene and safety standards, and pest control and treatment methods. Participants say mastering beekeeping requires practical, hands-on training at beekeeping centers or farms. Key workshop topics for the practical training include beekeeping techniques, disease control, queen bee breeding, honey production, and other essential aspects of beekeeping. Organizing hands-on training sessions in May and June will ensure comprehensive and inclusive practical learning for the start-up beekeepers.*See annex 8.*
With the support of community mayors and a beekeeping expert, the Project team completed the selection of 30 beneficiaries. The selection methodology prioritized small-scale and early-stage beekeepers while promoting broad community inclusion. The main eligibility criteria included: Fewer than 10 years of experience in beekeeping, ownership of fewer than 25 beehives, and only one eligible family member per household.
As a result, 30 beneficiaries (56% of whom are women) were selected and are prepared to initiate their beekeeping activities. Each beneficiary will be equipped with the necessary beekeeping tools and equipment to support the launch of their operations in year 2.

In addition, the selected beneficiaries will receive ongoing advisory support throughout the year, focusing on practical, field-based training to strengthen their technical skills and deepen their understanding of sustainable beekeeping practices.
The project has initiated efforts to enhance entrepreneurial practices in the Yeghegis community through specialized workshops on nature-based solutions, green jobs, and sustainable local agricultural production. An open call for participants was disseminated through administrative channels, the Vayots Dzor municipality website, and physical announcements in the community. In parallel, the project has selected three trainers through an open call, focusing on agriculture and tourism, to cover key topics in the workshops. These trainers were chosen based on their expertise and proposed curriculum. The selected experts will ensure participants a targeted and impactful learning experience, with a curriculum tailored to the local community's needs. The workshops will start in May 2025.

OUTPUT4. Scaling up the project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.
Under this output, key actions will be taken in Y3.
We have implemented socioeconomic and environmental baselines so far. The Activity Progress Report section, activity 4.2, provides details and links to reports.
The collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of RA is ongoing. With the data gathered in this project, FPWC is a key contributor to the Human-Bear Conflict Mitigation Working Group, which was initiated and facilitated by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). Over the next two years, we will create a Human-Bear Conflict mitigation action plan.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

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.
As outlined under Output 1, FPWC has secured approximately 3,027 hectares of the targeted area under perpetuity contracts and is in the process of finalizing the remaining 1,000 hectares. This achievement marks significant progress toward transforming 4,000 hectares into a community-based conservation area, managed in partnership with local communities.
The first year of project implementation was crucial for establishing a comprehensive informational baseline across the target areas. Through sociological, economic, and environmental assessments, FPWC collected essential data that will guide all subsequent interventions and monitoring efforts. This foundational work has ensured that conservation actions are context-specific, evidence-based, and strategically prioritized.
In parallel, FPWC initiated the identification of key movement corridors used by large mammals such as the Brown bear, Bezoar ibex, and Persian leopard. Through wildlife monitoring, camera trap data, ranger observations, and community consultations, seasonal routes, ecological bottlenecks, and areas at risk of habitat fragmentation were mapped. Simultaneously, ecological assessments were launched to identify degraded areas along these corridors and adjacent zones, using indicators such as erosion, deforestation, overgrazing, and loss of native vegetation. These findings will guide the selection of restoration sites and the zonation process within the Management Plan, which is currently under development.
Building on the assessment results, FPWC has begun developing site-specific restoration mechanisms. These include supporting natural regeneration, targeted reforestation with native species, rotational grazing practices, and habitat enrichment to improve vegetation structure and enhance wildlife connectivity.
Community engagement activities also advanced significantly during the reporting period. A total of 401 individuals participated in conservation and sustainable lifestyle training, while 400 others received specialized instruction in preventing and responding to human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Participants demonstrated increased awareness of wildlife behavior, the ecological importance of species, and safe, non-lethal conflict mitigation strategies. These efforts have fostered more substantial community ownership of conservation initiatives.
To address human-bear conflict specifically, FPWC established a detailed baseline in 2024, collecting data on bear behavior, occurrences near settlements, and associated economic damages through patrol logs, community incident reports, and camera traps. This information identified conflict hotspots and seasonal patterns, providing a foundation for targeted

management interventions. Starting in the second year, FPWC will monitor the impact of these interventions, aiming for at least a 15% annual reduction in conflict incidents.
In addition, the project tackled poaching and snaring activities. Baseline data collected through ranger patrols, community reporting, and camera trap analysis revealed that poaching was concentrated in the eastern and southern sections of the conservation area. By the end of Year 1, only one poaching incident and three snares were recorded. These findings will serve as the benchmark for achieving a 15–30% reduction in poaching incidents by the end of Year 3.
To support sustainable livelihoods, more than 300 members of the Yeghegis community, including 40% women, received training in sustainable beekeeping practices. The training increased awareness of the link between conservation and agriculture and promoted community-based climate adaptation and conflict mitigation strategies. Follow-up activities, such as refresher sessions and support visits, are under consideration to further reinforce learning outcomes.
The project's first year established a solid foundation for achieving the targeted outcomes. Through extensive baselining and community engagement, FPWC has built the necessary groundwork to integrate 4,000 hectares into conservation management, strengthen species protection, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and enhance rural livelihoods through sustainable practices.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

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.

Assumption 1. Communities are willing to advance partnership with FPWC by transforming targeted territories into community-based conservation areas
Comment: This still holds. Communities are supportive of FPWC conservation work and willing to cooperate.

Assumption 2. Sufficient financial and human resources are available to implement and maintain the management mechanisms.
Comment: This still holds. While we face long-term sustainability challenges, the Management Plan will acknowledge these and propose mechanisms to address and balance them.

Assumption 5. Reliable ecological and spatial data are available to accurately identify key movement paths and degraded areas.
Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 4. There is an enforcement capacity to ensure compliance with protection and restoration measures.
Comment: This still holds. FPWC is also closely working with the Ministry of Environment of RA and the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of RA to ensure proper law enforcement is exercised.

Assumption 5. The community remains actively engaged and motivated to apply the tools and knowledge that have been provided.
Comment: This still holds. Although human-wildlife conflict (HWC) challenges sometimes hinder motivation, community members demonstrate a clear understanding of the need to apply their knowledge and approaches to improve their livelihoods.

