Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/)
It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)
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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Scheme (Main or Extra)	Extra
Project reference	DAREX008
Project title	Championing change: Living in harmony with wildlife in lowland Nepal
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Project partner(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Environment and Rural Development Centre (ENRUDEC), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Ujyalo Nepal (UN)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£4,906,934
Start/end dates of project	1st April 2023 - 31st March 2028
Reporting period	April 2024 - March 2025, Annual Report #2
Project Leader name	Katherine Secoy
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
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1. Project summary

Nepal's lowlands host 50% of the country's human population and 80% of its globally threatened species, including growing populations of tigers, elephants, and rhinos. This recovery, while a conservation success, has led to increased human-wildlife conflict (HWC), particularly in buffer-zone forests and corridors. Land use changes and expanding linear infrastructure have fragmented habitats and reduced connectivity between protected areas (PAs), intensifying HWC and wildlife mortality, while wildlife rescue facilities remain under resourced and climate change exacerbates existing challenges. Local communities, reliant on subsistence agriculture, seasonal migration, and ecotourism, face limited livelihood options, poor market access, and inadequate services, reducing their resilience to increasing HWC.

To address this, this project will deliver site-level HWC mitigation interventions through capacity building activities and the promotion of 100 Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions, who will reach 55,000 people in buffer zones and adjoining forests through awareness and behavior change activities aiming to reduce HWC and foster pro-conservation attitudes. The project will also strengthen wildlife-friendly infrastructure in Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP), develop science-based HWC mitigation recommendations, and position Banke National Park (BaNP) and ShNP as hubs for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, drawing upon ZSL's institutional animal care expertise.

To support marginalised communities, the project will introduce and strengthen sustainable livelihoods, establish or expand community banking cooperatives, and increase average incomes for 7,265 households. It will also promote market access and value chain development, and train beneficiaries in HWC-reducing agriculture and livestock practices. Ecotourism ventures in BaNP, Bardia National Park (BNP), and ShNP will be supported through skill-building among HWCx champion households. Livelihood interventions will be implemented with local government and buffer zone institutional support to ensure long-term sustainability, with impact measured through pre- and post-project surveys.

ZSL's approach leverages its experience in Nepal's lowlands, a history of global conservation work, and animal care expertise, to lay the groundwork for site-level wildlife and habitat management that can be scaled to promote HWCx across other biodiversity-rich areas of Nepal. The project is being implemented in three lowland protected areas of the western Terai Arc Landscape (BaNP, BNP, ShNP), in 52 settlements of 20 Buffer Zone Users Committees (BZUCs) of these three national parks.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

ZSL's main government partner under the project is DNPWC, under the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), who are responsible for the conservation and management of wildlife and habitats in Nepal. DNPWC and ZSL have a MoU which establishes the framework for implementing conservation projects in PA systems in Nepal. Further, for strategic oversight a Project Coordination Committee (PCC) involving the Deputy Director General of DNPWC as chair, section heads from DNPWC, and representation from senior ZSL staff, has been formulated to oversee the implementation of all ZSL's projects in Nepal. Additionally, ZSL partners with in-country NGOs – National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), ENRUDEC, and Ujayalo Nepal (UN), under the project, selected as partners based upon each organisations' authorised roles in different aspects of conservation, which are as follows:

- DNPWC for overall supervision and monitoring of the activities in PAs and PA buffer zones.
- National Park authorities (BaNP, BNP, ShNP) for monitoring and supervision of field level activities. A Project Management Unit (PMU) is formulated as per the MoU with DNPWC, involving respective park managers as chairs, representatives of implementing partners, and ZSL staff. The PMU serves as a coordination mechanism bringing stakeholders together to synergise activity implementation. Furthermore, any issues or grievances arising during implementation are discussed and resolved by the PMU.
- NTNC for wildlife monitoring and livelihood activities in and around each PA, due to NTNC's experience in managing livelihood development and biodiversity conservation projects.
- ENRUDEC and UN for social and livelihood activities in the buffer zones of each PA, owing to their specialisms in community level activities relating to conservation and wildlife.

The project also requires close coordination with local governments, BZUCs, Buffer Zone Community Forests (BZCFs), and other community institutions like Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs), eco-clubs and schools, who represent key players during activity implementation. A brief stakeholder engagement plan outlines the roles of the different stakeholders involved in the project (Annex A).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Progress against each of the project outputs and associated activities in Y2 is as follows:

Output 1. Foundations set for upscaling HWCx

A1.1 Build on existing understanding and capabilities within PA-BZ management with regards to HWC reduction by creating HWCx positions, organising HWC-themed meetings, and producing participatory HWC maps.

This year, three focal persons at Buffer Zone Management Council (BZMC) level (one each in BaNP, BNP, ShNP) were created to act as conduits for HWC-related information exchange. These focal persons have been engaged in HWC database management since Y1 to support PAs to collect and manage HWC-related data. The collection of HWC data has sped up HWC relief fund distribution by park authorities, by supporting the digitisation of relief claims and allowing for faster reviews of claims by park authorities in line with the Guideline "Relief and Distribution of Damages Caused by Wildlife-2023' (Annex 4.1: Activity 1.1.2). The HWC data collected also helps to validate the participatory HWC maps completed in Y1. Furthermore, six workshops were completed to share the participatory HWC maps and HWC mitigation measures to be implemented under the project, attended by 194 individuals (173 males, 21 female) including 76 PA officers (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.1.3, Table 1.1), therefore validating HWC-hotspot focussed mitigation efforts and BZUC-level HWC mitigation plans (Activity 3.3.1).

A1.2 Review HWC mitigation projects in Nepal and identify the effectiveness of mitigation tools trialled to inform HWC best practices guidelines for South Asia.

Stakeholder meetings were held with BNP and ShNP buffer zone communities to assess the effectiveness of existing HWC mitigation measures (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.2.1, Table 1.2), where communities outlined the success of HWC measures is site-specific, and single measures, e.g. mesh wire fences, may not be effective for all species in all sites. These community perceptions were further assessed through household surveys. A final assessment documenting the effectiveness of existing HWC mitigation measures, and recommendations for strengthening these, was completed in Y2, with the findings shared with park directors and officials from 3 PAs via a workshop (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.2.1, Table 1.2). The workshop helped park directors to consider technical, social, economic, and ecological factors in the design of HWC mitigation interventions. Community perceptions of mitigation effectiveness vary by wildlife species, gender and ethnicity, likely due to varying experiences of HWC, and community

members perceive Predator-Proof Corrals (PPCs), community patrols, and improved mesh wire fencing as the most effective measures by community members.

A1.4 Strengthen HWCx champion groups within the project sites to deliver their allocated responsibilities and for scaling up the work in other parts of the country
Building upon the 74 HWCx champion units established in Y1, a further 26 HWCx were established in Chitwan NP (CNP), Parsa NP (PNP) and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR). HWCx champions in BNP, BaNP and ShNP have shared HWC data collected via smartphones with ZSL, BZMC focal persons, and park authorities throughout Y2, with HWCx in CNP, PNP and KTWR follow in Y3. HWCx champions play a key role in leading awareness programs and linking communities with PA authorities and responding to alerts from Joint Operation Cells (JoCs) in each PA. This year, 388 champion unit members (324 from BaNP, BNP, ShNP, 64 from CNP, PNP, KTWR, including 162 female) were trained in wildlife behaviour, species identification, and safety protocols (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.4.1; Table 1.3), and field gear was distributed to 82 champions in BaNP, BNP, and ShNP (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.4.2; Table 1.4). 74 HWCx champions were equipped with smartphones for real-time HWC reporting and analysis at settlement level, which contributes to BZUC-level HWC mitigation planning. Information shared by champions via WhatsApp has created linkages between champions and park's rapid response teams (RRT, Indicator 1.2.3), facilitating their deployment in ShNP (Annex 4.1.1).

A1.5 Pilot network of GSM-enabled cameras for conflict species (elephant) surveillance in ShNP as an early warning system for communities near agricultural and village areas.
67 champions (21 female) were trained in deploying GSM-enabled camera traps in HWC hotspots (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.5.1, Table 1.5). 46 GSM-enabled surveillance cameras (BaNP: 13, BNP: 23, ShNP: 10) were deployed in wildlife entry sites within 1–7.9 km of core areas of PAs (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.5.2) in Y2, capturing 3,165 images, of which 2,236 included wildlife, including tigers (76), elephants (92), leopards (106), rhino (22) spotted deer (1219). Detections of high-conflict species (tigers, leopards, elephants) were relayed via JOCs to HWCx Champions, who alerted local communities on the presence of these species. Regular camera traps were deployed alongside GSM camera traps to assess wildlife movement in fringe areas of PAs, to be analysed in Y3 to identify wildlife incursion rates in HWC hotspots.

A1.6 Strengthen access to existing government quick relief mechanism for compensation for livestock loss
19 Quick-Relief Funds (QRF) at BZUC level were strengthened in Y2 (Annex 4.1, Table 1.6), providing access for ~ 30,000 HHs (Annex 4.1, Table 1.6) to immediate relief following HWC events., through an NPR 14,109,525 fund (~ GBP 90,000; BZUC contribution of NPR 671,525). To date, NPR 510,000 has been disbursed to victims (Annex 4.1, Table 1.6), which is returned to the fund once government compensation is received.

