

Applicant: **POTESS, FERNANDO**
Organisation: **People Resources and Conservation Foundation**
Funding Sought: **£317,128.00**

DIR31S2\1031

Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

The 70,000 ha Sangu-Matamuhuri Forest Reserve within the Chittagong Hill Tracts is one of Bangladesh's last remaining forest areas and a critical habitat for at least 32 globally threatened species. A growing human population threatens it, intensifying the impacts of traditional shifting agriculture practices on ecosystem integrity. This project will support conservation of target species through engaging five forest-dependent communities in conservation management and alternative livelihoods to mitigate pressure from hunting and unsustainable land-use practices.

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DIR31S2\1031

Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Section 1 - Contact Details

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Project title

Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Please upload a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [Darwin 31 Bangladesh PRCF-CCA Cover Letter](#)

 30/11/2024

 09:00:19

 pdf 143.73 KB

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR31S1\1123

DIR31S1\1267

Q4. Response to Stage 1 feedback

You must explicitly set out how and where you have addressed all the comments/feedback in the application form: briefly restating the feedback point, then clearly setting out how you have responded to it in the application.

Provides more detail about CCA

Addressed under Qs13,15 and 34: CCA is a Bangladeshi conservation organisation that has been working with the target communities for over a decade. They have piloted an award-winning programme to reintroduce and protect the Critically Endangered Asian Giant Forest Tortoise. The project builds on their proven model of hunting mitigation through supporting community welfare and delivering tangible livelihood alternatives to hunting of certain species.

TOC unclear:

Addressed under Qs 15 and 19: The logic behind the approach is that hunting is needs driven and CCA's experience shows that it can be curtailed with alternative protein sources and overall community welfare support. Integrating certain regenerative agricultural practices and agroforestry with the traditional shifting cultivation system, will help maintain productivity on farmed land, mitigating the need to convert standing forests.

Legal basis relevant to local institutions and forest access:

Addressed under Q15: The land officially belongs to the Forest Department as it is a Reserve Forest. Legally indigenous communities do not have land rights to that area, but there is an understanding that they cannot be removed. The project will identify possible transfer of tenurial rights over forests, which is legally possible under the Forest Law of 1927 that grants indigenous groups the right to manage reserve forest land, although never enacted. The project will engage with the Ministry of Environment to operationalise the existing legal framework to enable access to indigenous communities to manage forests.

Distinguish work of Darwin funding;

Addressed under Q27: Several large-scale projects, funded by organizations like USAID, UNDP, and the World Bank, are currently underway in CHT. However, these projects do not address biodiversity conservation and through this Darwin project we will make a case for integrating biodiversity needs into those projects.

How will you safeguard longer-term against HWC?

Addressed under Q15: Communities in our region report no livestock losses to bears; however, the primary concern is crop raiding, particularly in slash-and-burn agricultural fields. While barrier fencing could be an effective deterrent, its practicality is limited due to the transient nature of these fields and the absence of permanent boundaries.

The most promising approach involves fostering community awareness coupled with testing of various strategies to identify the most effective and cost-efficient methods. An additional strategy is diversionary feeding, which entails providing alternative food sources to dissuade bears from encroaching on human settlements. This method could be effectively integrated with habitat restoration efforts aimed at enhancing the natural food supply within forests, thereby reducing bears' reliance on food in human-dominated areas. Furthermore, ongoing research by a member of CCA staff on human-bear conflict in the region is crucial for understanding the dynamics of this issue and developing sustainable long-term solutions.

Strengthen relevance to CITES implementation and evidence of alignment with national policy

Addressed under Q14b: Multiple CITES-listed species such as the Critically Endangered Asian Giant Forest Tortoise and Western Hoolock Gibbon are known from this landscape. The project directly addresses hunting these species, preventing them from being trafficked. In December 2024 CCA together with the IUCN Section on Small Apes will facilitate the National Conservation Action Plan for Western hoolock Gibbon. The project herein

will link to the consolidated gibbon action plan that is currently in draft form. The project aligns with the Nationally Determined Contributions of Bangladesh under the UNFCCC. These contributions focus on enhancing and securing forest cover and emphasise policies aimed at improving community resilience through the maintenance of ecosystem services and One Health approaches.

Assumptions about women leading various production models/systems: have women been asked about their interest?

Addressed under Q17: CCA has been working with the communities for years and women have been asked about their interest. Women actively participated previously in the agroforestry work piloted by CCA and have brought forward the need for nurseries and access to welfare services.

Long-term plan for community welfare after project ends;

Addressed under Q20: Livelihood packages are provided to gradually reduce the community's reliance on forest resources. Recognizing that this transition takes time, the project is part of a planned long-term program, for which PRCF and CCA will be collaborating to raise further funds. PRCF is confident of raising further multi-year funds now for gibbon conservation, but our longer-term goal is a more integrated long-term private sector funding for nature-based solutions.

CCA is building trust and strong relationships with the local communities, which is facilitating greater involvement and support from the government, especially the Forest Department.

Unclear how the replicable model is meant to be adopted over time.

Addressed under Q20b: The project includes a component to take experiences from the model into the process for reviewing the national policy that currently is under revision by the Ministry of Environment. The project will showcase that local communities can conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage forests with the right incentives and enabling mechanisms. Once land rights are legally secured, this is anticipated to open the door for substantial international financial mechanisms that are made available for countries like Bangladesh to protect and restore their forests and conserve their biodiversity.

Be clear which partner is responsible for value-chain development, private sector engagement, and entrepreneurial skills;

The villages are very remote and developing sustainable market links is unrealistic at this stage so these aspects are not included in the project. PRCF will advise CCA on establishing self-help groups, which may in the future lead to developing commodities for markets.

Strengthen logframe.

We strengthened the logframe by highlighting how results will be compared to a baseline for 0.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4. Gender targets for 1.1 are not culturally appropriate at this stage while a gender target has been included into 2.2. Women are especially involved and also empowered within 2.4 as it is culturally feasible and fits with the Mro societal structure.

Q5. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

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

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

No Response

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land / Water Management

Conservation Action2

Species Management

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

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

Threat 3

No Response

Q6. Summary of project

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

The 70,000 ha Sangu-Matamuhuri Forest Reserve within the Chittagong Hill Tracts is one of Bangladesh's last remaining forest areas and a critical habitat for at least 32 globally threatened species. A growing human population threatens it, intensifying the impacts of traditional shifting agriculture practices on ecosystem integrity. This project will support conservation of target species through engaging five forest-dependent communities in conservation management and alternative livelihoods to mitigate pressure from hunting and unsustainable land-use practices.

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary

Q7. Country(ies)

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

Country 1	Bangladesh	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

If you are proposing to work in an Upper Middle Income Country (see Annex A), please demonstrate your case for support with reference to one or more of the criteria in Section 2.8.

No Response

Q8. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2025	31 March 2029	4 years

Q9. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total request £
Amount:	£80,457.00	£81,057.00	£77,507.00	£78,107.00	£0.00	£ 317,128.00

Q10. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

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

Q11. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will deliver the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Q12. Have you received, applied for, or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for your proposed project or similar project?

☒ No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

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

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), covering 13,000 km² of hilly terrain in southeastern Bangladesh, falls within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot (1) and is the country's last terrestrial forested region. Over 32 globally threatened vertebrates are documented there (Refs 2,3,4,5,6). The 70,000 ha Sangu-Matamuhuri Landscape is one of the two largest forested areas within the CHT (see fig. 1,2). For decades, local indigenous communities have practised shifting cultivation and hunting there. With an increasing population, these practices have become unsustainable, leading to a mosaic landscape of degraded and fragmented forest driving local species extinctions (3,8). This threatens both biodiversity and the livelihoods, well-being and water resources of these communities. These indigenous people are among the most marginalised in Bangladesh and lack many basic services, including access to health care, education, skills in sustainable agriculture and livestock husbandry. Furthermore they have been pushed into the remaining forest frontiers, leading to conflict over land, as many of the areas settled by Indigenous communities are legally Protected Areas. Although legally protected as headwater Reserve Forest, there is no effective forest management with complicated land tenure arrangements between local communities, the Forest Department, and the Union Council.

Creative Conservation Alliance (CCA), a local grassroots organisation, has been working with these communities on species conservation for over a decade supporting their livelihoods with limited resources (7,9). They have piloted an award-winning programme to reintroduce and protect the Critically Endangered Asian Giant Forest Tortoise (10). The project builds on their proven model of hunting mitigation through supporting community welfare and delivering tangible livelihood alternatives to hunting of certain species. Some CCA staff belong to the local tribal groups and CCA has developed strong relationships with the communities and understanding of their needs. Prior to proposal development, CCA held a community consultation workshop (see appendix) to discuss the scope of work and the main project needs for the community.