Assumption 6. Local cultural beliefs and practices support or are adaptable to coexistence with wildlife.
Comment: This still holds. Local cultural beliefs and traditional practices promote respect for nature and wildlife. Though often forgotten, these values usually align with conservation goals and can be adapted to support coexistence efforts, especially when reinforced through awareness-raising and community-based initiatives.

Assumption 7. Sufficient funding and materials are available to maintain conservation tools and implement mitigation measures.
Comment: This still holds. While core funding and essential materials have been secured to maintain key conservation tools and implement basic mitigation measures, long-term sustainability remains a concern. Efforts are ongoing to diversify funding sources and strengthen local capacity for maintenance and adaptation.

Assumption 8. Local communities are willing to report illegal activities and collaborate with enforcement authorities.
Comment: This mostly holds. FPWC has built a credible reputation within the community,

resulting in active collaboration with local stakeholders. While we occasionally encounter resistance in poaching cases—often linked to individuals with ties to illegal activities—such challenges are anticipated. Our rangers are equipped with the knowledge and capacity to follow up on these cases effectively.

Assumption 9. Enforcement officers operate with integrity and are not influenced by corruption or local pressures.

Comment: This assumption essentially holds. Enforcement officers working in collaboration with FPWC generally act with integrity and professionalism. While occasional local pressures may arise, close monitoring and strong institutional support help ensure accountability and minimize the risk of corruption.

Assumption 10. Systems are in place to document and respond to illegal activity effectively.

Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 11. Community members, especially women and disadvantaged groups, remain committed to participating in and sustaining the activities.

Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 12. External factors (e.g., conflict, economic crisis, climate events) do not significantly disrupt livelihoods or markets.

Comment: This still holds. The current situation remains relatively stable, with no significant external disruptions affecting livelihoods or markets at this time. However, ongoing monitoring is essential given the region's vulnerability to economic and climate-related shocks.

Output 1. Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices.

Assumption 13. Beneficiary communities are willing to transform target locations into community-based conservation areas

Comment: This still holds. Communities show readiness to strengthen their partnership with FPWC by supporting the transformation of designated areas into OECMs

Assumption 14. Local communities are interested in participating in the elaboration of the Plan

Comment: This still holds. The community is active and willing to participate in MP discussions.

Assumption 15. Local populations are interested in participating in capacity-building activities and feel more empowered to be engaged in community-based conservation of their area

Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 16. The local population has more knowledge on the issue, a clear understanding of dos and don'ts, and a reduced negative attitude towards wildlife attacks.

Comment: This essentially holds. However, recent assessments revealed wider knowledge gaps than expected. These are being addressed through ongoing awareness and education efforts.

Assumption 17. Monitoring tools and data management systems are in place and functioning to ensure timely and accurate data collection and analysis.

Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 18. The project area remains safe for regular patrolling activities.

Comment: This still holds. With the ongoing peace treaty negotiations, the country's borders remain safe.

Assumption 19. There are no unexpected resignations, reassignments, or staff shortages during the patrol period.

Comment: This assumption essentially holds. While there have been a few reassignments and resignations, we successfully filled the ranger positions promptly, ensuring the patrol process remained uninterrupted.

Assumption 20. The selected pupils actively participate and remain interested throughout the summer school activities.

Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 21. Parents, schools, and communities support students' participation and environmental education.

Comment: This still holds.

Assumption 22. The summer school is not interrupted by external factors, such as public health issues, extreme weather, or political instability.

Comment: This still holds.

Output 2. Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.
Assumption 23. Climatic conditions are favourable to the growth of trees
Comment: This still holds. While restoration activities are closely linked to climatic conditions, our years of experience have equipped us to address any challenges promptly.
Assumption 24. Local populations, especially women from disadvantaged groups, are interested in participating in activities and are empowered to do so
Comment: Still holds true
Assumption 25. Researchers and relevant teams can consistently access the area to gather and verify data.
Comment: This still holds true
Assumption 26. Local communities are open to sharing observations and engaging in knowledge-gathering efforts, especially around human-wildlife conflict (HWC).
Comment: This still holds. The local population is invested in sharing all HWC incidents.
Output 3. Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change-resilient land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations.
Assumption 27. Local populations are interested in participating in activities and are empowered to do so
Comment: This still holds. Although we have faced some challenges in stakeholder engagement, the local population has generally shown strong interest in participating in such trainings and emphasizes the need for ongoing similar meetings.
Assumption 28. Targeted families are empowered to make changes and work harder to develop their business.
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 30. Residents agree to and support installing and using protective measures around their beehives. Stakeholders are adequately trained to use the electric fences.
Comment: This still holds. Residents have already seen the positive impact of protective measures and are keen to use them.
Assumption 31. Community administration is willing to distribute the fences fairly and perform further maintenance and management, including gathering during the off-season, installing fences next year, and fixing any issues that arise.
Comment: This still holds. Community administrations continue cooperating closely with FPWC, actively managing the electric fence distribution process each year and regularly reporting on usage and stakeholder involvement.
Assumption 33. Local populations have the proper capacity and knowledge to start beekeeping
Comment: This still holds due to the project activities.
Output 4. Scaling up the project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.
Assumption 34. Community members, producers, and stakeholders from different regions are willing and able to attend.
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 35. The event is not disrupted by adverse weather, public health issues, or security concerns.
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 36. The event is well-promoted and reaches the intended audience across regions.
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 37. Environmental and socioeconomic assessments have provided findings that can be adapted to other regions
Comment: This still holds. We have already gained highly valuable insights from baseline assessments.
Assumption 38. Project and FPWC partners are willing to share the findings internationally
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 39. Findings are conclusive and ready to be shared
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 40. MoE is willing to develop the action plan
Comment: This still holds. In 2024, collaboration with the Ministry of Environment has become

more active, with human-wildlife conflict (HWC) remaining a high priority on the ministry's agenda.
Assumption 41. Prospective communities are interested in the replication of the model for the establishment of community-based conservation areas
Comment: This still holds.
Assumption 42. Donor entities are interested in supporting this model of protected areas in Armenia that benefits nature and people
Comment: This still holds.