A1.7 Support HWCx champions to conduct awareness programmes linked to behaviour change and safety drills for communities and schools.
8,100 individuals (4,498 female, 3,527 Janajati, and 1,153 Dalit) have been reached through community level awareness programmes (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.6.1, Table 1.7); school teaching/awareness programmes and eco-clubs (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.6.2, Table 1.8); and drill simulation programmes in HWC hotpsots (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.6.3, Table 1.9), in Y2. These awareness campaigns share messages relating to human-wildlife coexistence and wildlife conservation, to positively change attitudes and perceptions towards wildlife conservation.

A1.8 Test and if appropriate scale-up insurance mechanism for mitigating HWC (primarily focused on tiger, elephant, rhino, and leopard).
To better understand the landscape of agricultural and livestock insurance in Nepal, an independent study was conducted in Y2, which identified three major insurance schemes currently in practice across the TAL (Indicator 1.4.2); General Insurance, Community-Based Insurance (Cooperative), and Weather Index Insurance schemes. The study highlighted the need for large-scale insurance literacy campaigns to raise awareness and encourage participation in insurance schemes, and the need for local facilitators who are trained to support local people to be included in insurance schemes.

The study recommended the project implements a public liability insurance (PLI) scheme covering entire buffer zone areas, which DNPWC has agreed to pilot and feedback to the Government upon, at ZSLs recommendation. The PLI pilot will cover high-risk (HWC hotspots); mid-risk and low-risk zones (Indicator 1.4.3 and 1.4.4) and will be implemented in Y3. Alongside this study, a series of meetings with insurance companies were held to introduce individual insurance policies in agriculture and livestock (Annex 4.1, Activity 1.8, Table 1.10) for 171 HHs (buffalo and goat: Annex 4.1, Activity 1.8).

Output 2 Livelihood investments to break cycle of poverty

A2.1 Assess the existing mechanism of livelihood support at the BZUC level through workshops on value chain promotion for livelihood commodities/services
285 individuals (179 female) participated in meetings to identify and assess effective value chain and market access strengthening options (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.1.2, Table 2.1), and present findings from the participatory resource maps produced in Y1. The workshops allowed for the identification of market needs in each project site and the preparation of business/livelihood plans, based upon forest, agriculture, livestock, or homestay initiatives.

A2.2 Consultation workshops to identify and establish market needs for key products/services from the project sites and strengthen market access and valuation.
466 (188 female) individuals participated in 20 BZUC-level workshops, attended by BZUC and BZCFUC members, local forest and agriculture-based small entrepreneurs, farmers, private sector service providers, market actors, local government representatives and other stakeholders (e.g. National Park). The workshops showed that existing small businesses in the buffer zone areas of BaNP, BNP, and ShNP include homestays, vegetable and convenience stores, hotels and restaurants, poultry, animal husbandry, handicraft shops, tours and travel services, and meat shops, while farmers in these areas largely produce vegetables, milk, and meat. Market opportunities exist for local products, however due to low production and unreliability, and lower-cost Indian imports, local traders are reluctant to buy locally grown products, consumption is small scale. Further support has been provided to farmers to track daily livelihood production activities, encourage the commercialisation of livelihood interventions, and prepare Commodity-based Business Plans (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.2.1, 2.2.2).

A2.3 Replicate community banking (establish new and strengthen existing ones), with by-laws covering conservation and subsidy scaled for households with different levels of marginalisation
This year 37 new community banks (10 in BaNP, 13 in BNP; and 14 in ShNP) were established, and 17 existing community banks were strengthened (exceeding the indicator target of 12), providing access to finance for 5,382 HH members (2,536 BCT, 1,823 Janajati, 1,001 Dalit, including 2,036 females, Annex 4.2, Activity 2.3.2, Table 2.3 and 2.4). Through this activity, a total of NPR 26,955,257 (~GBP158,560) has been made available to community members as low interest loans for diversified livelihood activities. A community bank toolkit containing passbooks for recording keeping, ledger books, stationary, registers and registration certificates, fund mobilisation guidelines have been provided to each community bank established. A community banking guideline was endorsed by relevant local municipalities, ensuring the sustainability of the fund longer term and effective fund governance. Cooperative management and financial literacy Train-the-Trainer training was completed for executive members of the community banking scheme, attended by 150 individuals (106 female) (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.3.3, Table 2.5), to strengthen financial governance of community banks.

A2.4 Enhance community resilience by replicating agricultural practices especially that have been shown to reduce HWC in the project sites.
The soil tests completed in Y1 were enhanced in Y2 by completing soil treatments for maintaining soil pH and moisture, and mineral content, for 644 community banking members (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.4.2, Table 2.6). In addition, commercial/seasonal and off seasonal vegetable farming training was provided to 750 community bank members (including 526 female, 213 Janajati, and 146 Dalit; Annex 4.2, Activity 2.4.3, Table 2.7); training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was given to 216 community banking members (including 144 females, 66 Janajati, and 61 Dalits; Annex 4.2, Activity 2.4.6, Table 2.8); and multiple-use water system training was given to 413 community banking members (including 274 females, 156 Janajati, and 60 Dalit; Annex 4.2, Activity 2.4.7, Table 2.8). Toolkits (gloves, sprayer, bucket sprayer/watering can, secateurs) were also distributed to 130 community banking members (including 43 female, 38 Janjati, and 7 Dalit) engaged in vegetable farming activities. Altogether, 2,153 community banking members were reached through agriculture related activities in Y2 (~72% of the target 3,000 HHs; indicator 2.2.1).

A2.5 Replicate animal husbandry practices for better livestock health and rearing, introduce means of sustainable fodder and productivity reducing dependency on natural resources in PAs.
This year, the project reached 1,783 individuals (916 female), 44% of the target 4,000 HHs (indicator 2.2.2) through livestock activities such as improved cattle shed (102 individuals, including 19 Janajati, and 12 Dalits; Annex 4.2, Activity 2.5.1, Table 2.11); distribution of grass cutters (1009 HH including 334 Janajati, and 141 Dalit, Annex 4.2, Activity 2.5.2, Table 2.12), stall feeding training (320 individuals including 128 females; Annex 4.2, Activity 2.5.3, Table 2.13); and commercial livestock rearing training (352 individuals including 259 female; Annex 4.2, Activity 2.5.4, Table 2.14). A livestock health camp was also conducted to reduce the risk of diseases in livestock, benefitting 1,463 HH (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.5.5, Table 2.15).

A2.6 Strengthen existing ecotourism ventures in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta through investments in skill development.
To link the livelihood related activities (agriculture and livestock) with eco-tourism ventures, a series of workshops were conducted in Y2 to outline capacity needs in the ecotourism sector (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.6.1, Table 2.16). The workshop outlined the need for eco-tourism action plans for each PA, the diversification of tourism products, the strengthening and promotion of community-based tourism (e.g., homestays), and capacity building of the eco-tourism sector through training and infrastructure development. In-line with the needs identified, the project supported 43 individuals to be trained in hospitality, hotel management, and as drivers (Annex 4.2, Activity 2.6.2, Table 2.17, and 2.18), ~30% of the indicator 2.3.2 target). Furthermore, 90 government sector staff (including provincial parliament members, representatives from provincial sectoral ministry, Nepal Tourism Board) participated in discussions exploring possibilities for strengthening eco-tourism (Annex 4.2 Activity 2.6.5, Table 2.19) and reforming policy to create more favourable conditions for eco-tourism promotion.

A2.7 Connect HWCx champions (under Output 1) with skill development trainings.
Along with mobilising HWCx champions to collect and share HWC related information, the project provided vocational skills trainings to 91 HWCx champions, as electricians (30, inc. 2 female – Annex 4.2, Activity 2.7.2, Table 2.20), plumbers (31 inc. 2 female – Annex 4.2, Activity 2.7.3, Table 2.21), and mobile repairers (30 inc. 12 female – Annex 4.2, Activity 2.7.4, Table 2.22), 76% of the target for indicator 2.3.1. In Y3, the income earned through these activities will be tracked to showcase impact of the interventions (Annex 4.2).

A2.8 Conduct pre and post project surveys of the beneficiaries to assess and evaluate changes
A human wellbeing index (HWI) using the framework of the Human Development Index (UNDP, 2017) was developed in Y2, to calculate baseline wellbeing levels for 60% of the total 7,018 livelihood beneficiaries HHs across the 52 project settlements and 20 BZUCs. Overall average HWI was calculated (0.59 for all PAs, 0.57 for BaNP, 0.57 for BNP, 0.63 for ShNP), with average male HWI at 0.59 and 0.57 for females (Indicator 0.3).

Output 3 HWC mitigation investments for communities and BZUCs
A3.1 Build on the existing knowledge base of HWC in landscape by participatory consultations for co-developing locally appropriate mitigation methods for project sites.
In Y2, project BZUC members have been engaged in drafting 20 BZUC level HWC mitigation plans (one per project BZUC), later endorsed by BZUC committee members (Activity 3.2.8). All needs highlighted in these BZUC level HWC plans (Indicator 3.1) were incorporated in the two PA level plans developed for ShNP and BaNP, which also draw upon the findings and recommendations obtained from Activities 1.1. and 1.2. To support the development of these BZUC level plans, each BZUC was provided with financial support to cover the cost of regular meetings and provide basic stationaries.