This project focuses on the conservation of six globally threatened species. Among them, the Asian Giant Tortoise and Arakan Forest Turtle have been overharvested to critically low levels with the former previously locally extirpated. The Asiatic Black Bear is threatened by retaliatory killings and snaring. The landscape also holds one of the most significant Western Hoolock Gibbon populations in the country and along with Capped Langurs and Phayre's Langurs, these primates are being threatened by hunting and habitat fragmentation (11). To address these challenges, CCA has been partnering with multiple local communities in the landscape to create "safe areas" for these species through the exchange of technical support for livelihood development. The project will scale up on-going conservation and livelihood activities of 5 Mro tribal villages, through agricultural, livestock husbandry and health care interventions. In collaboration with the Forest Department, and the Union Council (governance body of tribal people in the CHT), we will also support the mediation of tenurial rights (permitted under the Forestry Law) to the communities to help stabilise forest use.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q14. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q14a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- ☒ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ☒ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- ☒ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ☒ Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q14b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

CBD

This project is aligned with CBD and the following Global Biodiversity Framework targets:

1 and 3 by enabling indigenous communities to have tenurial rights to forest and support manage them to

improve biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

4 by taking action to address local threats to globally threatened species and support their recovery.

8 through preventing further forest loss and supporting stabilise forest cover to mitigate increased climate change,

10. by supporting sustainable agricultural and agroforestry practices by communities living in the landscape to reduce pressure on forests and supporting forest management

20. by capacity development of the local communities, local government and local NGO partners.

22, 23 by ensuring equity in decision making and participation in the project for indigenous communities and women.

The project area is one of the last forested landscapes in Bangladesh with over 32 globally threatened species recorded including some lost across Bangladesh, so the project supports national priorities. The CHT presents one of the last frontiers that is becoming increasingly fragmented due to unsustainable agriculture practices by marginalised tribal people. Within the remaining forests there is high hunting pressure for both subsistence and trade. The project will seek to safeguard forest remnants that contain globally threatened and regionally endemic species.

In December 2024 CCA together with the IUCN Section on Small Apes will facilitate the National Conservation Action Plan for Western hoolock Gibbon. The project herein will link to the consolidated gibbon action plan that is currently in draft form. Key activities and goals within the action plan are integrated into the project such as (1) community engagement for creating safe spaces; (2) hunting mitigation; and (3) population monitoring and assessment in understudied areas.

CITES

We will protect multiple CITES-listed species such as the Critically Endangered Chinese Pangolin, Asian Giant Forest Tortoise, and Western Hoolock Gibbon in their natural habitat within the landscape, through conservation awareness among local people while developing sustainable livelihoods and measures to directly protect the habitat of focal species. The project mitigates against hunting these species, preventing them from being trafficked across international borders.

UNFCCC

In the long-term the project would support the UNFCCC through safeguarding a carbon-rich ecosystem and supporting improved climate resilience of the communities in the landscape. The project aligns with the Nationally Determined Contributions of Bangladesh under the UNFCCC. These contributions focus on enhancing and securing forest cover and emphasise policies aimed at improving community resilience through the maintenance of ecosystem services and One Health approaches.

Sustainable Development Goals

The project purposefully supports SDGs 1 (No poverty), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships) by empowering local communities to manage forests for the long-term to develop sustainable livelihoods, prevent forest loss and preserve biodiversity. We will provide educational outreach to communities in isolated areas, and by working to promote the role of women in the project and by offering opportunities to members of the local community, we will be addressing social inequalities and so address SDGs 5 (gender equality) and 10 (Reduce inequality).

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, GESI & Exit Strategy

Q15. Methodology

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

- how you have reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.
- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods)

- what will be the **main activities** and where will these take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

This project will scale-up the work of CCA in five villages, building on their activities with local communities and consolidate, plan and start implementing a longer-term vision for the landscape. It will develop a model for community management of natural resources that can be upscaled for the landscape and broaden biodiversity conservation impact.

CCA, with 10 years of experience, has trained local parabiologists, reintroduced tortoises, and supported livelihoods. Their trusted relationship with villages informs project design. PRCF brings nearly 30 years of expertise in community forest governance and conservation in Southeast Asia. This project blends CCA's local insights with PRCF's proven track record in biodiversity conservation and community development.

CCA will be directly responsible for project implementation and planning with local communities. PRCF oversees project management, monitoring, financial management, and reporting while providing technical guidance for community livelihood and conservation planning, including training and capacity building for CCA. The PRCF project manager will visit CCA at least twice per year for extended visits, along with other PRCF staff where required. Monthly management meetings will be held on-line. CCA staff will have opportunities to directly learn from other PRCF projects in the region.

The project will focus on two blocks of land in the vicinity of 5 villages to establish models of regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and forest protection that can serve as demonstrations for the landscape. Participatory land-use mapping and planning will identify land for forest protection, agroforestry and restoration. Working groups, including representatives of each village, local government and CCA will be formed for planning and implementation.

Village support packages linked to conservation agreements will expand CCA's livestock programme enabling all households access to additional livestock, such as ducks and chickens, and livestock vaccinations. By doing so, the livestock production will be significantly improved, thus diminishing the need for hunting. Additionally, bi-annual medical camps will be organised, whereby doctors visit the villages to provide basic support and medicines.

Socio-economic surveys and livelihood needs assessments and village consultations will be conducted to develop village development action plans to support livelihoods and conservation. A training of trainers' approach will promote regenerative agriculture through self-help groups. Key farmers will receive training from agricultural specialists and share knowledge through on-farm replications and demonstration plots, as an alternative to shifting cultivation. A nursery managed by women will be set up to rear seedlings for agroforestry, produce biochar, and compost organic matter using livestock manure.

The project will continue to support the ongoing reintroduction of the Asian Giant Tortoise within the community-managed forest and expand monitoring and protection from hunting of other species. The effectiveness of the conservation agreements and hunting moratorium on target species will be monitored through community patrols, radio-telemetry, camera trapping, and bioacoustic monitoring. Hunting of more common species, e.g. deer and boar, that form an important protein source will not be prohibited but hunting regulations will also apply to them within the selected community forest area.

Hunting is both driven by need and culture and CCA's experience shows alternative protein sources and overall support to communities can enable community agreements to stop hunting certain species (such as gibbons) and regulating the hunting of other species (such as deer). Shifting cultivation likely cannot be completely stopped as it also has deep cultural roots, but it also does not have to be stopped. Integrating land regeneration practices and agroforestry within the traditional shifting cultivation system, will help maintain productivity on

farmed land, mitigating the conversion of standing forest. It also will improve the overall landscape matrix enhancing ecosystem service delivery.

Currently, the land officially belongs to the Forest Department as it is a Reserve Forest set up during the British colonial era. Legally indigenous communities do not have land rights to that area, but there is an understanding that they cannot be removed. The Forest Department has no capacity to manage the area and conservation laws are not enforced. The only way to improve natural resource management and recovery of local wildlife populations is through the local communities themselves. The project will support the mediation of tenurial rights over forest lands, under a dormant part of the Forest Law of 1927 that grants indigenous groups the right to manage reserve forest land. There is now the opportunity to address this through the new Environment Minister, who is an award-winning human and environmental rights lawyer and supportive of our plans. The project will engage the Ministry of Environment to demonstrate the potential to upscale this model of community-based management within the Reserve Forest.

Q16. Capability and Capacity

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

Capacity building for the communities of the five target project villages will be at the heart of the project. Communities will be supported to establish institutions for collective management of natural resources and training provided on forest planning and management. Direct training and support will be provided to key farmers on sustainable regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and livestock husbandry. Local para-biologists will receive training to increase capability in biodiversity monitoring, as opposed to hunting. Most importantly, the project will build capacity of women and ensure stronger participation in project activities, through development of self-help groups for livelihood development activities, participation as farmers and representation in decision-making groups, where those opportunities would not normally be present among the indigenous communities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Further, our project aims to support the development of CCA as a leading voice for wildlife conservation and tribal community development in Bangladesh. This will be achieved by PRCF supporting CCA to upscale the level of conservation and livelihood support within the landscape with a larger and more complex project including a stronger component to develop local institutional capacities. The project would also strengthen CCA institutionally through recruiting additional roles. Previous funding for CCA projects was largely species related and this Darwin funding would enable upscaled livelihood support with tangible community benefits, and build a stronger basis for follow-up funding with PRCF support.