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

The project has already achieved significant milestones within the first year of implementation, and further progress is expected in the years to come.
The project has made substantial contributions to the conservation of the 4,000-hectare area, integrating it into existing protected areas (PPA), strengthening biodiversity monitoring, and enhancing the sustainable management of the land. Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) has been carefully monitored, with ongoing assessments that provide valuable data for FPWC, local municipalities, regional authorities, and the Ministry of Environment. This evidence-based approach has helped deepen understanding of HWC drivers and their underlying causes, enabling the development of more effective solutions.
Thanks to the data gathered and to be collected throughout the project, we will be able to develop a detailed, data-driven action plan for HWC mitigation in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment. This plan will not only help guide future conservation efforts but also provide a model for other communities affected by HWC. Making this plan publicly available will empower communities to adopt these methods and hold the government accountable for addressing HWC effectively and sustainably.
In parallel, the project has made strong socio-economic contributions. Hundreds of residents have been trained in sustainable community-based conservation, beekeeping, and HWC mitigation, and many have expressed strong interest in engaging further.
Looking ahead, the project will continue monitoring biodiversity and socioeconomic conditions to ensure its interventions remain responsive. Long-term monitoring, ongoing community support, and expanding these activities to other regions will help scale the positive outcomes, ensuring lasting impacts on biodiversity conservation and community well-being.
A key aspect of the project’s approach is addressing the interconnectedness of knowledge gaps and poverty. We recognize that limited access to information exacerbates vulnerability and contributes to environmental degradation. By providing the necessary training and resources, we are breaking this cycle, enabling communities to improve their livelihoods while reducing the impact on local wildlife and habitats.

4. Project support for the Conventions, Treaties, or Agreements

FPWC participated in the first and second discussions of the National Targets for the NBSAP of Armenia in 2024, providing comments and recommendations to improve the current circulated version of the document. FPWC particularly contributed to sections on habitat preservation, Community Conserved Areas (CCA), landscape and forest restoration, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation (HWC).
With Armenia elected to host the next Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2026, FPWC has actively supported preparations for the event. The organization aims to be represented as an independent local entity through its international partners, BirdLife and IUCN. In addition, FPWC had an initial conversation with the UK Embassy in Armenia to co-organize side events during COP17. FPWC currently serves on the national steering committee for COP17 and has participated in high-level governmental discussions, including meetings at the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and a session by Astrid Schomaker with representatives from environmental NGOs and civil society groups engaged in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project contributes to poverty reduction in Armenia’s Vayots Dzor region by addressing the increasing human-wildlife conflict (HWC), particularly involving bears, driven by climate change. The primary beneficiaries are rural settlements whose livelihoods are threatened by crop loss,

property damage, and risks to personal safety. The project introduces cost-effective, sustainable mitigation strategies while building community capacity and resilience.
The targeted community has over 6,000 inhabitants, who benefit both directly and indirectly from the project. Direct poverty impacts include improved personal security through human-wildlife conflict mitigation and potential increases in household income due to reduced damages and new opportunities, such as beekeeping, sustainable agriculture, or tourism development. Indirect impacts involve enhanced conservation measures, increased environmental awareness, and stronger participatory engagement.
To date, over 300 individuals have gained knowledge of sustainable beekeeping and honey production, with more than 150 being entirely new to the field. Over 400 participants have taken part in training on human-wildlife conflict, and another 400 have engaged in community conservation sessions. Additionally, 30 local stakeholders were selected to receive beekeeping tools and equipment, enabling them to start their beekeeping activities. In the coming year, the project will expand to reach even more residents.
While the project is currently focused on the Yeghegis community, its impact extends beyond. It has the potential to influence the entire Vayots Dzor region, home to over 47,000 people. The same challenges, including poverty, human-wildlife conflict, and conservation, are widespread across neighboring communities.
Notably, the project addresses how poverty limits communities' ability to fill essential knowledge gaps, creating a cycle that intensifies vulnerability and environmental degradation. For example, a limited understanding of bee diseases or honey marketing hinders the income potential of rural beekeepers. Likewise, some households abandon orchards due to fear of wildlife damage, turning instead to harvesting wild fruit—ironically, this increases conflict and pressure on ecosystems.
Armenia is classified as a Lower-Middle-Income Country, and this project generates global public goods by advancing the understanding of HWC as a complex, multidisciplinary issue that intersects with biodiversity, climate change, and rural development. Findings from Armenia provide a replicable model for similar ecosystems, particularly in mountainous or post-Soviet contexts, contributing to broader biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation efforts.
The project builds a knowledge base applicable to Least Developed and Low-Income Countries, helping inform integrated approaches to wildlife conflict in data-poor settings. By documenting the interplay between ecological, social, and economic drivers of HWC, the project offers transferable insights that can shape regional and international conservation and development strategies.
Notable achievements this year include the successful piloting of conflict mitigation strategies, the active involvement of local communities, and the establishment of an ecological and socio-economic monitoring framework. These actions lay the groundwork for scalable, inclusive solutions with long-term impacts on poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	75%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	N/A* *Our project partner, BirdLife Europe, is not directly involved in the project's financial management or governance; they play a crucial role in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) aspect, providing expertise to ensure the effective tracking of the project's progress and outcomes.*

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

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

The project's GESI context has been carefully considered in its design and implementation. Recognizing the challenges women and marginalized groups face in rural Armenia, we have ensured that project activities directly address their basic needs and vulnerabilities, and we have taken measures to prevent further inequalities. Our approach aims to reduce inequalities rather than exacerbate them.

In designing the project, we specifically targeted women and vulnerable groups, including refugees from Artsakh, to ensure that they could participate meaningfully and equitably. This was particularly important in rural areas where women are less likely to actively participate in community meetings and training sessions due to social and cultural norms. To address this, we made adjustments to the scheduling of meetings and training to accommodate women's daily routines.

Meaningful participation has been a core principle of our approach. We prioritized women stakeholders when providing remunerative support or incentives for their involvement in project activities. By offering support specifically aimed at women, such as training in sustainable beekeeping and honey production, we ensured they had both the opportunity and the resources to engage fully. In the socio-economic baseline study, women were specifically targeted through focus group discussions to explore the unique challenges they face due to human-wildlife conflict (HWC), ensuring their voices were heard and their needs were understood.