A3.2 Support BZUCs through HWCx champions under Output 1 to implement HWCx plan using proven proactive HWC reduction measures.
Following participatory HWC hotspot mapping, HWC data collection efforts at BZMC level via HWCx focal persons, and the assessment of HWC mitigation tools completed in Y1, the sites and types of HWC mitigation measures to be implemented under the project have been selected, and in Y2, seven types of HWC mitigation were implemented in HWC hotspots. So far 4,222 households (including 1,836 Janajati HH and 578 Dalit HH) have benefited from HWC mitigation measures implemented, ~84% of indicator 3.3.1 target (Annex 4.3, Activity 3.2.1- 3.2.6; Table 3.1 - 3.6). According to the baseline survey, 42% of the sampled households (n=904) were deprived of crop protection measures, and 40% (n=904) deprived of livestock protection measures, therefore validating the need for appropriate HWC mitigation measures. Information boards on HWC mitigation measures were also installed in strategic locations throughout project sites increase awareness of the potential risks from wildlife (Annex 4.3, Activity 3.2.9). Likewise, a cooperative was strengthened to promote existing *metha* and other non-palatable crop cultivation in the fringe area in BNP (Annex 4.3, Activity 3.2.12), to increase household income by reducing crop depredation, and providing provide access to financial resources for alternative crop cultivation through the cooperative.

A3.4 Produce awareness-raising materials to spread HWC mitigation and biodiversity conservation messages to the larger public using channels identified under Output 1.
Various information were disseminated to communities throughout Y2 regarding HWC mitigation and wildlife conservation, through information boards, brochures and mounted posters (Annex 4.3, Activity 3.4.2). A handbook on how to behave when encountering wildlifewas also distributed, and local media have amplified real-time HWC related cases to raise awareness of HWC events (Annex 4.3, Activity 3.4.4). These endeavours have helped reach marginalised populations and raise public awareness of the risks of HWC.

A3.5 Pre and post project social and field surveys in the participating communities to ascertain reduction in HWC and measure changes in perception to HWC

A baseline survey to assess the knowledge, attitude and perceptions (KAP) of local communities towards wildlife and HWC was analysed in Y2, (n=904 HHs sampled across 6 PAs). The survey reported 42% of respondents lack measures to protect crops (Indicator 3.3.3); 40% have not adopted any livestock protection measures (Indicator 3.3.4), and 91% report decreasing trends of human injuries, (although 50% from BaNP and 41% from BNP experience increasing trends of human injuries, Indicator 3.3.5). Likewise, rates awareness of appropriate HWC mitigation measures for key species was low (55% for elephants, 26% leopards, 31% rhinoceros and 40% tigers, Indicator 0.2 and 3.3.6), and 20% of respondents report feelings of coexistence with these species (Indicator 3.4).

The baseline survey also calculated the perceived socio-economic vulnerability from HWC in sampled households (0.34 average across all PAs, with the index ranging from 0 – 1, Indicator 0.1) Attitude indices for key wildlife species were also calculated by gender (Males 0.52, Females 0.50), park-wise (BaNP: 0.52; BNP: 0.48; ShNP: 0.47; CNP: 0.52; PNP: 0.51; KTWR: 0.54; Dhanusha: 0.54; and by IPLC (0.48).

Output 4 Mitigation of linear infrastructure and habitat fragmentation on wildlife

A4.1 Relevant stakeholders are engaged to identify gaps and opportunities to link with current mitigation strategies for the negative impacts of linear infrastructure

To foster cross-sector collaboration, stakeholder workshops were held in BaNP and ShNP in Y2 (Annex 4.4, Activity 4.1.1; Table 4.1), involving agencies from irrigation, roads, electricity, protected areas, and local governments, to help sensitise sector agencies in wildlife friendly mitigation measures. These workshops concluded with commitments from stakeholders to implement wildlife friendly construction measures, raise awareness of Nepal's Wildlife-Friendly Linear Infrastructure Guideline (2023), and set up information sharing mechanisms between stakeholders. Following the workshops, working groups to co-design approaches for developing wildlife friendly infrastructure were formed, coordinated by BaNP and ShNP offices (Annex 4.4, Activity 4.1.2; Indicator 4.2). The working group also conducted field visits to BaNP and ShNP and recommended: the construction of ramps at strategic locations to facilitate safe animal crossings; the installation of guided fencing in high wildlife movement areas; the construction of waterholes to discourage wildlife from approaching roads or rivers in search of water; the installation of canopy bridges along highways in ShNP to facilitate road crossings by arboreal species, maintaining databases on wildlife road accidents and canal drownings; the construction of overpasses that mimic natural wilderness; implementing safety measures around siphonage areas; introducing speed breakers or time-card systems along highways to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions. Following these recommendations, a canopy bridge was constructed in ShNP to support wildlife movement (Annex 4.4, Activity 4.1.2).

A4.2 Assessment of impact on wildlife of current and proposed linear infrastructures in the three national parks.

In Y2, an assessment of the use of seven wildlife overpasses constructed in the Mahakali Irrigation Project Phase III canal running through ShNP was completed. This canal fragments a continuous 3.65 km stretch of habitat, necessitating the construction of overpasses, however the use of these passes was not well understood. Camera traps were deployed either side of each overpass to assess the effectiveness of the overpasses in terms of wildlife movement, with the preliminary findings showing use by a wide range of wildlife, which were shared during workshops with sectoral agencies in Y2 (Activity 4.1.1).

A4.4 Produce best practices recommendations for ShNP, BNP and BaNP based on the project learning for mitigating the impact of linear infrastructure on wildlife.

A linear infrastructure specialist assessed wildlife-friendly mitigation measures along the Sikta Irrigation Canal (BaNP) and Mahakali Irrigation Canal (ShNP) (Annex 4.4, Activity 4.4), and produced the following observations and recommendations:

- The Mahakali Irrigation Canal includes wildlife-friendly structures; however, these structures require regular maintenance and improvements to comply with the 2023 Guideline.
- Mahakali Phase II lacks dedicated structures but has made efforts to improve wildlife movement (ramps, overpasses). Many of these are poor standard, with overpasses posing risks due to proximity to postal highways. Integrated mitigation is needed, including functional siphons with trash racks and escape ramps.
- The Sikta Irrigation Project (Western & Eastern) lacks purpose-built wildlife-friendly structures. Existing features (ramps, overpasses, siphons, trash racks, staircases, and guiding fences) are mostly inadequate/ damaged. Ramps are scarce, overpasses resemble village bridges, and the absence of trash racks and functional ramps near siphons increases risks for wildlife.
- Waterholes are needed due to water scarcity.

- The eastern section should incorporate lessons learned from the western section.

These findings will be shared with DNPWC, Department of Roads, and Department of Irrigation to integrate wildlife-friendly measures into future linear infrastructure designs.

A4.5 Strengthen wildlife response team led by Bardia NP, with two representatives from satellite sites (ShNP and BaNP).
To strengthen the capacity of wildlife rescue teams, training was provided to 49 wildlife veterinarians and technicians of DNPWC and NTNC, covering species-specific handling and care health needs, and a learning visit to Sariska Tiger Reserve, India (Annex 4.4, Table 4.2). As part of this activity, ZSLs UK-based experts in Wildlife Health, Wildlife Veterinary services, Conservation Education and Evidence-based Animal Care visited Nepal in November 2024, to meet animal care and wildlife response experts from DNPWC, NTNC and Park authorities, to understand the current challenges with rescue, rehabilitation and management of wildlife. Following the visit, the UK team prepared an action plan for supporting Nepalese counterparts in strengthening rescue care and rehabilitation, through training exercises, keeper/veterinarian exchanges, and support for designing wildlife holding centres, which will be implemented in future years of the project.

A4.6 Strengthen existing post rescue structures in the three parks through meeting the parks' infrastructural and equipment needs.
A holding case was constructed in ShNP to increase the capacity of the park to manage rescued conflict tigers. Likewise, existing holding cases in BNP and BaNP were upgraded (Annex 4.4, Activity 4.6.1). Along with the construction of new holding cage, a detailed layout plan and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the ShNP rescue center was prepared. Various tools, gears, and wildlife medicines were provided to park offices to equip the wildlife rescue teams with necessary materials. In this reporting period, four tigers, three leopards, three crocodiles, one rhinoceros, and six spotted deer were rescued by the team in BNP. Likewise, two tigers were captured and rescued in ShNP; and 34 species were rescued, in BaNP. One captured tiger in ShNP was kept in an upgraded holding cage in BaNP. Altogether there are 19 conflict tigers in captivity across Nepal in holding cages, which represent an important tool for the Government of Nepal in the management of conflict tigers.

A4.8 Improve DNPWC's existing institutional capacity regarding post-rescue management of wildlife.
DNPWC is revising the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulations to address gaps in post-rescue management. Likewise, a guideline on Wildlife Rescue and Rescue Centre Operations was drafted in Y2 and is undergoing DNPWC approval (Annex 4.4, Activity 4.8.1).

Output 5: Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife
A5.1 Stakeholders including PAs, NGOs, BZUC and CSOs are engaged to co-design approaches to improve wildlife habitat management.
A workshop was organised to engage park personnel, BZUC members, and implementing partners, and co-design approaches for improving wildlife habitat management (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.1.1, Table 5.1). During the workshop stakeholders agreed that improving habitat quality within the PAs is likely to encourage wildlife to remain inside PAs, therefore reducing HWC, and strongly recommend conducting regular habitat management in support of this.