Finally, the project will engage the Forest Department into piloting new approaches to conservation that are more inclusive, which may serve to inform national policy as well as supporting their management of this landscape as local communities are engaged in the sustainable management of forests and biodiversity.

Q17. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be disadvantaged or excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will ensure meaningful participation for all those engaged.

The local tribal groups are primarily patriarchal, where men are responsible for the leadership and governance and women for agriculture and household work. The project design, and particularly this component, has been

developed in consultation with women in the community, drawing from CCA's on-going activities in the villages. Project engagement through seedling rearing and biochar/organic fertiliser production and the key farmer modality has been identified as the culturally acceptable approach for greater participation of women at this stage.

Nevertheless, the project will promote a message of gender equality, emphasising equal rights and gender sensitive access to project benefits. Although certain activities will likely draw more men than women or vice-versa, the project will minimise barriers to participation and actively encourage involvement of women. The project will target >30% female participation at most levels of the project, including management, while acknowledging and respecting traditional gender roles and avoiding exacerbating gender inequalities. Women's groups will be established to lead the production of seedlings, biochar, and organic fertiliser. Community youth who are involved in conservation activities are mostly men, likely as a reflection of the demography of hunters.

This project will systematise practices that enhance the role of women in conservation and also prioritise gender equality within CCA. CCA will develop a plan to enhance gender balance, particularly within leadership roles and designate an individual responsible for overseeing safeguarding mechanisms and promoting gender equality internally and in field projects.

CCA has >30% of permanent staff belonging to indigenous minority groups that the overall work targets, while grassroots beneficiaries are 100% belonging to indigenous groups, namely the Mro Tribe.

PRCF has a GESI policy and guidelines to address gender issues at all project stages and ensure equal opportunities for project counterparts. PRCF staff will work with CCA to ensure the policy is implemented.

Q18. Change expected

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

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

This project will bring tangible benefits to five globally threatened species, namely Chinese Pangolin, Western Hoolock Gibbon, Asian Giant Forest Tortoise and Arakan Forest Turtle, and Asiatic Black Bear by addressing the major drivers of their decline linked to poverty alleviation. Local people actively participate in the project across five villages, each comprising 20 households. They are provided with training and support to foster environmental guardianship of resources surrounding their respective villages, bolstering their village institutions and household economies.

Short-term

5 people per village are involved in forest governance as part of the forest management working group, ensuring maintenance of critical ecosystem services.

At least 10 people directly employed through the project as parabiologists/ grassroots conservationists, receiving training and skills enhancement for conservation monitoring.

40 people benefiting from agroforestry and applying sustainable agriculture practices integrated into their traditional land-use system, increasing their resilience.

25 women (5 per village) trained in nursery management and biochar and organic fertiliser production, increasing self-sufficiency and capacity to manage soil fertility.

All households have access to health care packages through medical camps twice a year, improving their overall

welfare.

At least 50% of households receive livestock eg. goats, chickens and ducks linked to conservation agreements and hunting moratoriums of focal species. This also compensates for occasional loss of livestock due to bears. Improved livestock health in 5 villages with all households having access to livestock vaccinations, training on improved livestock husbandry and one trained person per village monitoring livestock health.

Significant hunting reduction of at least 5 globally threatened species and effective protection of 1000 ha of habitat (previously CCA was able to completely stop hunting of the re-introduced Asian Giant Forest Tortoise in these villages).

Site-specific Species Conservation Action Plans for 5 focal species, namely Western Hoolock Gibbon, Asian Giant Tortoise and Arakan Forest Turtle, Chinese Pangolin, and Asiatic Black Bear are in place that leverage further funding to the site.

Increased government interest in the community-based model for potential upscaling across the landscape, opening the possibility for securing legal management rights of state forest land for indigenous forest-dependent communities.

Long-term

Transition towards regenerative agriculture and agroforestry away from shifting cultivation, stabilises land-use, allows forest recovery, and mitigates further conversion.

Improved livelihoods, health, water and food security for 100 households (1000 people) by adopting improved agriculture practices, livestock husbandry, and access to health care services.

Population stabilisation and recovery of five focal species (Western Hoolock Gibbon, Chinese Pangolin, Asiatic Black Bear, Asian Giant Tortoise and Arakan Forest Turtle).

This community-based model is being replicated across the landscape and to other threatened species that persist in the landscape.

Securing tenurial rights for indigenous communities through the right policies in Bangladesh, enabling future long-term results-based finance for conservation outcomes.

Q19. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change.

Poverty and marginalisation of communities, a growing population using traditional practices and no land management is driving forest and biodiversity loss in the landscape. The project integrates a package of diverse interventions, such as agroforestry, livestock management, and healthcare services (some of which have already been trialled by CCA) to enhance food security and reduce pressure on the forest and local wildlife. Forest protection and restoration will provide more resources and protect the watershed, thus improving water availability for welfare and agriculture.

Enabling land tenure for the communities will build incentives to manage and protect the forest and natural resources, enhance resilience against external pressures and foster greater collaboration. They will also be supported in developing land-use and forest management plans for the land they are granted access to.

Training local people as parabiologists for ecological monitoring and forest patrols both boosts conservation efforts and provides meaningful jobs. A focus on the most threatened species will facilitate their recovery, without creating a great restriction on livelihoods; so not a blanket restriction on hunting but just for target species.

Government support will enable replication and scaling-up of the project approach throughout the landscape to support communities and the recovery of biodiversity.

Q20. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

Q20a. How will the project reach a point where benefits can be sustained post-funding? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

The project is designed to involve local stakeholder communities in sustainable livelihood transitions and conservation management processes. Benefits are sustained through installing capacities and skills within the target communities, decreasing the reliance on practices that undermine the integrity of the landscape that they are nested in. However, such a transition requires time, so our initiative is integrated into a long-term program, designed to secure contingency funding.

Through the project PRCF and CCA will have greater leverage for capitalising on the expanding funding opportunities that the current donor environment in Bangladesh presents, in particular opportunities for long-term funding for nature-based solutions and habitat restoration, for which PRCF is developing a track record. CCA's proven model for species conservation in the landscape will also be applied to other species in the landscape. It is also expected that the government will take the lessons on board for upscaling and replication throughout the landscape.

Q20b. If your approach works, what potential is there for scaling the approach further? Refer to Scalable Approaches (Landscape, Replication, System Change, Capacitation) in the guidance. What might prevent scaling, and how could this be addressed?

The project aims to create a scalable model for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and mediate tensions between the Forest Department and local communities to uphold indigenous rights and encourage government collaboration with tribal communities.

The model can be scaled across the 70,000 ha Sangu-Matamuhuri Forest Landscape, covering 200 villages, and applied to other conservation areas in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, such as Kassalong Reserve Forest. There is the opportunity that the model can be integrated into national policy, demonstrating that local communities can conserve biodiversity and manage forests sustainably with the right incentives. Legal land rights for local communities can be expected to unlock significant international financial mechanisms for Bangladesh to protect and restore forests and biodiversity.

Large USAID and KfW projects are being planned for this area, and a strong project such as this would be well placed to positively influence those projects through CCA's engagement.