In addition to engaging women in key activities, we ensured gender-sensitive outreach and ensured gender balance in training sessions and meetings. The data gathered from the socioeconomic baseline study specifically focused on the barriers and challenges women faced regarding HWC. For example, women in these communities often face additional burdens from HWC due to their roles in agriculture and household management. By addressing these challenges, we aim to reduce the inequalities women face in the context of environmental and socio-economic pressures.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) activities for Year 1 were successfully implemented. The FPWC project team holds weekly coordination meetings to review the progress of ongoing activities with predefined weekly milestones. This routine internal monitoring mechanism has enhanced responsiveness, improved team coordination, and contributed to timely decision-making throughout the implementation cycle. The MEL Plan and Logical Framework (Log Frame) were used to guide project implementation and monitor performance. Both were reviewed and updated periodically to remain aligned with project developments. Project outputs are consistent with the activities outlined in the project document (Annex 2). Progress was measured using indicators specified in the Log Frame, ensuring that results were tracked in a structured and measurable way. A monitoring framework was established to track output-level indicators every week. The data collection methods for each indicator were documented and shared with the

project manager. All relevant data, tools, and methodologies are stored in the designated project folders for reference and accountability (Project Monitoring Framework).
Key observations include:

- **Output Alignment:** Project outputs are aligned with the planned activities, indicating that implementation is consistent with the original project design.
- **Indicator-Based Tracking:** All outputs were monitored using the indicators defined in the Log Frame. This allowed for structured tracking of progress and performance.
- **Contribution to Outcomes:** Preliminary results suggest that project activities are contributing toward the expected outcomes.
- **Challenges and Mitigation:** Some outputs faced minor delays due to external factors, such as the limited availability of key stakeholders. These issues were addressed through adjustments in planning and implementation schedules. (Output 1.4)

The MEL Plan and Log Frame remain essential tools for ensuring project accountability, continuous learning, and informed decision-making.
As the project's logical framework was revised with the support of BLE and DI experts in April 2025, we will update the MEL plan accordingly. However, the existing framework remains primarily relevant and sufficient for tracking project performance.
To maintain partner engagement and ensure transparency, activity highlights are shared regularly through social media channels. These updates serve to inform stakeholders of ongoing progress, showcase community involvement, and promote visibility of project achievements.

8. Lessons learnt

One of the most critical lessons from the first year of implementation has been the need for a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of the socioeconomic situation in the targeted community. We realized that the issues surrounding Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and other knowledge gaps were much more profound than initially anticipated. This revelation has significantly improved our understanding of the drivers and impacts of HWC within the community.
Additionally, as we targeted a community with a relatively small population, we faced challenges in delivering all planned training during the first year. In hindsight, we would consider adopting more flexible timelines to accommodate the community's specific needs.
To address this, we have submitted a change request to reschedule the eco-friendly initiatives training for implementation during the first quarter of Year 2.
We plan to incorporate these lessons into the ongoing project and enhance our approach.
Another significant lesson has been the realization that in countries like Armenia, where proper data on biodiversity is scarce, challenges such as Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) are often misinterpreted. Conclusions are sometimes drawn too quickly, and these assumptions are often wrong. Our project's approach has proven to be ideal for developing a comprehensive understanding of the drivers behind HWC, its connections to poverty, biodiversity loss, and other related factors. This deeper insight not only contributes to more effective solutions but will also serve as a model for replication in Armenia and, hopefully, beyond.

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

We have thoroughly addressed all feedback received at the project funding stage. Specifically, we revised the project budget to allocate a maximum of 3000 GBP for the Year 3 audit, as per the feedback, and this revision has been submitted via a change request. In response to concerns about the UMIC, we provided additional justification through a supporting letter, emphasizing how the project aligns with the Darwin Initiative's goals of advancing knowledge and contributing to global public goods, particularly in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
Additionally, we outlined our plans to engage with organizations in Least Developed or Low-Income countries, specifically focusing on Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) cases involving brown bears. Through Output 4, we will scale up our efforts and share our project results with international networks, such as IUCN, WLT, and BirdLife, ensuring that our findings benefit a wider audience.
Lastly, we have addressed Defra's safeguarding concerns by updating our safeguarding policies and procedures, ensuring that risks related to sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH), as well as health, safety, and security (HSS), are effectively managed. A dedicated email

address (grievance@fpwc.org) has been created, and an incident log is managed by the FPWC HR department, which is the designated Safeguarding focal point.

10. Risk Management

We have not encountered any significant risks during the first year of implementation. Therefore, there is no need to update the risk register that was provided during the funding stage.

11. Sustainability and legacy

FPWC's land conservation efforts are anchored in perpetuity contracts, which form part of the Caucasus Wildlife Refuge (CWR). These contracts ensure ongoing conservation actions and, in the long term, FPWC plans to officially recognize the area as a conservation category under Armenian legislation for protected areas. Additionally, the project aims to include these areas in the country's Emerald Candidate Sites network and KBA global community.

The broader vision for the Yeghegis community is to position it as a model for harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, becoming a hub for honey production while promoting wildlife conservation. FPWC has been actively engaged in this area before the project's launch and will continue its work to ensure that all activities carried out during the project contribute to its long-term sustainability.

The Management Plan focuses on ensuring the financial, conservation, and management sustainability of the area. Our goal is to have secured all three aspects by 2030, maintaining a balance between ecological preservation and local development.

We have already observed a significant shift in local stakeholders' understanding of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), with a growing recognition of the need for a more holistic, long-term approach. This increased awareness, with ongoing efforts to build local capacity, demonstrates the growing interest in sustainable conservation practices.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The project ensures that all collaborating stakeholders and the Darwin Initiative are appropriately acknowledged during publication and publicity efforts.

To ensure the project is recognizable to local communities, the Project team developed a special design package for the project's branding. Over the three-year project implementation period, this design will be used to promote a positive attitude towards the conservation and community development actions implemented within this project. The brand book can be accessed via: Brand Book.