A5.2 Collaborate with PA authorities to better manage priority habitats identified within the three PAs.
In Y2, 185 ha of grasslands were maintained in three PAs (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.2.1, Table 5.2); three new waterholes with solar water pumping systems were created, and three existing waterholes were maintained (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.2.2, Table 5.3). Likewise, ~123 km of fire-line was maintained in three PAs (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.2.3, Table 5.4). Bushes and tall grasses on a 10 km stretch of highway through BNP were cleared to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

A5.3 Strengthen PA's existing capacity to monitor key species (Tiger, Elephant, Browsing species) within the PAs.
The project facilitated ecological monitoring of tiger and prey-bases in BaNP in Y2. Before camera trap deployment as per the National Tiger Monitoring Protocol 2017, an orientation was given to the field technicians, HWCx champions, PA game scouts and university students to prepare them for the exercise. In addition, 241 front line park staff (32 female) were trained to handle, use and deploy conservation technologies and spot wildlife (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.3.4, 5.3.5, Table 5.5, and 5.6), 53% of the 5.3.2 Indicator target. Gharial monitoring was conducted in BaNP and ShNP, with seven gharials spotted in BaNP.

A5.4 Build on existing PA infrastructure and equipment within the three parks to improve management effectiveness.
This year, 50 non-GSM cameras (Cuddeback Trail-Model G-5048) and 15 Reconyx HyperFire 2 cameras were procured and used during camera trapping surveys (Activity 4.4.2; 5.3.1; 5.5.2; 5.5.3). Furthermore, 30 GSM-enabled cameras procured in Y1 were used by park offices to monitor problematic wildlife in fringe areas of NPs. Likewise, vehicles provided to the park in Y1 supported wildlife rescue operations in Y2, while one visitor information centre was renovated in BaNP (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.4.4) and firefighting equipment was provided to three PAs to enhance park preparedness for wildfires (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.4.4 and 5.4.8).

A5.5 Collaborate with stakeholders (PAs, conservation partners, universities) to promote studies towards strengthening the conservation effectiveness of each PA.
Occupancy and camera trap surveys were completed in the Kamdi and Boom-Brahmadev wildlife corridors in Y2, to assess the functionality of the corridors for wildlife movement (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.5.2). Kamdi Corridor links BaNP with Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, India, and the Boom-Brahmadev corridor connects ShNP with the Mahabharat range and Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, India. The final analysis is underway and will be shared in coming reporting periods. Likewise, camera traps were deployed in strategic waterholes, manged grasslands, fire-lines, and fringe areas of PAs, to assess prey species habitat requirements and produce recommendations for habitat management interventions. As an in-depth study, the project facilitated the radio-collar study of spotted deer in BNP to assess habitat utilisation patterns, with preliminary findings suggesting a preference for open grasslands near water sources, and riverine and *Shorea* forests. Habitat preference appears to vary by season and will be assessed further, (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.5.3, informing future management recommendations.

A5.6 Improve upon existing recommendations and policies to incorporate changes following the results of National Tiger Survey 2022.
In Y2, a report was compiled in support of designating the ShNP lake cluster a Ramsar Site of international importance. These lakes are a biodiversity hotspot and a vital resource for local communities, and designating this site as a Ramsar Site would safeguard biodiversity, promote sustainable management, enhance conservation funding, and open opportunities for ecotourism in ShNP. This report will be discussed further by DNPWC (Annex 4.5, Act 5.6.2).

In addition, the Operational Plans (OP) of eight BZCFS were revised in Y2 (3 BaNP, five ShNP), which have been endorsed by park authorities and are effective for five years (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.6.3, Table 5.7). Likewise, a series of workshops organised to sensitise BZUC and BZCF committee members on roles, responsibilities, and the authority of the CFUG committee, policy and management provisions specified in the legislation of CFs, and the role of CFUGs in mitigating HWC were completed, attended by 251 BZUC and BZCF executive committee members (80 female) (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.6.4, Table 5.8).

A5.7 Understand the impact of project interventions on the retention of wildlife within protected areas to assess effectiveness of intervention.
Camera traps were deployed around waterholes and grassland managed in 3 PAs to assess the utilisation pattern of managed grasslands and constructed waterholes by wildlife. The camera trap data is under analysis and will be shared in Y3 to insights on seasonal utilisation by wildlife (Annex 4.5, Activity 5.7.2).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs
Output 1: Foundations set for upscaling HWCx
HWCx focal persons were appointed and institutionalised in 3 PAs (Activity 1.1.2, Ind 1.1.1) as conduits of HWC information exchange, and 100 HWCx champions are mobilised within the project site to reduce HWC through training (Activity 1.4.1; 1.5.1) and field gear (Activity 1.4.2). An information sharing platform was created to establish linkages between wildlife rescue response teams and HWCx champions (Indicator 1.2.3), setting a foundation for improving the flow of information between the groups (Indicator 1.2.4). Following stakeholders' meetings (Activity 1.2.1), the effectiveness of existing HWC mitigation measures was assessed and recommendations drafted for policy feedback for HWC best practices guidelines (Activity 1.2.3). Based on these activities, 20 BZUC level HWC mitigation plans were prepared (Activity 3.2.8). Existing HWC insurance schemes were identified, and a public liability insurance (PLI) pilot has been agreed for implementation in Y3 (Activity 1.8, Indicator 1.4), alongside individual livestock insurance schemes for community's members (Indicator 1.4.1; 1.4.3, following consultations with insurance companies. 8,100 individuals were also reached through various awareness campaigns led by HWCx champions, (Indicator 1.3, Activity 1.7.1; 1.7.2; 1.7.3). These achievements contribute to reducing the rate of serious encounters between wildlife and people, thereby enabling improved conditions for human-wildlife coexistence.

Output 2: Livelihood investments to break the cycle of poverty

Following stakeholder meetings (Activity 2.1.2), livelihood resources (products/services) were mapped and market value chains for the identified products/services assessed (Activity 2.2.1; indicator 2.1.2). 37 new community banks have been established and 17 existing community banks were strengthened. engaging 5,382 HHs members (Activity 2.3.1, 2.3.2). Likewise, 2153 CB members benefitted from agriculture related activities (Activity 2.4.2; 2.4.3; 2.4.5; 2.4.6; and 2.4.7, Indicator 2.2.1), and 1,783 individuals benefited from livestock related activities (Activity 2.5.1; 2.5.2; 2.5.3; and 2.5.4, Indicator 2.2.2), and the capacity of 43 individuals to provide ecotourism services was enhanced (Activity 2.6.2; 2.6.4, Indicator 2.3.2). 91 HWCx champion members received vocational skills training (Activity 2.7.2; 2.7.3; 2.7.4, Indicator 2.3.1). All these activities will help to increase baseline average monthly income of beneficiaries of NPR 14,921/HH by 20% by project end (Indicator 2.4).

Output 3: HWC mitigation investments for communities and BZUCs

The effectiveness of HWC mitigation interventions against high conflict species was documented (Activity 1.2.1; 1.2.3) and incorporated in BZUC level HWC mitigation plans (Activity 3.2). Following stakeholder meetings, pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures were implemented, benefitting 4,222 HHs (Activity 3.2.1- 3.2.6, Indicator 3.3.1). Similarly, a baseline survey of HWC mitigation beneficiaries was completed (Activity 3.5), to track the achievements of HWC-related targets (Ind 3.3.3, Ind 3.3.4, Ind 3.3.5, Ind 3.3.6, Ind 3.5, and Ind 3.4).

Output 4: Mitigation effects of linear infrastructure and habitat fragmentation on wildlife

Following stakeholder workshops (Activity 4.1.1), working group for co-designing approaches (Activity 4.1.2) were formed in BaNP and ShNP (Indicator 4.3.1 and 4.4). Regular camera trapping studies assessed the effectiveness of wildlife friendly measures on wildlife movement (Activity 4.4), helping to produce best practices recommendations. Wildlife veterinarian and technicians of DNPWC and NTNC were capacitated on wildlife rescue and handling (Activity 4.5, Indicator 4.5), while one new tiger holding cage was constructed at ShNP, and two existing tiger holding cages (BNP, BaNP) were renovated (Activity 4.6.1) along with medicine and equipment support for wildlife rescue activities (Activity 4.6.3), contributing to the achievement of Indicator 4.5.1. A wildlife rescue and operation of rescue centre guideline was also drafted (Activity 4.8.1). All these endeavours will contribute to ensuring evidence-based planning and capacity improvement of PA in wildlife rescue, care and handling.

Output 5: Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife

To enhance the management effectiveness of three parks and to comply with CA|TS accreditation requirements (Indicator 0.7; 5.3.2), 241 park staff were capacitated on use of conservation technology (Activity 5.3.4) to improve understanding of wildlife behaviour (Activity 5.3.5, Indicator 5.3.2). In addition, habitat management interventions were also carried out in 3 PAs (Activity 5.2.1; 5.2.2; 5.2.3, Indicators 5.2.1, 5.2.2, and 5.2.3) One visitor information centre was renovated in BaNP (Activity 5.4.4, Indicator 5.3.3). Likewise, the functionality of key corridors was assessed (Activity 5.2.2), and an assessment was completed in support of the declaration of the ShNP lakes as a Ramsar Site (Activity 5.6.2). These interventions contribute directly to improving the habitat quality and improving the capacity of PA staff to manage PAs.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Significant progress has been made to improve the wellbeing among the project beneficiaries via livelihood initiatives, from the establishment of new (37), or existing (17) community banks, enabling access to finance for 5,382 HH members (Activity 2.3), support for agriculture and livestock-based enterprises (Activities 2.4 and 2.5), market chain analysis and linkup (Activity 2.2), and skill development (Activity 2.7). HWC mitigation activities have also benefitted over 4,200 households (Activity 3.1; 3.2), through the establishment of QRFs (Activity 1.6), the development of HWC mitigation plans (Activity 1.2; 3.1) or the mobilisation of HWCx Champions for community-level activities (Activity 1.1; 1.4; 1.5; 1.6). Collectively, these community-level interventions are expected to strengthen the capacities of over 12,000 households to mitigate HWC, reduce poverty, and foster a stronger sense of coexistence.