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

 [DIR31S2-1031 appendix](#)

 30/11/2024

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q21. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, two Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
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Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated). Mismanagement leads to project delays and ineffective use of funds.	major	rare	moderate	Project financial control is tight at all levels, where using funds for unintended purposes or funds not accounted for is not possible. Checks and balances on financial transactions are stringent, and most transactions—other than small sums at the village level—take place via bank transfer after rigorous control.	minor
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. The unlikely breach of PRCF and CCA project safeguard policies would harm project staff, partners, and beneficiaries, creating an unhealthy project environment and hurting people. An incident may lead to poor relationships with partners or local communities.	moderate	rare	moderate	Mitigation of safeguard breaches includes the continuous awareness of the Code of Conduct and safeguard policies of both PRCF and CCA, together with monitoring of activities and personnel to prevent any possible breach in conduct and a clear grievance mechanism for reporting, recording and responding to incidents.	minor
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. The work of CCA is within a politically complex region and politically sensitive border areas with Myanmar. The CHT in Bangladesh occasionally experiences conflict between the government and tribal insurgent groups.	major	rare	moderate	CCA has learned to navigate political complexities through long experience in these areas. Close relationships with local communities has ensured safety, by advance notice if issues arise; in which case field work would be suspended. We do not anticipate that the political situation impacts the proposed project.	minor

Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model				As a local grassroots NGO, CCA has an intimate relationship with the target communities, and the project design is based on their contextual understanding and prior needs assessment. Before the project design, CCA consulted villagers regarding the project. We understand the contextual situation and political climate to further the initiative.	
The project strategy may become outdated, as it risks not aligning with the local context, and therefore, the delivery model becomes ill-suited, leading to significant issues when implementing the project and trying to deliver outcomes.	major	rare	minor		minor
Risk 5				PRCF-CCA will attract more funds and run a more extensive program beyond the scope of short-term projects. There are multiple proposals in the pipeline, with several likely to be positive. There is an increasing donor interest in the landscape that CCA can capitalise on.	
Additional funds are not secured to maintain the outcomes of the project, which are intended to build a foundation for the long-term program.	moderate	unlikely	moderate		mninor
Risk 6				The southern section of the CHT is comparatively stable, and CCA has strong relationships with local communities and government authorities, having worked in the area for over 10 years.	
Due to political instability, the project implementation needs to be halted	major	unlikely	major		moderate
Risk 7				We conduct baseline economic surveys where we identify “most-at-risk” households. The establishment of management committees and self-help groups is participatory, and villagers select members themselves. 30% women participation in project activities is a prerequisite. The project embeds participatory measures and checks and balances to prevent elite capture of project benefits.	
The elite capture of benefits has been well documented in many community-based conservation projects, preventing the improvement of livelihoods of the most vulnerable, increasing existing inequalities, and inhibiting real transformative change that would usually impact women in particular	moderate	unlikely	moderate		minor

Q22. Project sensitivities

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

☒ Yes

Please provide brief details.

The work of our partner is in a politically complex region, with high cultural diversity. Issues related to conservation—land management, agricultural practices, hunting, restoration etc—are also driven by traditional customs and community governance. The region is also characterised by a long international border, the Indo-Bangladesh and Bangladesh-Myanmar border. Borders have been contentious, and there is a substantial presence of defence personnel in some regions. Partners need to navigate these sensitivities; but have been doing so for the past 10 years.

The project area is a home to several species that are threatened by international trade.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q23. Workplan

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

 [DIR31S2-1031-Bangladesh-workplan](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q24. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

PRCF incorporates monitoring and evaluation into our programme planning and assessment processes. We use M&E at an organisational and project-specific level to gauge progress toward overarching objectives and manage project-specific deliverables. We conduct project monitoring and evaluation every six months and annually, allowing us to track progress and reassess our strategies and methods. Biannually, our senior management will guide the project team through a programmatic evaluation process. This process includes assessing the progress made to date, addressing challenges, and determining the priorities going forward. During this time, project log-frames and work plans are scrutinised, updated, and altered as required to match the current field situation. Annually, the teams conduct a more comprehensive evaluation of progress and make necessary adjustments to the strategy and plans for the upcoming year. The project includes a logical framework driven by a results-based approach to implementation. Each project output is equipped with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to guide and measure the progress of achieving defined project work.

The project management committee will comprise three members from PRCF (Project Supervisor- 25% of

position time dedicated to M&E, Project Leader - [REDACTED] % to M&E, and Technical Adviser - [REDACTED] % time) and four members from CCA (Project Coordinator - [REDACTED] % to M&E, Deputy Director - [REDACTED] % to M&E, Chief Financial Officer - [REDACTED] % to M&E, and Head of Operations - [REDACTED] % to M&E).

Project monitoring will also involve village stakeholders, mainly through the multi-stakeholder forest management and conservation working group. They will evaluate the project in a participatory manner, incorporating viewpoints on project developments and village stakeholder trajectories. This will be accomplished via quarterly meetings that monitor and evaluate the project's progress, assess potential adjustments, and address potential issues raised by village stakeholders. These components are:

- Para-biologist/ SMART Patrol Data
- Forest Management Committee Quarterly Progress Reports
- Sustainable Farming Quarterly Progress Reports
- Self-help Group Quarterly Progress Reports

Additional project monitoring tools are socio-economic baseline surveys, biodiversity surveys, and GIS-based land use assessments over time.

The Project Leader is responsible for guiding, facilitating, and carrying out the project's monitoring aspects, including advising adaptive management measures as needed. Furthermore, one of the Project Coordinator's crucial responsibilities is monitoring and evaluating the project's progress and, subsequently, supporting general implementation to maintain its pace per the defined project timeline.

The project coordinator, operations officer, and field coordinator will assess the situation and trajectory in the field, suggesting potential project planning and implementation adjustments in direct liaison with the Project Leader and Project Supervisor through monthly field trips and planning sessions with field staff and village stakeholders.

Total project budget for M&E (£)	[REDACTED]
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Total project budget for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	[REDACTED]

Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

Q25a. Logical Framework (logframe)

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

-  [DIR31S2-1031 Log frame Bangladesh-Final](#)
-  01/12/2024
-  08:41:52
-  pdf 345.63 KB

Impact:

Globally significant biodiversity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is recovering through empowering indigenous hill tribes to adapt and improve their livelihoods and practices to be more sustainable

Outcome:

Protection of five globally threatened species through strengthening community forest governance, mitigation of hunting and livelihood development of five indigenous villages

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Community-based protection and management of 1000 ha of land for forest conservation, restoration and regenerative agriculture around five tribal villages, also supporting improved natural resource management in the surrounding landscape

Output 2:

Adoption of sustainable livelihood interventions in five target villages is improving livelihoods and reducing pressure on the forest and wildlife

Output 3:

Improved monitoring and reduced threats for six priority species in the project area (Western Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Phayre’s Langur, Asian Giant Tortoise, Arakan Forest Turtle, and Asiatic Black Bear)

Output 4:

Government interest in a community-based approach to forest management for upscaling across the landscape

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

☒ No

Activities

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

Output 1: Community-based protection and management of 1000 ha of land for forest conservation, restoration and regenerative agriculture around five tribal villages, also supporting improved natural resource management in the surrounding landscape

- 1.1 Project inception and socialisation workshop with village stakeholders, District Council, Union Council, and the Forest Department.
- 1.2 Meetings to secure Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from village stakeholders based on PRCF FPIC guidelines and protocols.
- 1.3 Village meetings to define a participatory Framework for Conservation and Community Development with village stakeholders to present to the Forest Department for endorsement.
- 1.4 Establishment of a Forest Management and Conservation Working Group (FMCWG), consisting of village representatives (5 per village), Union Council (1) and CCA (2).
- 1.5 Participatory mapping with each village to define land use zones and map the community-managed forest area.

- 1.6 Training for the working group in forest management, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific practices and developing forest management operational guidelines and plans.
- 1.7 Quarterly meetings of the FMCWG to discuss progress, plans, and challenges.

Output 2. Adoption of sustainable livelihood interventions in five target villages is improving livelihoods and reducing pressure on the forest and wildlife

- 2.1 Socio-economic baseline survey and participatory livelihood needs assessment.
- 2.2 Village meetings to develop a 10-year Livelihood Support Action Plan based on 2.1 that is fitted with short, medium, and long-term measures and endorsed by the FMCWG.
- 2.3 Participatory selection of 2 key farmers per village (10 total with at least 3 being women) to advance sustainable agriculture transitions under a training of trainers modality.
- 2.4 Village participatory workshops introducing agroforestry and regenerative agriculture.
- 2.5 Intensive on-farm training with key farmers on regenerative agriculture and agroforestry.
- 2.6 Establish 2 demonstration plots per village to function as replicable models for sustainable agriculture transitions.
- 2.7 Monthly monitoring and assistance to the key farmers to determine readiness for facilitating extension services to other villagers.
- 2.8 Meetings to establish women-led village self-help groups facilitating sustainable livelihood activities via seedling rearing and the production of biochar, organic fertiliser, and organic pesticides.
- 2.9 Sampling and analysis of soil samples from project plots and control plots
- 2.10 Set-up village nurseries managed by women to facilitate agroforestry replications via the provision of seedlings.
- 2.11 Training for women in self-help groups on seedling rearing, production of biochar, organic fertiliser, and organic pesticides
- 2.12 Provision of livestock and training on improved practices of livestock husbandry for each village.
- 2.13 Vaccination of livestock by CCA veterinarian at each village
- 2.14 Regular livestock health monitoring by CCA veterinarian.
- 2.15 Bi-annual visit of a doctor in a medical camp to each village and provision of check-ups, health advice and medication where required.
- 2.16 Conduct project welfare assessments.