All project–related posts, printing materials, and signboards have Darwin Initiative branding. Where applicable, we specifically mention in the texts that the project is funded by the UK government through the Darwin Initiative. Project staff engaged in visibility actions are fully aware of DI's Logo and Branding Guidelines. All equipment and tools purchased within this project have the DI and UK International Development logos.

13. Safeguarding

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since the last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below				

Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£192,987			

Change request has been submitted and approved by DEFRA to transfer two activity costs from Y1 to Y2. These activities required longer implementation period due to justifiable technical and procedural factors, and all postponed components are already in active preparation.

Consultancy costs: 2.1.2. Environmental Impact Assessment for the tree planting (Y1) – 1500 GBP.

Operating costs: 3.2.1. Trainers for eco-friendly initiatives' development and further mentorship: 6 trainings, and 4 quarterly meetings (3.1.) – 2100 GBP

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by the end of the project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			FPWC's funding, FPWC's corporate partnerships, and BirdLife Europe
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices, and the project (£)			

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Not applicable, all progress has been reported in the above sections.

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

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for the next period
***Impact**:* Increased environmental and economic resilience of ecosystems and people through the protection of threatened biodiversity hotspots and introduced protective measures to achieve reduced incidence of climate change-accelerated human-wildlife conflict.	The project has successfully conducted comprehensive baseline assessments, yielding critical insights into local vulnerabilities and ecosystem dynamics. Key drivers of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) were identified, and significant knowledge gaps have been mapped. Community engagement has been robust, with widespread awareness of the project and active involvement of hundreds of residents. These achievements have laid a strong foundation for the next steps in implementing targeted protective measures to reduce climate change-accelerated HWC. Overall, the project has made a strong start in fostering long-term coexistence between local communities and wildlife while enhancing environmental and economic resilience.	
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**		
Outcome indicator **0.1** 4,000-ha target territory is transformed into a community-based conservation area by the end of Y1 **[DI-D01c]** *Baseline: 0, Target 4000 ha*	Over 3000 ha of the targeted territory is currently under FPWC's conservation, and the conservation team is actively working on biodiversity monitoring.	The remaining approximately 1,000 ha of territory is in the process of integration. We are finalizing the documentation and continuing to monitor and gather data.
Outcome indicator **0.2**. Effective management mechanisms are established through the Management Plan for conserving key movement paths for large mammals and for identifying and restoring degraded areas by the end of Y2. **[DI-B01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 1 plan*	The Management plan elaboration is in process, and it will be finalized by the end of Q2 Y2.	Review of the draft plan and elaboration of the conservation and management sustainability sections of the MP with the WLT conservation director in late April. Final consultations of the MP draft with the community stakeholders will be by mid-May. Finalization of the MP.

Outcome indicator **0.3** At least 900 ppl from the target community are equipped with the knowledge to ensure peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife by the end of Y3. **[DI-D03]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 900 people*	All the scheduled trainings for Y1 under this indicator are finalized. We have reached out to 800 people in the targeted community and collected feedback from the training.	In Year 2, we will start the eco-clubs, with at least 100 pupils who will participate in a 6-month educational program.
Outcome indicator **0.4** The occurrence of poaching and setting snares decreased with law enforcement strengthened in the area by the end of year 3. **[DI-D01]** *Baseline: 10, Target 5 incidents*	The targeted area is under conservation by the newly hired four rangers, who work closely with local governmental legislative bodies to ensure that illegal activities are adequately investigated and discovered.	Rangers will continue patrolling the area and prevent or register any poaching and/or snaring cases.
Outcome indicator **0.5** The capacities and capabilities of at least 405 stakeholders of the targeted community improved through tailored training and engagement in sustainable income-generating activities. **[DI-A04]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 405 people.*	Workshops for active and beginner beekeepers have been conducted for a total of 304 stakeholders (target: 270), and 30 stakeholders have been selected for remunerative support to start beekeeping (target: 20).	Capacitation of eco-friendly initiatives has been delayed for Y2, and 15 out of 100 stakeholders will receive further mentorship.
Output 1. Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices		
Output indicator 1.1 Target location (4000 ha) is transformed into a community-based conservation area by the end of Y1 **[DI-D01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 4000 ha.*	3,027.53 hectares have been acquired and transformed into a conservation area, as the evidence provided in the 3.1 section of the report under 1.1. activity.	The documentation of the remaining approximately 1000 hectares of land will be finalized.
Output indicator 1.2 Protected Area Management Plan elaborated with the input of local communities by the end of Y1 **[D1-B01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 1 plan.*	The management plan elaboration is in progress, and the final version is on track for year 2. With socioeconomic and environmental baselining, key concerns of local community stakeholders and other key stakeholders are gathered.	Final consultations with community stakeholders are scheduled for May 2025, and the management sustainability aspect of the MP will be developed, including financial, management, and conservation sustainability.
Output indicator 1.3 At least 400 local community members (50% women) improve their knowledge on community-based conservation and sustainability by the end of Y1 **[DI-A01]** *Baseline: 0; Target: 400*	401 local community members have been reached, with 180 of them being women.	
Output indicator 1.4 At least 400 people (min 50% women) from the most vulnerable households attended meetings on human-bear	400 local community members have been reached out to the target, with 180 of them being women, who identified big knowledge gaps in the context of HWC.	Although the target for this indicator has been met, we plan to continue meeting with