Similarly targeted investments have been made to strengthen PA management effectiveness, via capacity building activities for park staff, in using conservation technology, wildlife rescue and handling (Activity 5.3; 4.5), construction of tiger holding cages (Activity 4.6; 4.8), habitat management (Activity 5.2), regular monitoring of tigers and prey species in core, fringe, and corridor areas (Activity 5.3; 5.5), and assessment of effectiveness of wildlife friendly mitigation measures in linear infrastructures within PA (Activity 4.1; 4.2; 4.4).

Based on Y2 progress, the project is well-positioned to achieve its intended outcome by the end of the funding period.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome/ Output	Important Assumptions	Comments
Outcome	Human-Wildlife Conflict remains a priority challenge for Nepal government post doubling of tiger numbers and increasing of other globally threatened species.	Holds true.
	The size of the protected areas continues to remain the same.	Holds true.
	Habitat fragmentation within PAs continues as linear infrastructure (development aspirations) across the PA system continues to be proposed and developed.	With the enforcement of wildlife friendly linear infrastructure guideline, all future linear infrastructure development proposed within PAs will incorporate HWC mitigation measures.
	Climate change will increasingly shift tiger habitat northwards as temperature increases.	Holds true.
	Multi-dimensional poverty continues to be a challenge for community members living alongside protected areas.	Holds true. Baseline survey data indicates average monthly incomes of sampled households is >NPR 15,000.
	Disadvantaged groups (women, indigenous people, people with physical disability) face barriers to better income making livelihood options necessary.	Holds true. The project aims to positively reach these disadvantaged groups through inclusion in the project.
	Community members remain supportive of biodiversity conservation and are willing to participate and such support increases over the lifetime of the project.	Holds true in context of active project participation and engagement in conservation activities despite increasing HWC in the project site.
	Populations of key wildlife species will respond positively to reduced HWC (reduced stress, fewer retaliatory injuries, and killings), improved habitat management, and overall improvements in PA management effectiveness.	Holds true.
Output 1	Structural barriers to institutionalising HWC mitigation at the PA-BZ interface are present.	HWC mitigation is a priority for PA and BZ institutions, however, due to resources constraints, difficulties remain in sustaining HWC mitigation measures long-term
	PA and BZUCs are willing to improve their HWC reduction strategies.	Holds true. BZUC level HWC mitigation plans have been prepared to institutionalise interventions and increase opportunities for co-financing HWC mitigation measures
	CBAPUs are willing to reform their organisation to include HWC reduction as guiding principle.	Holds true.
	BZUCs are willing to match ZSL's contribution in creating a conduit of HWC reduction unit through providing focal points labour.	Holds true. A focal person has been designated to act as a conduit in three BZMC of three PAS.
	Awareness and behavioural change programmes increase community members' sense of resilience to HWC thus improving attitudes to wildlife recovery.	Holds true.
	Insurance companies are willing to engage in new areas and interest by communities is at sufficient scale for initial discussions to be explored.	Insurance companies are willing to engage in livestock insurance, but difficulties remain in engagement with household level crop insurance.
	Community members in HWC-afflicted areas around the 6 PAs are willing and able to take-up opportunities to insure their crops and livestock against HWC.	Massive HWC insurance literacy outreach programmes are needed to sensitise community members to engage in HWC insurance schemes.
Output 2	Below average income is a persistent problem within the project communities and is one of the major barriers to reducing multi-dimensional poverty.	Holds true.

Outcome/ Output	Important Assumptions	Comments
	Community banks remain one of the most efficient ways of engaging communities in livelihood improvement schemes as demonstrated in previous ZSL Nepal projects (DI-26-012, 24-015, 22-009) and are particularly appropriate for disadvantaged groups (that include, but are not limited to, women, people with physical disability, and indigenous groups).	Holds true. With the engagement of local government, community banks will be sustainable and accountable to local governance structures as a platform for providing financial resources for small scale livelihood activities.
	Natural resource dependency is one of the major sources of livelihoods for communities in the project landscape.	Although traditionally high, the baseline survey showed decreasing trends in natural resource dependency due to changes in social and economic dimensions (youth out-migration, availability of LPG).
	Avenues to improved livelihood are limited for those from vulnerable groups (women, physically disabled, and Indigenous people).	Holds true. The project is positively supporting vulnerable groups with livelihood interventions.
	Foreign exchange rate fluctuations are buffered sufficiently in the budget.	Holds true. With exchange gains during Y2, HWC mitigation measures, CB, QRF) were scaled up using Fx savings to maximise project impact.
Output 3	HWC reduction remains a priority area for the DNPWC to invest in.	Holds true.
	HWC incidents occurring primarily in human settlements within 1 km of forest borders are a motivating factor for community participation.	Holds true.
	Vulnerable groups within the communities are currently highly dependent on natural resources from the forest as supplements to their livelihoods.	Although traditionally high, the baseline survey showed decreasing trends in natural resource dependency due to changes in social and economic dimensions (youth out-migration, availability of LPG).
	Low levels of exposure to and awareness of effective HWC mitigation measures limit capacities of communities to implement best practices for HWC mitigation.	Holds true. The study conducted in Y2 confirmed this finding.
Output 4	Data and recommendations inform linear infrastructure construction/upgrades and associated mitigation interventions for key species in time for reducing drivers of HWC and for cost-effective measures to be taken by relevant departments and budget allocations.	Recommendation documents are being prepared, and co-working groups have been formed to engage sectoral agencies, who show interest and enthusiasm for integration of wildlife friendly mitigation measures in infrastructure development. The wildlife friendly linear infrastructure guideline provides opportunities for the integration of wildlife friendly measures in future infrastructure development.
	Climate extremes do not cause a high level of extraneous effects to severely hamper data collection about key crossings.	Holds true. Data is being collected on wildlife crossings through camera traps.
	Budget allocations by relevant departments and infrastructure development banks continue to reflect interest in funding mitigation of the effects of linear infrastructure effects during and after the project's lifetime.	New linear infrastructures that are either proposed or under construction (e.g. Mahakali III irrigation project) have budget and scope for the inclusion of wildlife friendly measures. However, the existing infrastructure projects (e.g., Sikta and Mahakali II) do not.
Output 5	Avenues exist to complement the activities of existing projects (government and other I/NGOs) within the three protected areas to magnify conservation outcomes.	Holds true. The project supports the implementation of PA management plans, which the government invests in to strengthen PA management effectiveness.
	The PA authorities are willing to provide staff to participate in project activities.	Holds true.

Outcome/ Output	Important Assumptions	Comments
	The quality of habitat and resources within PAs are a limiting factor in supporting the increasing population of wildlife.	Holds true. The project invests in grassland and waterhole management and capacity building training for PA staff, therefore contributing to habitat quality improvements within PAs.
	Climate change continues to alter the intensity and frequency of natural disasters (fire, drought, flash floods) within the protected areas, requiring management to mitigate its effects.	Holds true. Flood, forest fire, and invasive species continue to affect project PAs.
	Management effectiveness of PA staff is a limiting factor for managing the increasing wildlife within the PAs, necessitating capacity building.	Holds true.

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

The stated goal of this project is to ensure the "wellbeing of buffer zone and corridor human communities, and the status of globally significant wildlife populations, are secured through improved management capabilities of Nepal's PA authorities and other government agencies." This goal supports initiatives led by the Government of Nepal to strengthen the interface between biodiversity conservation and human development and to improve human-wildlife coexistence across Nepal in the context of increasing human and animal populations. While the project alone cannot deliver long-term coexistence between people and wildlife across the entire TAL, the project contributes to the enabling conditions - such as improved institutional capacity, enhanced community resilience, and better coordination between stakeholders - that are essential for securing both biodiversity and human well-being in the landscape.

The project supports biodiversity conservation by reducing threats to wildlife. The implementation of co-designed HWC mitigation measures in identified HWC hotspots has helped reduce wildlife incursions into settlements and agricultural areas, therefore reducing HWC and creating the foundation for improved community attitudes towards wildlife. Furthermore, the project has supported the establishment of multi-stakeholder working groups for the purpose of co-designing wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure, sensitising sectoral agencies, and encouraging the integration of mitigation measures in future development planning. Investments in species monitoring, habitat management, and improved institutional capacity of park authorities in wildlife rescue and handling, contribute to more informed and adaptive conservation efforts, ensuring long-term ecological integrity of PAs.

The project contributes to poverty reduction and improved well-being of buffer zone and corridor communities by enhancing economic resilience and reducing the vulnerability of households affected by HWC. Key interventions have included the establishment of community banks linked with local governments to ensure sustainability and co-financing, skill-based training to promote local employment, and targeted livelihood support (e.g., livestock and agriculture inputs) for vulnerable households. The introduction of a QRF provides immediate relief following conflict incidents, reducing the financial burden of HWC upon affected families. These measures collectively strengthen household income, food security, and social protection, aligning with multidimensional poverty reduction goals.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

During the reporting period, the project has contributed to Nepal's commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Pledge.