Output 3. Improved monitoring and reduced threats for six priority species in the project area (Western Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Phayre's Langur, Asian Giant Tortoise, Arakan Forest Turtle, and Asiatic Black Bear)

- 3.1 Prepare survey plans for six focal species.
- 3.2 Conduct surveys to assess population status and distribution of six focal species (camera trapping, bioacoustics, listening posts etc.)
- 3.3 Village meetings to develop community conservation plans and conservation agreements
- 3.4 Workshops with village stakeholders and Forest Department to develop participatory Species Conservation Action Plans (SCAPs).
- 3.5 Additional training to the existing tribal para-biologists
- 3.6 Radio-telemetry of tortoise and turtles lead by para-biologists
- 3.7 Joint patrols by the Forest Department and the para-biologists
- 3.8 Bioacoustic species monitoring and camera trapping by CCA staff with support from para-biologists
- 3.9 Biodiversity data compilation and annual biodiversity reports.
- 3.10 Plan for release of Asian Giant Tortoises, including identification of safe locations
- 3.11 Veterinary checks of Asian Giant Tortoises
- 3.12 Release of Asian Giant Tortoises
- 3.13 Analysis of telemetry data on tortoises and annual reporting

Output 4: Government interest in a community-based approach to forest management for upscaling across the landscape

4.1 Policy and legislative review on forest law and community land rights led by a consultant including meetings with project and government stakeholders.

4.2 National Forest Department and Ministry of Environment (MoE) mediation and socialising meetings to integrate the approach into a revised policy framework that is currently being drafted.

4.3 Compilation of successful examples of community-based forest management in the region and presentation to the MoE and Forest Department.

4.4 Workshop at the field level on co-management of forests with the Forest Department and MoE and community representatives.

4.5 Final project note to present project outcomes and legislative review to MoE and Forest Department.

Q25b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
DI-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	Output indicator 1.3/ Output 1	25	25 indigenous men of the Mro tribe
DI-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output indicator 3.2/ Output; Output indicator 2.2/ Output 2 3	60	by gender and village
DI-D04: Number of people with enhanced wellbeing	Output indicator 2.3/ Output 2	100	100 indigenous households of the Mro tribe
DI-B02: Number of new or improved species management plans available and endorsed	Output indicator 4.4/ Output 4	6	By species
DI-B03: Number of new or improved community management plans available and endorsed	Output indicator 1.2/ Output 1	5	per village
DI-B04: Number of new or improved sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans	Output indicator 2.1/ Output 2	5	per vilage

DI-B05: Number of people with increased participation in governance	Output indicator 2.4/ Output 2	25	women / village
DI-D07: Number of threatened species with improving conservation status	Output indicator 3.3/ Output 3; Output indicator 0.3/ Outcome	6	species
DI-C10: Number of decision-makers attending briefing events	Output indicator 4.1/ Output 4	3	government department staff
DI-D01: Area of land or sea under ecological management	Output indicator 0.1/ Outcome	1,000	ha by village
DI-D03: Number of people with enhanced livelihoods	Output indicator 0.2/ Outcome	80	households by village and household members by gender
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q26. Budget

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

 [DIR31S2-1031 Main-budget-Bangladesh-PRCF-CA](#)
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Q27. Alignment with other funding and activities

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

Q27a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

☒ Development of existing/past activities

Please provide details:

The work is built on the decade-long community-based conservation activities of CCA in the region. Now through the project proposed herein we aim to build upon their ongoing work and scale it up to include more species and more villages, delivering tangible livelihood benefits to marginalised hill tribe communities, while stabilising and recovering the populations of the 5 focal species and other globally threatened species. The approach applied has been tested by CCA through conservation of tortoises. CCA has some on-going funding for species work that will provide co-funding to some components of this project.

Other projects are currently being implemented in the respective target areas, predominantly focusing on the livelihood improvements of the indigenous communities. While certain aspects of our project activities, such as community development, may intersect with these ongoing initiatives, a key difference of our overall program is the integral role of biodiversity conservation. In Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, CCA is the only group that integrates biodiversity conservation and livelihood development of hill tribe communities.

Q27b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project that may duplicate or cut across this proposed project?

☒ Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

Numerous international donor agencies have planned projects where CCA is actively striving to join as consortium members for project applications and the proposal herein will aid them in responding to these opportunities. These include:

USAID Multi Species Biodiversity Conservation Activity: A project focused on multi-species biodiversity conservation by tackling wildlife trade in Bangladesh.

Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program by KFW: A transboundary initiative dedicated to the conservation of tiger habitats where CCA is part of the initiative the project has been approved and secured.

The work of CCA is unique in the area in combining scientific evidence, community engagement, and focus on flagship species, for protected biodiversity and improving wellbeing of indigenous communities. We expect that through this project, CCA will be better prepared to engage with and contribute to these large initiatives. The KFW project would specifically look at clouded leopards within the project area and complement livelihood support activities in other key villages surrounding the project area.

Q28. Value for Money

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

Economy:

Equipping local conservation practitioners with key skills provides long-term cost-effectiveness, reducing the need to bring in additional expertise in the future. We have an integrated financial system in place to ensure robust oversight of financial management, enhancing efficiency by using existing and national resources, reducing travel costs and providing remote mentorship and support where appropriate by PRCF. Economy will be further enhanced through accessing a more diverse set of funding opportunities during the project lifetime and beyond.

Efficiency:

Increased operational efficiency will be a key result of the capacity-building that CCA will receive through this project. Overall, CCA has the potential to be highly cost-efficient because they are well networked at the grass-roots level and have learned to manage tight project budgets efficiently.

Effectiveness:

The PRCF has strong experience of helping local NGO partners become stronger. This project will transfer knowledge and skills and greatly accelerate that process. Progress will be carefully monitored, and we will ensure that the project's impacts are sustained over the long-term. The project will enable CCA to work with more communities and more effectively, and to ensure strong site protection. Further, there is a strong focus on transferring skills from CCA to the stakeholder villages via parabiologists/grassroots conservationists.

Equity

PRCF's GESI policy will be followed with a strong emphasis on gender equality within CCA and at the project level through engagement of women in training and decision-making to enable fair and open distribution of project support.

Q29. Capital items

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

Capital items include computers for new staff, camera traps to expand survey capacity, and other equipment to support fieldwork. All equipment will remain with PRCF-CCA and be maintained to prolong its expected lifespan, even if provided to local stakeholders.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. Safeguarding

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

Please outline how your project will ensure:

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

Indicate which minimum standard protocol your project follows and how you meet those minimum standards, i.e. CAPSEAH, CHS, IASC MOS-PSEA. If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans to address this.

PRCF and CCA implement a comprehensive set of safeguarding policies. These include the Code of Conduct, Anti-Bribery and Corruption, Child Protection, Environmental Guidelines, Conflict of Interest, Equal Opportunity Employment, Modern Slavery, Occupational Health and Safety, and Data Security and Protection. Upon

engagement, project personnel and service contractors are provided with these policies, and are required to sign affidavits affirming their understanding of the policy contents, prior to commencing their position. Annual training for staff will reinforce the salient features of the safeguarding policies.

A designated project safeguarding focal point (see below) will liaise closely with the designated safeguarding focal point in CCA. Together they will ensure all project staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and that mechanisms are in place for reporting and addressing any incidents, which breach the codes of conduct.

PRCF is currently reviewing its PSEAH policy in the light of meeting all three of CAPSEAH, CHS and IASC MOS-PSEA standards. The policy is being drafted in November with the training piloted in November. We plan to have a finalised policy in place to be presented at PRCF's final strategy meeting in April 2025. Safeguarding training will be delivered using both in-house expertise and online tools.

Partners engaged in the project will be expected to maintain safeguarding protocols and possess their own mechanisms for safeguarding, as CCA already has. Local community stakeholders will be informed of the relevant safeguarding policies and their rights, including access to grievance redress mechanisms for reporting misconduct by field teams. Relevant PRCF policies include the Code of Conduct, Health and Safety Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Sexual Harassment Policy.

All field staff are covered by group insurance for occupational accidents, and those with salaries below a predetermined threshold are enrolled in a government-sponsored medical insurance scheme.

Defra recommend you appoint a safeguarding focal point to ensure the project's PSEAH work is taken forward. This can be a separate member of staff or a current member of staff who spends a proportionate amount of time for safeguarding and PSEAH activities. Please name this individual here - this person should also be included in your overall staff list at Q33 and in your budget.