conflict prevention measures by the end of Y1 **[DI-A01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 400 people.*		local community members, possibly in different formats, to strengthen their knowledge of HWC.
Output indicator 1.5 4 new rangers hired to patrol and monitor the project area by the end of Y1**.[DI-A02]** *Baseline: 0, Target 4 rangers*	The four hired rangers are currently actively patrolling the project area, working closely with the conservation manager to monitor biodiversity, prevent illegal activities, and report HWC cases.	Rangers will continue monitoring biodiversity and HWC, as well as pursuing any illegal poaching cases in the area.
Output indicator 1.6 The awareness of at least 100 pupils raised on sustainable lifestyle, conservation, HWC, and environmental activism, and at least 20 of them gained deeper knowledge on targeted topics during the summer school by Y3 **[DI-A01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 100 pupils*	On track for Y2.	
Output 2. Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.		
Output indicator 2.1 At least 20 ha surface area is restored, and a fruit tree barrier is created from the 50000 seedlings produced in FPWC-owned nurseries within the first half of Y2 **[DI-D01b]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 20 ha*	Seedlings are being grown; the restoration actions are on track for Y2.	
Output indicator 2.2 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%), by the end of Y2 **[DI-A02]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 100 people.*	On track for Y2.	
Output indicator 2.3 **2.3.a** Biodiversity monitoring and establishment of a database with at least 5000 observations recorded by the end of Y3 **[DI C09]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 5000 records* **2.3.b** 100% of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) assessments completed for all reported HWC incidents each year of the project *Baseline: 0, Target: 100%*	The biodiversity monitoring is ongoing. Currently, over 1300 observations are recorded. A new platform for the database has been acquired. 67 HWC incidents were reported and assessed by the team in the targeted area. The conservation team is analysing all the cases and identifying individual bears via camera traps.	Both biodiversity monitoring and HWC assessments will be continued.

Output 3. Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change resilient land management practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations		
Output indicator 3.1 At least 100 individuals from the targeted settlements are aware of nature-based solutions, green jobs, and the sustainable production of local agricultural products, and have attended by ≥100 (minimum 50% women) by the end of Y2 **[DI-A01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 100 people*	Delayed to Y2.	
Output indicator 3.2 At least 15 families' capacity and awareness on eco-friendly business development by the end of Y2 **[DI-A04]** *Baseline 0, Target: 15 stakeholders*	On track for Y2.	
Output indicator 3.3 ≥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 Y1 **[DI-A01]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 150 people*	151 local community members participated in the training, of which 46 were women. Participants evaluated the training as highly needed and highlighted the relevance of such topics as bee diseases and marketing.	
Output indicator 3.4 A 15-ha area is equipped with technical means to protect villages' beehives from bear intrusion within the first half of Y2 **[DI-D03a]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 15 ha*	On track for Y2.	
Output indicator 3.5 ≥120 individuals from target villages who have never worked with honey gain capacity, including tools, resources, and know-how for sustainable honey-making within the first half of Y2 **[DI-D11]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 120 people*	153 local community members, including 73 women, participated in the two-day training, evaluating it as highly relevant and needed, and highlighting the need for continuous similar training.	
Output indicator 3.6 At least 20 families receive remunerative means of support to start beekeeping and improve knowledge during quarterly meetings with experts by the end of Y2 **[DI-D03b]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 20 stakeholders*	30 stakeholders from 3.5 have been chosen based on training exam results, social status, etc., to receive the means to start beekeeping. The beekeeping tools and equipment have been purchased and will be provided to the stakeholders in May, as bee harvesting is best done in May.	In May, the beekeeping tools and equipment will be donated to the chosen stakeholders, and practical meetings will be organized.
Output 4. Scaling up the project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.		

Output indicator 4.1 Over 1,000 people from local communities, invited visitors, project stakeholders, governmental and NGO representatives, participate in the Bear Festival, where local products, bear-friendly practices, and project results are showcased and shared by the end of Y3. *Baseline: 0, Target: 1000 people*	On track for Y3.	
Output indicator 4.2 Environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments, best practices, and lessons learned have been identified and shared with at least 10 local, regional, and international partners (IUCN Congress, WLT Partners meeting, etc.) by the end of Y3. *Baseline: 0, Target: 10 partners*	**T**he baseline assessments are finalized (Annex 12), and the impact assessment is on track for Y3.	
Output indicator 4.3 Project report and at least 3 publications produced to disseminate findings of the Project, and publications are ready for the review of publication platforms by the end of Y3 **[DI-C08]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 4 publications*	On track for Y3.	
Output indicator 4.4 **4.4.** An action plan for human-bear conflict is drafted with the cooperation of the Ministry of Environment by the end of Y3 **[DI-B02]** *Baseline: 0, Target: 1 action plan*	Active collaboration with the MoE has been maintained, and a meeting with the HBC working group was organized where FPWC shared key findings in the context of HBC. Working group members and MoE expressed willingness to work towards the HBC action plan.	We will continue close cooperation with MoE to have at least a draft HBC action plan by the end of Y3.
Output indicator 4.5 At least 7 communities are outreached to be engaged in capacitation and scaling mechanisms deployment by the end *of Y3 **[DI-C07]*** *Baseline: 0, Target: 7 communities*	On track for Y3.	
Output indicator 4.6 Prospective donor entities have been identified and reached out to for capacitation scaling of the project in target villages and/or replication scaling of the project in other regions of the Municipality, Province, and country by the end of Y3 **[DI-D05]** *Baseline: 0, Target: TBD*	On track for Y3.	

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Increased environmental and economic resilience of ecosystems and people through the protection of threatened biodiversity hotspots 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.	**0.1** 4,000-ha target territory is transformed into a community-based conservation area by the end of Y1 **[DI-D01c]** *[Baseline: 0, Target 4000 ha]*	**0.1** Decisions of targeted municipalities; FPWC/project reports; land agreements	**0.1** Communities are willing to advance partnership with FPWC by transforming targeted territories into community-based conservation areas
	0.2 Effective management mechanisms are established with the Management Plan for the conservation of key movement paths for large mammals and the identification and restoration of degraded areas by the end of Y2. **[DI-B01]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 1 plan]*	**0.2** Updated management plan, mapping, camera-trap footage analysis, M&E reports	**0.2** Sufficient financial and human resources are available to implement and maintain the management mechanisms. Reliable ecological and spatial data are available to accurately identify key movement paths and degraded areas. There is an enforcement capacity to ensure compliance with protection and restoration measures.
	0.3 At least 800 people from the target community will be equipped with the knowledge to ensure peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife by the end of Year 3. **[DI-D03]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 800 people]*	**0.3** Sociological impact assessment, participant questionnaires, media stories, M&E reports	**0.3** The community remains actively engaged and motivated to apply the tools and knowledge provided. Local cultural beliefs and practices support or are adaptable to coexistence with wildlife. Sufficient funding and materials are available to maintain conservation tools and implement mitigation measures.
	0.4 The occurrence of poaching and putting snares decreased with the law enforcement strengthened in the area by the end of Y3. **[DI-D01]** *[Baseline: 10, Target 5 incidents]*	**0.4** Reports from rangers, animal rescue papers, and reports from the Environmental and Mining Inspection Body of Armenia; FPWC/project reports, media coverage; M&E reports	**0.4** Local communities are willing to report illegal activities and collaborate with enforcement authorities. Enforcement officers operate with integrity and are not influenced by corruption or local pressures. Systems are in place to document and respond to illegal activity effectively.
	0.5. Capacities and capabilities of at least 405 stakeholders of the targeted community	**0.5.** Training list of participants, evaluation reports,	**0.5.** Community members, especially women