The project contributes to several goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal GBF adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as:

- Target 4 (HWC) through locally co-designed HWC mitigation strategies including siren systems, community monitoring groups, and buffer zone-based response mechanisms, which serve as practical models aligned with this target.
- Target 10 (Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture) through diversifying and strengthening sustainable livelihoods for local communities - particularly marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples and women, to guarantee the equitable sharing of benefits derived from biodiversity.

- Target 22 (Gender Equality and Inclusion) by embedding social inclusion and gender equity in the project; >50% of project's beneficiaries are women, and the wellbeing ranking system used for project inclusion ensures participation vulnerable groups (Category C and D households, Dalits, persons with disabilities), supporting inclusive conservation governance.

Likewise, the project contributes Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- SDG 1 (No Poverty), through livelihood diversification, community banking, and income generation initiatives, to increase household incomes and reduced economic vulnerability.
- SDG 15 (Life on Land), by reducing threats to wildlife, maintaining ecosystem connectivity, and restoring critical habitats, contributing to sustainable ecosystem management.

In addition to international commitments, the project directly contributes to national policies, strategies, and action plans such as the Protected Area Management Strategy (2022 – 2030), Strategy and Action Plan: Terai Arc Landscape (2015 - 2025), Tiger Conservation and Action Plan (2023 – 2032), and Protected Area Management Plans for BaNP, BNP, and ShNP.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project focusses upon reducing HWC and poverty in 12,265 HHs in lowland Nepal. The project's beneficiaries reside in PA buffer zones, in communities including marginalised groups (e.g. Indigenous Tharu people, Scheduled Castes, women, disabled), who are among the poorest and most HWC-vulnerable in the TAL, explained by low resilience for bouncing back from HWC, low socioeconomic status due to limited livelihood options, low education, and inefficient market linkages. The project guarantees the inclusion of vulnerable groups as beneficiaries by selecting beneficiaries via CFUG wellbeing rankings, which determine >50% of beneficiaries are women, and most are selected from categories C and D of wellbeing rankings, defined as groups most vulnerable to HWC and with the most precarious livelihoods. The list of selected participants is validated by BZUCs, ensuring the participation of the most vulnerable people. By focussing interventions on the poorest and most vulnerable communities, this project aims to deliver maximum impact in terms of reducing poverty.

In Y2, the project strengthened and diversified livelihood opportunities available to community members, through community banking initiatives and training in new livelihoods, to initiate new income generating activities for diversifying income streams and building greater economic resilience (Indicator 2.2, 2.4). New livelihood activities will be linked to markets and private sector businesses in future years for value chain exercises (Indicator 2.1.2 and Ind 2.1.3) and this, in combination with HWC mitigation and awareness raising activities, will help reduce the impact of HWC in the project sites (Indicator 0.2) while delivering wellbeing improvements (Outcome O.3). These interventions will increase community resilience towards HWC, by improving their ability to absorb its economic cost and by improving aspects of wellbeing such as psychological safety.

Based on the baseline survey, the average monthly income per household was NPR 14,921 (~GBP 90), which the project aims to increase by 20% by project end (Indicator 2.4). In Y2, several activities - including community banking, agriculture and livestock-based livelihood interventions, skill development trainings, and support for eco-tourism - were delivered alongside HWC mitigation measures, which are expected to improve household income, build economic resilience, and reduce perceived vulnerability to HWC (Outcome 0.1). The project adopts a holistic and inclusive approach to poverty reduction, addressing both the economic and social dimensions of vulnerability in HWC-affected communities, therefore laying the foundation for long-term resilience and improved wellbeing.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

	assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

HWC has been identified as a major concern by the Government of Nepal, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable and marginalised populations, particularly women and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). In response, this project was designed with a strong GESI lens and attempts to meet the criteria for a GESI-sensitive and empowering project. The project is informed by an understanding that social identities - such as gender and ethnicity - influence individuals' exposure to HWC risks and access to project benefits. To understand GESI dynamics and to ensure inclusive implementation, the project conducted a baseline survey to understand GESI dynamics across the selected sites. Survey tools were designed with sensitivity to rights, roles, and representation, and included disaggregated questions to capture gender, age, and caste/ethnicity dynamics. This enabled meaningful participation - 62% of respondents in the HWI survey (total sample n=4,391) and 54% in the KAP survey (total sample n=904) were women, with nuances in results between genders well understood. The baseline survey results inform annual activity planning and accordingly, implementation plans are tailored to ensure gender-specificities are considered.

Wellbeing rankings carried out to guide equitable beneficiary selection ensured the inclusion of women in the project. Workshops and meetings were designed to ensure safe spaces for engagement with vulnerable groups (e.g. women, Dalits, and indigenous groups). In Y2, the project reached 8,100 individuals through awareness-raising activities, of which 55% were female and 58% were from IPLCs; 5,382 individuals through community banks (38% female and 53% from IPLCs); 2,153 individuals through agriculture related activities (55% female, 48% IPLC), 1,783 individuals through livestock related activities (51% female and 45% IPLC); 16 females (60% IPLC) through skill development trainings;1,428 female (34%) and 57% from IPLC from HWC mitigation measures and 32 females (13%) through capacity building training for PA staff. These numbers reflect efforts to reach disadvantaged and vulnerable groups to promote equitable access to resources and decision-making. Through GESI-sensitive M&E, grievance mechanisms, and the incorporation of safeguarding principles and beneficiary feedback shared during implementation, the project aims to facilitate the adaptive co-management of activities and continuous learning, with lessons learned from implemented incorporated into future activity design.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project has well-structured mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Day-to-day data collection and activity tracking is carried out by M&E officers, in adherence to the project's internal monitoring plan. Similarly, Project Management Units (PMUs) have been established in each PA to monitor activities at the site level, meeting 8 times in Y2 (3 each in BNP, ShNP and 2 in BaNP, Annex 4.6). At a central level, a Project Coordination Committee (PCC) led by the DNPWC monitors the delivery of project activities, with the PCC meeting 2 times in Y2 to discuss progress and provide suggestions for adaptive management (Annex 4.6). To measure project progress against key socio-economic indicators, a baseline survey report was finalised to give baseline values for the relevant project indicators. In addition, monitoring of field implementation was conducted at PCC level, PMU level, by the ZSL team (Annex 4.6), and by a DEFRA team in Y2. ZSLs wildlife care experts also completed a monitoring visit of tiger rescue centres at BNP, to shape how capacity building and facility upgrade activities will be delivered in future. Quarterly progress reviews and reflection meetings between implementing partners throughout Y2 ensured activities were delivered in line with indicator targets (Annex 4.6). Finally, the newly revised Darwin Standard Indicators 2.0 have also been mapped to the existing project logframe indicators during this reporting period (Annex 4.12), and activity and beneficiary data collection and management has continued. At the end of Y2, the project's M&E plan and monitoring frameworks remain effective and operational, to remain in place in Y3.

8. Lessons learnt

Linking community banks with local government has created strong foundations for ensuring the sustainability and provides opportunities for co-financing for banks. Co-designed HWC mitigation measures proved effective in addressing conflict in HWC hotspots by enabling the implementation of context-appropriate solutions. Skill-based training empowered community members by creating local employment opportunities, while QRFs ensure timely support following HWC incidents. The formation of a working group on wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure helped raise awareness among sectoral agencies and build momentum for integrating appropriate mitigation measures into infrastructure planning. Safeguarding and grievance-handling workshops further sensitised local communities to the benefits and

limitations of project activities. Quarterly review meetings with implementing partners provided a platform to track progress, address challenges proactively, and ensure milestone targets were met. Additionally, database management and effective M&E was recognised as essential for quantifying achievements against targets and presenting disaggregated data.

However, some challenges persisted. Crop insurance has proved difficult to implement so far due to small landholdings of beneficiaries, diverse cropping systems, and limited interest from insurance companies to fund large-scale buffer zone insurance schemes - highlighting the need for more tailored engagement with insurance companies to find adequate solutions. Similarly, discussions regarding the retrofitting of existing infrastructure with wildlife-friendly features have highlighted financial and institutional barriers to implementation, reinforcing the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations in the initial infrastructure planning and design phases.

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

The project states that "…By focussing interventions on the poorest and most vulnerable communities, this project aims to deliver maximum impact in terms of reducing poverty...", it is unclear what impact this may have on communities who are not included as beneficiaries. It would be useful to understand how the project is dealing with excluding HHs from the buffer zones who do not fall into these categories and if the project envisages any risks associated with this exclusion.	While the project prioritises the poorest and most vulnerable households to ensure maximum impact on poverty reduction and HWC vulnerability, it also supports other buffer zone households. Many interventions such as awareness campaigns, HWCx Champions, species monitoring, community-wide mitigation measures, and QRF are designed to benefit entire communities, not only selected beneficiaries. To manage potential exclusion risks, the project works closely with BZUCs and community institutions to ensure transparency in beneficiary selection and to avoid social tensions caused by selection. Safeguarding and grievance handling related meetings/workshops help to mitigate any risks associated with the exclusion of households or communities from project interventions. Where possible, inclusive participation in planning processes and community banks are ensured, and co-financing opportunities are being explored to scale-up successful models, to expand them or ensure adoption by local governments. The project will continue to monitor and assess any unintended efforts of exclusion and make necessary adjustments to maintain equity and social cohesion across buffer zone communities.
Please identify the source of expected match funds of £211,866 by the end of the project.	ZSLs will provide £211,866 in match funds through the contributions of staff time, and complementary initiatives under other ZSL projects such as ITHCP and CONNECT.