[REDACTED]

Q31. Ethics

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

The project has been developed in accordance with the ethical principles outlined in the Guidance Note. Through democratically-elected Community Forest Management Committees and Self-help Groups, the project will ensure equitable benefit-sharing, and requirement for a minimum of 30% female involvement.

The project will identify the most vulnerable households through baseline surveys to guarantee their active engagement, following the PRCF GESI guidelines. Our local counterpart, CCA, who has 5 staff from the local tribal communities will manage the project on the ground. The project approach will be for a handover of project activities to the communities once their capacities are deemed sufficient.

This project incorporates the perspectives and ideas of village stakeholders with one of the goals to enhance well-being through livelihood improvement. The project will harness traditional and customary knowledge, the liaison of the project field staff, to adapt forest management and agricultural development models to cultural as well as ecological conditions. FPIC is obtained at the initiation of the project and is maintained throughout any project work that necessitates major community decisions.

Project findings, outcomes, and annual monitoring results will be duly reported to the Darwin Initiative and will be made publicly accessible via the PRCF and CCA websites.

Section 13 - British Embassy or High Commission Engagement

Q32. British embassy or high commission engagement

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

Please indicate if you have contacted the relevant British embassy or high commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them. Please note that some embassies or high commissions may not be able to respond to you but your project will not be penalised for a lack of response.

☒ Yes

Please attach evidence of request or advice if received.

 [Darwin Initiative MAIN 31 Stage 2 Letter to British High Commission](#)

 28/11/2024

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q33. Project staff

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sinan Serhadli	Project Leader	33	Checked
Sharia Caesar Rahman	Project Coordinator; CEO CCA	50	Checked
Dr. Fernando Potess	Project Supervision; PRCF Director	4	Checked
Paul Insua Cao	Project Technical Adviser and Safeguarding Compliance Lead	11	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Nguyen Thi Quynh Nga	Chief Financial Officer	11	Checked
Fahimuzzaman Nobel	Operations Officer	29	Checked
Shafil Hossian	Accounting and Bookkeeping	29	Checked

Sourav Chakma	Biodiversity Research Officer	50	Checked
Rifa Nanziba	Biodiversity Research Assistant	25	Checked
Etal Chakma	Field Coordinator	100	Checked
Ashraful Islam	Field Officer	75	Checked
TBD	Deputy Director	25	Checked

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

 [CVs-DIR31S2-1031-PRCF-CCA-Bangladesh](#)

 28/11/2024

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 pdf 1.54 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

☒ Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q34. Project Partners

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

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

Lead Organisation name: People Resources and Conservation Foundation

Website address: www.prcfoundation.org

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

PRCF leads overall project direction, monitoring, financial management, and reporting and will give technical guidance for community-based management of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and management, and for conservation strategies and planning. This will include training and capacity building for our local counterpart, CCA. PRCF has a longstanding experience working across Southeast Asia and has recently entered a formal partnership (2021) with CCA to support their Program in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. PRCF will transfer both institutional and technical knowledge to CCA as it has done with other organisations, strengthening the institution to deliver more effective conservation and poverty reduction projects. Both the Program Development Officer and Chief Operations Officer will be involved in providing training and mentorship to CCA under this project. Across Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and Vietnam, PRCF has been implementing and demonstrating successful models for achieving improved livelihoods and conserving biodiversity, using a host of approaches tailored for the specific site context. It is PRCF's commitment to work with and through local NGOs and while doing so strengthen their institutional capacity to access and manage larger grants on their own.

International/In-country Partner: ☒ International

Allocated budget (proportion or value): 

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

Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Organisation? ☒ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☒ Yes

1. Partner Name: Creative Conservation Alliance (officially registered as the Society for Conservation of Natural Resources)

Website address: www.conservationalliance.org

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Through the utilisation of multiple small grants, CCA has implemented community-based conservation projects within the Chittagong Hill Tracts for over a decade, and, by cultivating strong alliances with indigenous communities, has achieved significant progress towards population recovery of various species, especially the Critically Endangered Asian giant tortoise. In collaboration with tribal subsistence hunters, the project has successfully reintroduced the Asian giant tortoise, while accomplishing a zero-poaching rate within the specified area. CCA's wealth of experience, resources, lessons learned and established networks within the region have strategically positioned the organisation to amplify and expand its conservation impact. However, CCA is grappling with low capacity to access and manage larger funding sources, a factor that is critical for expansion and consolidation. In a strategic partnership with PRCF, CCA aims to bolster its technical and institutional capacity to a level where it can competently access and manage larger grants, and thereby implement more effective conservation and poverty alleviation projects. CCA connections and relationships with project stakeholders, namely the local target communities, Union Council, and Forest Department will be strategically utilised. CCA is responsible for planning and facilitating on-the-ground community-based approaches for conservation management and to support village sustainable livelihoods under the PRCF.
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International/In-country Partner:	☒ In-country
Allocated budget:	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☒ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☒ Yes

2. Partner Name:	Bangladesh Forest Department
Website address:	https://bforest.gov.bd

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

The Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) is a government agency under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, tasked with the management, conservation, and sustainable use of the country's extensive forest and wildlife. As a crucial player in environmental governance, the department plays a pivotal role in implementing policies and initiatives aimed at preserving biodiversity, preventing deforestation, and promoting sustainable forestry practices. BFD is the sole permission granting authority for any non-governmental conservation initiative in Bangladesh. BFD will provide us the necessary permission for implementation of the work. Our partner CCA has a good working relationship with BFD, and obtained permission for all previous projects. BFD has approached CCA regarding taking such initiatives in the region. Sangu-Matamuhuri Reserve Forest falls under the jurisdiction of BFD. BFD will be one of the major partners of the project ensuring proper jurisdiction and governance of the community forests. BFD will be involved throughout different activities of the project. More specifically, activities such as community forest patrolling, biodiversity monitoring, conservation agreements and formation of CFMCs etc. will be carried out with direct supervision of BFD. Their involvement in the project will ensure long-term sustainability and continuation beyond the project timeline.

International/In-country Partner: ☒ In-country

Allocated budget: 

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

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

If no, please provide details

The letter from the Forest Department was delayed in administration. On 2nd December they confirmed that it would be ready on 3rd. That letter can be provided upon request.

3. Partner Name: Kurukpata Union Council

Website address: <https://kurukpataup.bandarban.gov.bd/en>

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Union Council is the smallest rural administrative and local government unit in Bangladesh. Land tenure in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is complex. Matamuhuri Reserve Forest was declared as under jurisdiction of the Kurukpata Union Council in 2016 to ensure proper governance for the communities living within the Bangladesh Forest Department controlled reserve forest. While the land still belongs to the Forest Department, the community development is overseen by the Union Council.

Kurukpata Union Council is headed by a chairman with nine Ward Members, representing the Mro tribes. The Kurukpata Union Council will be one of our core partners in the field.

Community agreements, village self-help groups, selection of beneficiaries etc. will be carried out under supervision of Kurukpata Union Council.

International/In-country Partner: ☒ In-country

Allocated budget:



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

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? ☒ Yes

4. Partner Name: No Response

Website address: No Response

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

No Response

International/In-country Partner: ☐ International
☐ In-country

Allocated budget: No Response

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

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

5. Partner Name: No Response

Website address: No Response

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	No Response
International/In-country Partner:	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	No Response
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Partner Name:	No Response
Website address:	No Response
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	No Response
International/In-country Partner:	☐ International ☐ In-country
Allocated budget:	No Response
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure):	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	☐ Yes ☐ No

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

No Response

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

 [DIR31S2-1031 Letters of support](#)

 02/12/2024

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q35. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

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

☒ No

If no, please provide the below information on the Lead Organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 1995
What is the legal status of your organisation?	☒ NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	The PRCF is funded via grants and donations from private individuals and organizations, corporate enterprises, and government agencies. No funding proceeds to the PRCF come from profit investments, membership dues, or from consultancy services to other parties.