	improved through tailored training and engagement in sustainable income-generating activities. **[DI-A04]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 405 people]*	questionnaires, sociological impact assessment	and disadvantaged groups, remain committed to participating in and sustaining the activities. External factors (e.g., conflict, economic crisis, climate events) do not significantly disrupt livelihoods or markets.
Output 1. Local communities are empowered to integrate 4,000 ha of communal lands into a protected area and improve land management practices.	**1.1** Target location (4000 ha) is transformed into a community-based conservation area by the end of Y1 **[DI-D01]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 4000 ha]*	**1.1** Decisions of targeted municipalities; agreements; FPWC/project reports	**1.1** Beneficiary communities are willing to transform target locations into community-based conservation areas
	1.2 Protected Area Management Plan elaborated with the input of local communities by the end of Y1 **[D1-B01]** [Baseline: 0, Target: 1 plan]	**1.2** Protected Area Management Plan; reports from the meetings with communities	**1.2** Local communities are interested in participating in the elaboration of the Plan
	1.3 At least 400 local community members (50% women) improve their knowledge on community-based conservation and sustainability by the end of Y1 **[DI-A01]** *[Baseline: 0; Target: 400]*	**1.3** Lists of beneficiaries of capacity building events; FPWC/project reports; M&E reports, surveys among participants (post-training)	**1.3** Local populations are interested in participating in capacity-building activities and feel more empowered to be engaged in community-based conservation of their area
	1.4 At least 400 people (min 50% women) from the most vulnerable households attended meetings on human-bear conflict prevention measures by the end of Y1 **[DI-A01]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 400 people]*	**1.4** Participant lists, photo/video footage, social media publications, participant feedback, FPWC/project reports, M&E reports, surveys among participants (pre- and post-training).	**1.4** The local population has more knowledge on the issue, a clear understanding of dos and don'ts, and a reduced negative attitude towards wildlife attacks.
	1.5 4 new rangers hired to patrol and monitor the project area by the end of Y1.**[DI-A02]** *[Baseline: 0, Target 4 ranger*	**1.5** FPWC/project reports; M&E reports; periodic reports from rangers	**1.5** Monitoring tools and data management systems are in place and functioning to ensure timely and accurate data collection and analysis. The project area remains safe for regular patrolling activities. There are no unexpected resignations, reassignments, or staff shortages during the patrol period.
	1.6 The awareness of at least 100 pupils raised on sustainable lifestyle, conservation, HWC, and	**1.6** Eco-club curriculum, trainers' reports, participant	**1.6** The selected pupils actively participate and remain interested throughout the summer

	environmental activism, and at least 20 of them gained deeper knowledge on targeted topics. During summer school by Y3 **[DI-A01]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 100 pupils]*	lists, participant feedback, photo/video footage, social media publications, FPWC project reports, M&E reports	school activities. Parents, schools, and communities are supportive of students' participation and environmental education. The summer school is not interrupted by external factors, such as public health issues, extreme weather, or political instability.
Output 2. Land restoration to enhance habitats, expand species range, restore migratory corridor connectivity, and reduce interactions between bears and people.	**2.1** At least 20 ha surface area is restored, and a fruit tree barrier is created from the 50000 seedlings produced in FPWC-owned nurseries within the first half of Y2 **[DI-D01b]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 20 ha]* **2.2** 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%), by the end of Y2 **[DI-A02]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 100 people]* **2.3. a** Biodiversity monitoring and establishment of a database with at least 5000 observations recorded by the end of Y3 **[DI C09]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 5000 records]* **2.3. b** 100% of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) assessments completed for all reported HWC incidents each year of the project *[Baseline: 0, Target: 100%]*	**2.1** Nursery manuals and daily registrations; FPWC/project reports; photos and media stories; M&E reports, survival rates, measurements. **2.2** FPWC/project reports; transfer/planting agreements; photos and media stories; M&E reports **2.3. a,b** Biodiversity monitoring reports, HWC reports, camera trap footage, M&E reports	**2.1** Climatic conditions are favourable to the growth of trees **2.2** Local populations, especially women from disadvantaged groups, are interested in participating in activities and are empowered to do so **2.3. a,b** Researchers and relevant teams can consistently access the area to gather and verify data. Local communities are open to sharing observations and engaging in knowledge-gathering efforts, especially around human-wildlife conflict (HWC).
Output 3. Capacity-building through education and adoption of sustainable and climate change-resilient land management	**3.1** At least 100 individuals from the targeted settlements are aware of nature-based solutions, green jobs, and the sustainable production of local agricultural products, and have attended by ≥100 (minimum 50% women) by the end of Y2 **[DI-A01]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 100 people]*	**3.1** Lists of beneficiaries of awareness-raising sessions; pre- and post- assessment reports; FPWC/project reports; M&E reports	**3.1** Local populations are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so