10. Risk Management

New risks identified in Y2 cover difficulties experience faced with implementing crop insurance schemes, which insurance companies have shown little interest in funding at a buffer-zone wide scale, necessitating the need for further engagement with insurance companies to find adequate solutions. Similarly, the retrofitting of existing infrastructure with wildlife-friendly features has been highlighted as a financial and institutional challenge by stakeholders, which is beyond the control of this project. Continue engagement with the relevant sector agencies in Y3will hopefully explore some solutions for these barriers.

In addition, progress toward Indicator 0.6 (population status) has so far only focused tiger and prey base monitoring, and delivering Indicator 0.7 (CA|TS accreditation) may be difficult within the project timeframe- although the project contributes meaningfully through staff capacity building, enhanced rescue infrastructure, and habitat management - final CA|TS accreditation is beyond the project's direct control. Also, completing the development of the tiger holding cage in ShNP proved challenging due to misalignment between the Government of Nepal's fiscal year and the project's fiscal calendar, however, through coordination and follow-up with relevant stakeholders, this activity was completed in Y2.

11. Scalability and durability

Stakeholders, including local governments, BZUCs, and communities, have been actively engaged in the project via participatory planning, regular consultations, and collaborative implementation. This has helped them understand the benefits, costs, and long-term value of activities. The community banks are now endorsed by and registered with local government agencies, ensuring governance, sustainability, and the potential for co-financing and replication by government. Similarly, QRFs are fully owned and managed by BZUCs and national parks, with annual audits in place to ensure transparency and accountability. Co-developed HWC mitigation plans have created a platform for joint action and co-financing among key stakeholders, which allows for the scaling and sustainability of the project's interventions.

With the government agreeing to cover 80% of the proposed livestock PLI, the scheme is highly replicable and can be scaled up to protect livestock against wildlife losses. Activities like bio-fencing, skill-based training, and PPC have demonstrated immediate utility, increasing household resilience and income - making them attractive for adoption by local government. HWCx Champions have become local advocates, shifting community attitudes and enhancing possibilities for coexistence. The project has contributed to ongoing policy dialogue on HWC insurance and wildlife-friendly mitigation measures in linear infrastructures, aligning with national conservation priorities and influencing wildlife-friendly infrastructure design.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

Darwin Initiative and UKAID has been publicised at all three tiers of the project's work (central , PA and community level) During inception, Darwin Initiative and UKAID were acknowledged as the donor funding agencies during all workshops and consultation meetings. Minutes of all PPC, PMU and community-level activities carry the Darwin Initiative name to ensure visibility during project activities. To ensure the visibility of the Darwin Initiative in the project, the Darwin Initiative and UKAID logos are placed on all project infrastructure, vehicles, banners, hoarding boards, brochures and other communication materials.

13. Safeguarding

[redacted]

[redacted]

With sound experience in ensuring social and environmental safeguards during project implementation, several safeguarding-related documents were prepared and integrated into project implementation in Year 2 including a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol (Annex 4.7.1) and a Grievance Handling Mechanism (Annex 4.7.2), that help ensure transparency, accountability, and community empowerment during implementation.

14. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[redacted]			
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£1,466,677.00	£1,466,677.00		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)	[redacted]		In-kind staff salary contributions, Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) project, connecting communities and ecosystem in Shuklaphanta National Park (CONNECT) project
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	[redacted]		TBC

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

To maintain momentum toward milestone achievements, a change request was submitted in Y2 to bring forward Y3 funds into Y2 for the establishment of community banks (community banks) and the Quick Response Fund (QRF), and to bring more of ZSLs wildlife health experts to Nepal to assess existing wildlife rescue and rehabilitation services. This adjustment enabled early identification and finalisation of households to receive support, ensuring that these beneficiary groups are supported for a longer duration of the project's timeframe, and ensured more of ZSLs technical experts can guide the delivery of capacity building initiatives in wildlife care and rescue under this project. These changes lay a strong foundation for enhancing well-being and increasing household income for direct beneficiaries, while also improving activities focussed upon improving wildlife care and rescue across Nepal.

Additionally, savings from foreign exchange rate fluctuations allowed the project to install additional mesh wire fencing (exceeding indicator target by 1700m), topping up 5 additional community banks (beyond target of 12), and establish 7 QRFs beyond the project's target. The high impact envisioned interventions

such as this is demonstrated in the national and local print media releases disseminating project progress to wider audiences (Annex 4.8).

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

ZSL agrees for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes. ZSL wishes to promote the impact of one livelihood intervention delivered by Ujayalo Nepal, in driving training (Activity 2.6.2, Indicator 2.3.1), via the story below:

Driving towards a better future
Raju Chaudhary, from Barbardiya-9, Khairani, in the Bhada Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) of Bardiya National Park, always dreamed of building a better future for his family.

An active member of the Community-Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) and Khairani Alternative Livelihood Group in his community, until a few years back Raju's family was dependent on subsistence agriculture, often raided by wild herbivores. Due to this conflict, he sought alternative income streams that were more dependable. When he learned about a driving training opportunity offered through Ujyalao Nepal, the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) implementing partner under DAREX008, he immediately approached Bhada BZUC and requested to be nominated for the training. which he successfully completed. Following completion of the government driving exams, Raju obtained his driving license and began his new career. Inspired by his new skills, an idea struck him – why not purchase an e-auto rickshaw for public transportation services? Turning that dream into reality wasn't easy; with limited resources, he considered asking his wife to mortgage her wedding jewellery to raise the funds needed. But his wife, valuing the sentimental importance of her jewellery, kindly declined.

Determined not to give up, Raju explored other options and took a soft loan of NRs. 100,000 at a 6% interest rate from the Khairani Alternative Livelihood Group – the group formed through the financial support of DAREX008. With the loan, Raju bought an e-auto rickshaw and started his journey as a driver. His hard work soon began to show results; in 2024, through DAREX008, ZSL supported Raju to purchase a durable battery for his e-auto rickshaw, which proved to be a turning point—the improved battery life meant fewer maintenance costs and longer hours of service, meaning Raju could earn a better income.

Today, Raju earns around NRs. 50,000 to 60,000 (~GBP 350) per month from his e-auto rickshaw. With a proud smile, he says, *"I have been working hard. I think I do not need to go abroad in search of a job. This auto rickshaw has been my lucky charm. Now, I can start thinking about improving my family's well-being through my savings."*

Raju's story is an example of when determination meets opportunity, transformative change is possible. His journey not only demonstrates the impact of livelihood support interventions under DAREX008 but also inspires others in his community to pursue local, dignified livelihoods.

File Type	File Name or Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received
Image	Annex 4.9	Raju Chaudhary riding his e-rickshaw		Yes
Image	Annex 4.10(uploaded as separate annex)	Mr and Mrs Chaudhary posing with the e-rickshaw		Yes

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Well-being of buffer zone and corridor human communities, and status of globally significant wildlife populations, are secured through improved management capabilities of Nepal's Protected Area authorities and other government agencies.	HWC mitigation interventions and livelihoods support programmes have been initiated for 8,158 of the project's intended 12,225 community beneficiaries, whilst interventions supporting the conservation of key wildlife species (e.g. corridor assessments, linear infrastructure impact assessments, grassland management) have been completed. The relevant government agencies and conservation stakeholders are fully engaged in the project and will continue to be supported to enhance conditions for human-wildlife coexistence in the TAL.	[redacted]
Outcome Capabilities strengthened for 12,265 households and three Protected Areas to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and poverty, with investments in proactive-and-tested solutions for better management of increasing and dispersing wildlife species.		
Outcome indicator 0.1. 40% reduction in perceived economic and social vulnerability from HWC in 5000 HHs in 3 project PAs in the landscape (Bardia National Park (BNP), Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) and Banke National Park (BaNP)) by the end of the project.	0.1 Species-specific, pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures co-designed and implemented through community and stakeholder consultations, directly benefiting over 4,200 households: establishment of QRFs in the project site, 20 BZUC level and two PA level (BaNP ShNP) HWC mitigation plans were completed. These activities expected to contribute significantly toward reducing perceived socio-economic vulnerability to HWC by 40% (baseline value = 0.34).	0.1. HWC mitigation measures will be implemented in HWC hotspot and as per BZUC level HWC mitigation plan.
Outcome indicator 0.2. 70% of 900 surveyed households in 3 project PAs and indirect beneficiaries in 3 additional PAs report lessened impacts of HWC due to improved knowledge of real examples of preventative and locally appropriate actions (compared to Y1 baseline) by the end of the project.	0.2 Baseline values established for levels of knowledge on appropriate HWC mitigation measures for 4 priority HWC species. BZUC-level consultations assessed the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures and helped developed 20 BZUC and 2 PA HWC mitigation plans HWCx champions engaged to lead for awareness raising and HWC data collection efforts.	0.2 The baseline value for 3 PAs and for indirect beneficiaries in 3 additional PAs will be calculated from the baseline survey.