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

Aims	PRCF aims to conserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, and local cultural identities through participatory solutions that promote alternatives for sustainable natural resources conservation and community awareness and care for natural resources protection and sustainable use; revitalize the cultural identities of local communities; and support community-led socio-economic development.
Activities	PRCF activities are grouped within four main themes: (i) Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions; (ii) Sustainable management and use of natural resources; (iii) Community-based conservation and development initiatives; and (iv) Cultural revitalization
Achievements	PRCF activities are grouped within four main themes: (i) Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions; (ii) Sustainable management and use of natural resources; (iii) Community-based conservation and development initiatives; and (iv) Cultural revitalization

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

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

Contract/Project 1 Title	Community-led Tapanuli Orangutan and Gibbon Conservation (Indonesia)
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Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	Phase-1 [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	Phase-1 Two Years / Phase-2 Two Years / Phase-3 Two Years (started October 2024)
Role of organisation in project	Consortium leader, coordinating sub-grants to local partners, coordination with local government and conservation stakeholders, liaison and support to local communities, technical and financial reporting. Phase-1: Ensure connectivity between key forest blocks in the Batang Toru Forest Ecosystem (BTFE) landscape; Engage villagers in conservation towards orangutans and gibbons; Define management actions for conservation of apes and their habitats; Gain support and understanding from local communities.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Phase-2: Improve livelihoods through sustainable activities to protect local ape species and habitat; Consolidate conservation strategy, stakeholder approach to protect BTFE ape species; Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation; initiate community forestry; Livelihoods and community-based conservation strengthened and linked to forest corridors. Phase 3: Scale up and consolidation of approach: securing long-term results-based finance for 20,000ha of community-managed ape habitat.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Katy Scholfield, Arcus Foundation, kscholfield@arcusfoundation.org
Contract/Project 2 Title	Rimba Pakai Kemuka Ari (Lestari Capital Rimba Collective-1 Project)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	25 Years (Ongoing since June 2022)
Role of organisation in project	Project holder through PRCF Indonesia, implementation of project components, coordination with local government and conservation stakeholders, liaison and support to local communities, reporting of technical and financial aspects to project donors.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	Manage and utilize Village Forests in a sustainable manner via the active role of community by:
	Strengthening village forest governance through Village Forest Management Committee Forest protection through patrols against threats such as hunting, illegal logging and forest fires Forest restoration Improving local livelihoods in such a way as to reduce pressure on the village forests and other local natural resources Increasing environmental awareness through environmental education, development of conservation media, and community events Capacity building of human resources through the provision of scholarships for outstanding students from underprivileged families to continue their education to higher education

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Indra Divayana <[REDACTED]>
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Contract/Project 3 Title	Strengthening Co-management in the Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape, Vietnam
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	[REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	3 Years (June 2022 to May 2025)
Role of organisation in project	Overall project technical and financial management. Project start-up, coordination with local stakeholder community leaders and government agencies, liaison, and support to target communities in the landscape, financial management, monitoring of biodiversity, climate, and livelihood outcomes. Capacity building for communities for co-management of conservation measures.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The project aims to strengthen stakeholder conservation measures at the local level and promote co-management measures to preserve biodiversity and natural resources at the policy level in Tuyen Quang province and the Vietnam Forest Administration within MARD at the central level. The project provides technical and financial support to target local communities to further community-based and led conservation of the Francois' Langur, its sustaining habitat, and related species, preparing and encouraging villager engagement in co-management of the high-conservation value forests in Lam Binh Sinh Long region of Tuyen Quang province.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Jack Tordoff, [REDACTED]>

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

☒ Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Certification

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.
Please note if you do not upload the relevant materials below your application may be made ineligible.
On behalf of the

Company

of
People Resources and Conservation Foundation

I apply for a grant of
£317,128.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.
(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

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

Checked

Name	Fernando Potess
Position in the organisation	President Director and Chief Executive Officer
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 FPotess-signature  02/12/2024  14:47:46  jpg 34.21 KB
Date	02 December 2024

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 PRCF IRS Form990 2022  28/11/2024  09:56:02  pdf 1.57 MB	 PRCF IRS Form990 2021  28/11/2024  09:55:54  pdf 1.91 MB
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct as a PDF. Optionally you can also upload your Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan here.

 [PRCF Safeguarding policies](#)

 28/11/2024

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 pdf 2.59 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Standard Indicator Guidance”, “Risk Guidance”, and “Finance Guidance”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided the budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached the below documents to my application: • a cover letter from the Lead Organisation	Checked
• a completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance” and “Standard Indicator Guidance”.	Checked
• a budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• a completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided.	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 30).	Checked
• a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Health, Safety and/or Security policy or Security Plan (Question 30)	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 33, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 34, or an explanation of why not, as a single PDF.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

The additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

Project Title: **Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031**

Project Summary	SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Globally significant biodiversity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is recovering through empowering indigenous hill tribes to adapt and improve their livelihoods and practices to be more sustainable			
Outcome: Protection of six globally threatened species through strengthening community forest governance, mitigation of hunting and livelihood development of five indigenous villages	0.1 Community Forest Management Committees are established for 5 villages who are managing 1000 ha of community forest and surrounding agricultural land 0.2 At least 80% of households (> 20 per village) report improved livelihood and welfare through a combination of regenerative agriculture, improved livestock rearing, and access to medical services 0.3 A reduction in hunting of target species in the forests around five project villages demonstrated by end of project	0.1.1 Satellite imagery and maps show land for restoration, protection, agriculture and firebreaks 0.1.2 Signed agreements to protect 1000 ha of community land for forest protection and restoration 0.1.3 Satellite imagery and ground checks show forest status at the end of the project compared to start of project 0.2.1 End of project livelihood and welfare assessment disaggregated by gender. 0.2.2 Survey on land use practices 0.3.1 Results of radio-telemetry study of tortoises and turtles 0.3.2 Camera trapping results and analysis report 0.3.3 Survey and bioacoustic monitoring results for gibbons 0.3.4 Forest patrol reports	Capacity building in sustainable forest governance and regenerative agriculture translates into long-term landscape stewardship with the needed conservation outcomes for the imperilled biodiversity. Regenerative agriculture is welcomed as part of the cycle of traditional shifting agriculture practices. The delivery of livelihood alternatives translates into a significant reduction of hunting and protection of core areas of community managed forest. The benefits of the project are recognised by local communities as exceeding the opportunities lost by ceasing hunting. Improved livestock health leads to lower mortality of domestic

Project Title: **Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031**

			livestock reducing the incentive to hunt wildlife.
Outputs: 1. Community-based protection and management of 1000 ha of land for forest conservation, restoration and regenerative agriculture around five tribal villages, also supporting improved natural resource management in the surrounding landscape	1.1 Forest management and conservation working group, consisting of village representatives (5 per village), Union Council (1 representative) and CCA (2 representatives) established by PQ 4 1.2 Participatory land-use plans for forest protection and restoration agreed by communities and government by PQ 6 1.3 Twenty-five members of five community forest management groups complete structured training in forest conservation planning, management and monitoring of natural resources by PQ8	1.1.1 Terms of reference of forest management working group with membership lists (disaggregated by gender and village). 1.1.2 Signed agreement on working group by all participants, with list of members (disaggregated by gender) 1.1.3 Reports of village meetings including attendance lists (disaggregated by gender). 1.1.4 Forest management operational guidelines and plans 1.2.1 Maps including boundary demarcation and zoning 1.2.2 Restoration and protection plans 1.2.3 Minutes and attendance lists of village meetings (disaggregated by gender) 1.3.1 Training materials and guidelines for forest planning management 1.3.2 Training reports and lists of participants (disaggregated by gender) 1.3.3 Training assessments of participants	Target communities understand, perceive the benefits, and adopt forest conservation and sustainable management measures.
2. Adoption of sustainable livelihood interventions in five	2.1 Participatory livelihood development plans for five focal	2.1.1 Participatory livelihood needs assessment	Results of the resource-use assessment, village land use

Project Title: **Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031**

target villages is improving livelihoods and reducing pressure on the forest and wildlife	villages (with at least 30% female participation) are in place by PQ4 and officially endorsed by the Union Council by PQ6 2.2 10 key farmers are able to demonstrate improved outputs from regenerative agriculture models by PQ 8 and 40 replication farmers by PQ 14 2.3 All households (100 total) have access to health checks, livestock vaccinations and improved husbandry guidelines and training, resulting in significantly reduced livestock mortality compared to baseline in 5 villages by PQ 8 2.4 At least 25 women are directly participating in village self-help groups for seedling rearing and the production of biochar, organic fertiliser, and organic pesticides by PQ10	2.1.2 Participation lists for all meetings (disaggregated by gender) 2.1.3 Livelihood development plans with maps on land use allocations 2.1.4 Letter of endorsement for livelihood plans from Union Council and Forest Department 2.2.1 Lists of farmers trained disaggregated by village and gender, showing >30% female participation 2.2.2 Training reports 2.2.3 End of project assessment report of field demonstration projects and sustainable agriculture and agroforestry replications 2.2.4 Agricultural output data on different plots of land 2.2.5 Assessment report on organic matter content for soil samples from project and control plots 2.3.1 Training reports and participation list disaggregated by gender and village 2.3.2 Database of vaccinations administered 2.3.3 Reports on medical camps listing treatments delivered by gender	planning, and livelihood needs assessment are adopted by village leaders and households and contribute to improved livelihoods, which in return translate into desired conservation outcomes.
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Project Title: **Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031**