practices to ensure economic growth for rural populations.	**3.2** At least 15 families' capacity and awareness on eco-friendly business development by the end of Y2 **[DI-A04]** *[Baseline 0, Target: 15 stakeholders]*	**3.2** Meeting reports, list of beneficiaries, mentor reports, FPWC/project reports, M&E reports, photos, videos, and success stories.	**3.2** Targeted families are empowered to make changes and work harder to develop their business.
	3.3 ≥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 Y1 **[DI-A01]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 150 people]*	**3.3** Lists of beneficiaries of capacity-building sessions; post evaluation, FPWC/project reports; M&E reports; certification evidence	**3.3** Local populations are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so
	3.4 A 15-ha area is equipped with technical means to protect villages' beehives from bear intrusion within the first half of Y2 **[DI-D03a]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 15 ha]*	**3.4** Procurement documents, agreements with the community to allocate the fences, data on how many people are using the fences and for what purposes, project and M&E reports.	**3.4** Local residents agree to and support the installation and use of protective measures around their beehives. Stakeholders are properly trained to use the electric fences. Community administration is willing to distribute the fences fairly and perform further maintenance and management, including gathering during the off-season and installing fences next year, as well as fixing any issues that arise.
	3.5 ≥120 individuals from target villages who have never worked with honey gain capacity, including tools, resources, and know-how for sustainable honey-making within the first half of Y2 **[DI-D11]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 120 people]*	**3.5** Lists of beneficiaries of capacity-building sessions; evaluation reports, individual knowledge test results, FPWC/project reports, M&E reports;	**3.5** Local populations are interested in participating in activities and empowered to do so
	3.6 At least 20 families receive remunerative means of support to start beekeeping and improve their knowledge during quarterly meetings with experts by the end of Y2 **[DI-D03b]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 20 stakeholders]*	**3.6** Agreements with beneficiaries, reports from follow-up meetings, participant lists, photo/video footage, social media publications, project, and M&E reports.	**3.6** Local populations have the proper capacity and knowledge to start beekeeping
Output 4.	**4.1** Over 1,000 people from local communities, invited visitors, project stakeholders,	**4.1** Event planning documents, event reports, data on	**4.1** Community members, producers, and stakeholders from different regions are willing

Scaling up the project and sharing best practices in other parts of Armenia and beyond.	governmental and NGO representatives, participate in the Bear Festival, where local products, bear-friendly practices, and project results are showcased and shared by the end of Y3. *[Baseline: 0, Target: 1000 people]*	participants, photo/video footage, project, and M&E reports.	and able to attend. The event is not disrupted by adverse weather, public health issues, or security concerns. The event is well-promoted and reaches the intended audience across regions.
	4.2 Environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments, best practices, and lessons learned have been identified and shared with at least 10 local, regional, and international partners (IUCN Congress, WLT Partners meeting, etc.) by the end of Y3 *[Baseline: 0, Target: 10 partners]*	**4.2** FPWC records, with the support of BLE; records of different partnership networks (BirdLife); M&E reports	**4.2** Environmental and socioeconomic assessments have provided findings that can be adapted to other regions Project and FPWC partners are willing to share the findings internationally.
	4.3 Project report and at least 3 publications produced to disseminate findings of the Project, and publications are ready for the review of publication platforms by the end of Y3 **[DI-C08]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 4 publications]*	**4.3** Publications; M&E reports;	**4.3** Findings are conclusive and ready to be shared
	4.4. An action plan for human-bear conflict is drafted with the cooperation of the Ministry of Environment by the end of Y3 **[DI-B02]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 1 action plan]*	**4.4.** Action plan draft, meetings' records	**4.4.** MoE is willing to develop the action plan
	4.5 At least 7 communities are outreached to be engaged in capacitation and scaling mechanisms deployment by the end of Y3 **[DI-C07]** *[Baseline: 0, Target: 7 communities]*	**4.5** Community outreach proofs, FPWC/project reports; M&E reports	**4.5** Prospective communities are interested in the replication of the model for the establishment of community-based conservation areas
	4.6 Prospective donor entities have been identified and reached out to for capacitation scaling of the project in target villages and/or replication scaling of the project in other regions of the Municipality, Province, and country by the end of Y3 **[DI-D05]**	**4.6** FPWC/project reports; communications summary reports; MoUs; M&E Reports	**4.6** Donor entities are interested in supporting this model of protected areas in Armenia that benefit nature and people

	[Baseline: 0, Target: TBD]		

Activities

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 they function; 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 them 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 favourable 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 five people employed) (Y2 March-October)

2.2 Planting the trees (seasonal work for at least 100 locals) (Y2 October-November)

2.3. Forestation activities establish a baseline for increased corridor connectivity and enhancement of habitats

2.3.1 In-situ conservation of the integrated lands (Y1-3)

2.3.2. Identification of key movement paths and routes of large mammals (Y21 October - Y3 December)

2.4. Biodiversity and human-wildlife coexistence in Yehegis Valley are better understood through improved knowledge systems and data availability

2.4.1. Biodiversity monitoring of the area through camera trapping and rangers' involvement (Y1-3)

2.4.2. Assessment and monitoring of human-wildlife conflict in Yeghegis Community/valley (Y1 July - November; Y2 April - November; Y3 April - November)

2.4.3. Creation of Biodiversity Database of Yeghegis Valley (Y1 October – Y3 January)

3.1. Informational sessions for the local communities about nature-based solutions, green jobs, and 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)

3.2. 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)

3.3. Workshops in sustainable honey making practices for active beekeepers for over 150 people (Y1 November – February)

3.4. A 15-ha area is equipped with technical means to protect villages' beehives from bear intrusion within the first half of Y2

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

3.4.2. Purchase and allocation of at least 15 electric fences (15ha in total) to the communities to protect villagers' beehives from bear intrusions (Y2)

3.5. ≥120 individuals from target villages who have never worked with honey gain capacity, including tools, resources, and know-how for sustainable honey-making within the first half of Y2

3.5.1. Identification of underprivileged families (with the stress on women's engagement and refugees from Artsakh) who are willing to start beekeeping but do not have knowledge or resources (Y1 October-November)

3.5.2. Workshops for identified families to start beekeeping (over 120 people) (Y1 November – February)

3.6. At least 20 families receive remunerative means of support to start beekeeping and improve their knowledge during quarterly meetings with experts

3.6.1. Need assessment and allocation of minimum means to start beekeeping for at least 20 families (Y1 October - March)

3.6.2. Follow-up meetings with new beekeepers to evaluate the process and address ongoing challenges they might face (Y2 quarterly meetings)

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 at the 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, the scientific community, and international organizations (IUCN HWCC Specialist Group) (Y3 December – February)

4.4. 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)

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

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

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

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

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