		2.3.4 Baseline and end of project livelihood survey and monitoring reports 2.4.1 Self-help group member list 2.4.2 End of project livelihood and welfare assessment compared to baseline 2.4.3 Survey on land use practices	
3. Improved monitoring and reduced threats for six priority species in the project area (Western Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Phayre's Langur, Asian Giant Tortoise, Arakan Forest Turtle, and Asiatic Black Bear)	3.1 Five villages sign conservation agreement to cease hunting, trading and consumption of target species and better management of livestock linked to livelihood support by PQ4 3.2 Forest patrols are operational with ten former tribal hunters employed as para-biologists to conduct radio-telemetry monitoring of turtles and tortoises, camera trapping and patrols by PQ3 3.3 A reduction in hunting of target species in project area is demonstrated by PQ 16 3.4 Twenty Asian Giant Tortoises reintroduced into the community forest area continue to survive at end project	3.1.1 Signed village conservation agreements 3.1.2 Awareness survey on understanding of the agreements (disaggregated by village and gender) 3.2.1 Training report with list of para-biologists 3.2.2 Radio-telemetry monitoring data and report 3.2.3 Monthly SMART patrol reports 3.2.4 Photos and database from camera trapping 3.2.5 Survey reports on focal species 3.3.1 Radio-telemetry monitoring of resident population of Arakan Forest Turtle 3.3.2 Para-biologist patrol reports to monitor wildlife hunting and other forest infringements	Villagers are motivated to participate in the project The livelihood alternatives and hunting reduction incentives are enough to significantly curb hunting and protect key species The hunters are willing to be involved in the project and follow agreements to stop hunting target species.

Project Title: **Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031**

		3.3.3 Results of survey and bioacoustic monitoring of resident Western Hoolock Gibbon Population 3.3.4 Camera-trapping monitoring data 3.3.5 Acoustic monitoring data on presence of hunters and gunshot in the forest 3.3.6 Report on end of project analysis of monitoring data. 3.4.1 Plan for release following IUCN guidelines and checked by respective IUCN specialist group member 3.4.2 Report on veterinary health checks prior to release 3.4.3 Report on tortoise releases 3.4.4 Reports on post-release monitoring of reintroduced Asian Giant Tortoise by radio-telemetry	
4. Government interest in a community-based approach to forest management for upscaling across the landscape	4.1 High level meeting within the Forest Department and the Ministry of Environment attended by minimum 3 people with decision making power (minister, head of forest department, Indigenous leader etc.) by PQ 14 4.2 Policy assessment on the legal basis for community rights within Forest Reserves as per the Forest Law of 1912 by PQ12	4.1.1 Meeting minutes 4.1.2 Attendance list 4.1.3 Official meeting letter 4.2.1 Consultant's legislative review report with recommendations 4.3.1 Report of site visit and photo documentation 4.3.2 Government visit letter	A working model for community governance within a Reserve Forest supported by an existing legal framework that grants management rights to tribal communities (Forest Law of 1912) is enough to motivate the government to enact laws into official government policy that support community stewardship and therefore enables accessing long-term results-based finance.

Project Title: **Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031**

	4.3 High level government officials visit the project site by PQ15 4.4 Meeting to present Landscape-specific Species Conservation Action Plans to government authorities by PQ16	4.4.1 Meeting minutes approved by participants 4.4.2 Attendance list	
Activities <i>Output 1:</i> Community-based protection and management of 1000 ha of land for forest conservation, restoration and regenerative agriculture around five tribal villages, also supporting improved natural resource management in the surrounding landscape 1.1 Project inception and socialisation workshop with village stakeholders, District Council, Union Council, and the Forest Department. 1.2 Meetings to secure Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from village stakeholders based on PRCF FPIC guidelines and protocols. 1.3 Village meetings to define a participatory Framework for Conservation and Community Development with village stakeholders to present to the Forest Department for endorsement. 1.4 Establishment of a Forest Management and Conservation Working Group (FMCWG), consisting of village representatives (5 per village), Union Council (1) and CCA (2). 1.5 Participatory mapping with each village to define land use zones and map the community-managed forest area. 1.6 Training for the working group in forest management, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific practices and developing forest management operational guidelines and plans. 1.7 Quarterly meetings of the FMCWG to discuss progress, plans, and challenges. <i>Output 2.</i> Adoption of sustainable livelihood interventions in five target villages is improving livelihoods and reducing pressure on the forest and wildlife 2.1 Socio-economic baseline survey and participatory livelihood needs assessment. 2.2 Village meetings to develop a 10-year Livelihood Support Action Plan based on 2.1 that is fitted with short, medium, and long-term measures and endorsed by the FMCWG. 2.3 Participatory selection of 2 key farmers per village (10 total with at least 3 being women) to advance sustainable agriculture transitions under a training of trainers modality. 2.4 Village participatory workshops introducing agroforestry and regenerative agriculture.			

Project Title: Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031

- 2.5 Intensive on-farm training with key farmers on regenerative agriculture and agroforestry.
- 2.6 Establish 2 demonstration plots per village to function as replicable models for sustainable agriculture transitions.
- 2.7 Monthly monitoring and assistance to the key farmers to determine readiness for facilitating extension services to other villagers.
- 2.8 Meetings to establish women-led village self-help groups facilitating sustainable livelihood activities via seedling rearing and the production of biochar, organic fertiliser, and organic pesticides.
- 2.9 Sampling and analysis of soil samples from project plots and control plots
- 2.10 Set-up village nurseries managed by women to facilitate agroforestry replications via the provision of seedlings.
- 2.11 Training for women in self-help groups on seedling rearing, production of biochar, organic fertiliser, and organic pesticides
- 2.12 Provision of livestock and training on improved practices of livestock husbandry for each village.
- 2.13 Vaccination of livestock by CCA veterinarian at each village
- 2.14 Regular livestock health monitoring by CCA veterinarian.
- 2.15 Bi-annual visit of a doctor in a medical camp to each village and provision of check-ups, health advice and medication where required.
- 2.16 Conduct project welfare assessments.

Output 3. Improved monitoring and reduced threats for six priority species in the project area (Western Hoolock Gibbon, Capped Langur, Phayre's Langur, Asian Giant Tortoise, Arakan Forest Turtle, and Asiatic Black Bear)

- 3.1 Prepare survey plans for six focal species.
- 3.2 Conduct surveys to assess population status and distribution of six focal species (camera trapping, bioacoustics, listening posts etc.)
- 3.3 Village meetings to develop community conservation plans and conservation agreements
- 3.4 Workshops with village stakeholders and Forest Department to develop participatory Species Conservation Action Plans (SCAPs).
- 3.5 Additional training to the existing tribal para-biologists
- 3.6 Radio-telemetry of tortoise and turtles lead by para-biologists
- 3.7 Joint patrols by the Forest Department and the para-biologists
- 3.8 Bioacoustic species monitoring and camera trapping by CCA staff with support from para-biologists
- 3.9 Biodiversity data compilation and annual biodiversity reports.
- 3.10 Plan for release of Asian Giant Tortoises, including identification of safe locations
- 3.11 Veterinary checks of Asian Giant Tortoises
- 3.12 Release of Asian Giant Tortoises
- 3.13 Analysis of telemetry data on tortoises and annual reporting

Output 4: Government interest in a community-based approach to forest management for upscaling across the landscape

- 4.1 Policy and legislative review on forest law and community land rights led by a consultant including meetings with project and government stakeholders.

Project Title: Integrating Conservation with Poverty Alleviation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts DIR31S2\1031

- 4.2 National Forest Department and Ministry of Environment (MoE) mediation and socialising meetings to integrate the approach into a revised policy framework that is currently being drafted.
- 4.3 Compilation of successful examples of community-based forest management in the region and presentation to the MoE and Forest Department.
- 4.4 Workshop at the field level on co-management of forests with the Forest Department and MoE and community representatives.
- 4.5 Final project note to present project outcomes and legislative review to MoE and Forest Department.