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Outcome indicator 0.3. 60% of 7,265 HHs (selected through consultation with BZUC chairs and participatory meetings and baseline surveys show) at least a 40% improvement in the wellbeing index (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of the project with: - 60% of the community bank members (ca 135 per community bank and at least 52 banks) showing at least a 40% increase in wellbeing. - All women and indigenous ethnic minority people organised into community banks achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups. - Community banking toolkit produced and shared with provincial and local governments in the landscape by mid-Y2 to scale livelihood interventions to additional 3000 HHs through match funding secured from local government	0.3 37 new community banks were established and 17 existing ones strengthened, providing financial access to 5,382 household members for alternative livelihood activities. Baseline HWI values established across all PAs, disaggregated by gender and ethnicity. Community banking toolkits distributed to all community banks.	0.3 Income and expenditure tracking of individual doing livelihood activities by using fund from community banks Disaggregated data will be collected to meet the project requirement.
Outcome indicator 0.4. Improvement in attitudes to key wildlife species (e.g., tigers, elephants) with by at least 70% of respondents (split into disaggregated groups including women and indigenous groups) in 3 project PAs and 3 additional PAs (Chitwan, Parsa & Koshi Tappu NPs) for HWC-afflicted HHs in the project landscape reporting either positive or strongly positive attitudes, compared to Y1 baseline, by the end of the project	0.4 8,100 individuals reached through awareness raising, livelihood and HWC mitigation activities. Baseline values attitudes to key species established across all PAs, disaggregated by gender and ethnicity.	0.4 Awareness campaigns will be conducted in additional PAs (CNP, PNP, and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve)
Outcome indicator 0.5. The viability for wildlife movements of the corridors in Kamdi (Banke) and Boom-Brahmadev (Shuklaphanta) has been assessed by end of Y4	0.5 Corridor functionality assessment carried out through occupancy survey and camera trap survey	0.5 Comprehensive report will be produced through data analysis
Outcome indicator 0.6. Stable or increasing trends in elephant, rhino, tiger and tiger prey species populations in all three focal PAs throughout project lifetime	0.6 Camera trap survey following National Tiger Survey Monitoring Protocol carried out in BaNP. Winter waterbird and gharial crocodile survey carried out in BaNP and ShNP.	0.6 Support in conducting national tiger and prey base monitoring in 2025/26.

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Outcome indicator 0.7. Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) accreditation achieved for all 3 national parks (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) by the end of the project, bringing recognition and eligibility for additional funding investments by the end of the project.	0.7 habitat management interventions carried out in 3 PAs (~184 ha grassland managed, six water hole maintained/constructed, and 122 km fire-line maintained). One new tiger holding case constructed and 2 existing holding cages were maintained. 241 front line PA staffed were trained in using conservation technologies and understanding of wildlife behaviours, 49 wildlife veterinarians and technicians were trained in wildlife rescue and handling. Regular monitoring of wildlife through camera trap survey was completed to strengthen PA management effectiveness.	0.7 Continue habitat management work; monitoring of tiger and prey-base
Output 1. Foundations set for upscaling HWCx		
Output indicator 1.1. Protected Area-Buffer Zone HWC mitigation collaborations are incorporated into Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC) structures for PAs by being streamlined and upscaled by Y2 with: 1.1.1. An HWCx position in the BZMC of each park (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) created and institutionalised by the end of Y1 and scaled up to be functional also in Koshi Tappu National Park (KTNP), Chitwan and Parsa NPs by the end of Y3. 1.1.2. Climate-change-aware, lowland-Nepal-wide, participatory HWC maps prepared by the end of Y1 and informing recommendations for hotspot focussed HWC mitigation efforts by the end of Y2.	1.1.1 The three HWCx positions established at BZMC level in acting as conduits of HWC information exchange. 1.1.2 Participatory conflict maps were presented to 194 individuals via 6 workshops.	1.1.1 HWC information shared in WhatsApp group will be analysed and shared with PA. 1.1.2 No further activities planned.
Output indicator 1.2. Existing community units for HWC mitigation are scaled up to create 100 HWCx champions across 3 PAs/BZ with capacities strengthened to include a suite of species and for participatory data gathering by the end of Y3, with	1.2.1 Completed in year 1. 1.2.2 26 HWCx champions established across 3 PAs, alongside the 74 HWCx champion units established in WTC in Y1. 388 champion members trained in Y2 in identifying wildlife behaviour and safety protocols. Equipment support provided to f82 HWCx champions.	1.2.1 No further activities planned. 1.2.2 HWCx champion strengthening activities and training is to continue.

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
1.2.1. Bylaws of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) network in the project landscape are amended to include HWC mitigation actions by the end of Y1, 1.2.2. 52 existing HWC reduction groups from within the CBAPUs strengthened and the approach replicated to adjoining sites by Y2 to create 100 HWCx champions across the landscape. 1.2.3. Linkages created between Wildlife Rescue Response Team (Ind 4.5) and HWCx champions by the end of Y2. 1.2.4. 25% increase (baseline to be set in Y1) in the flow of HWC related information from HWCx champions to PA through Ind 1.1.1 by the end of Y3.	1.2.3 HWCx champion units facilitated information exchange between champion groups and Joint Operation Cells (JoC) within each project PA, helping park authorities coordinate responses to HWC. 1.2.4 Smartphones provided to 100 HWCx champions to initiate HWC related data collection at settlement level.	1.2.3 Communication links between Champions, JOCs and BZMC focal persons to continue to be built and strengthened in Y3. 1.2.4 HWC data collected by champions at BZUC level, and information shared between Champions, JOC and BZMCs (both via smartphone), is to continue to be collected and analysed and then presented in Y3.
Output indicator 1.3. A total of 10,000 HHs (55,000 people) in the project landscape reached through 96 awareness and drill programmes for behavioural change (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) conducted by HWCx champions by the end of Y5, with 1.3.1. In combination with Output 3, a 70% increase across HHs surveyed in the positive perception of communities in three project PAs towards wildlife in current conflict areas against Y1 baseline by the end of Y5	1.3.1 8,100 individuals were reached via community-level awareness programmes, covering teaching/awareness programmes for schools and eco-clubs and drill simulation programmes.	1.3.1 Community-level awareness programmes will continue in Y3 as a key priority of the project.
Output indicator 1.4. Feasibility of HWC insurance options across all six lowland Nepal national park buffer zones assessed by the end of Y3, and if feasible insurance schemes operational in Y4 and Y5, with: 1.4.1. HWC relief payments, e.g., for loss of livestock, supported until insurance schemes in place. 1.4.2. Any existing crop and livestock protection insurance mechanisms or other potentially appropriate insurance schemes identified and mapped by the end of Y1.	1.4.1 19 QRFs were established at BZUC level in Y2 of the project, with NPR 510,000 provided to community members. 1.4.2 An assessment was completed to map existing crop and livestock insurance schemes in place across the TAL, the study recommended to pilot public liability insurance (PLI) scheme covering entire buffer zone, to be initiated in Y3 I. 1.4.3 Dialogue initiated with insurance companies regarding the initiation of a PLI scheme in high-risk,	1.4.1 QRFs will remain in operation throughout Y3-Y5 of the project. 1.4.2 No further activities planned. 1.4.3 Engagement with insurance companies and government stakeholders is to continue in Y3 to implement the pilot PLI scheme in high,

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
1.4.3. Feasibility of adding HWC specific damages to existing insurance schemes assessed in consultation with insurance companies assessed by end of Y3. 1.4.4. Options (micro-credit, CSR, government aid) for supporting farmers to pay insurance premiums explored during years 2 and 3, with feasible methods identified by end of Y3. 1.4.5. HWC insurance schemes operational in at least 50% of HWC-afflicted communities around the 6 PAs by end of Y5	mid-risk and low-risk zones (in terms of HWC risk), via a series of meetings and workshops. 1.4.4 Covered as part of the discussions noted under 1.4.5 Piloting of HWC insurance initiated.	medium and low risk BZ areas. 1.4.4 See O.1.4.3 update. 1.4.5 Pilot HWC PLI schemes to be operationalised during Y3 of the project.
Output 2. Livelihood investments to break cycle of poverty: Entry points to breaking the cycle of poverty are strengthened in existing communities (2,615 HHs) and upscaled to adjoining communities (4,650 HHs) around the 3 focal PAs (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) through better access to solid economic returns from existing and/or new livelihood options.		
Output indicator 2.1. Livelihood schemes at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level for 7000 HHs within the three western parks are understood, assessed, and improved by mid-Y2, with 2.1.1. Participatory resource mapping for 20 BZUCs conducted by the end of Y1. 2.1.2. Products/services (agriproducts such as vegetable, cash-crops, grains; livestock products; ecotourism services such as nature guides, homestays, and restaurants) assessed by the end of Y1, taking account of access for key vulnerable groups and HHs. 2.1.3. Market access established and functioning by the mid of Y2.	2.1.1 6 workshops were completed to share the findings from the participatory HWC maps prepared in Y1. 2.1.2 20 workshops completed with 466 participants at BZUC level to assess existing small businesses in the buffer zone of BaNP, BNP, and ShNP. 2.1.3 285 individuals participated in meetings to identify and assess effective and relevant value chain and market access strengthening options, needs for key products/services in each project site, to inform business/livelihood plan preparation.	2.1.1 No further activities planned. 2.1.2 No further activities planned. 2.1.3 Business/livelihood plan preparation for key products/services identified in Y2 to be prepared in Y3.
Output indicator 2.2. 52 Community banks, 12 existing plus 40 new (with ca. 135 HHs per CB), are established and/or strengthened under the framework of BZUCs and are directly benefitting 7,000 HHs, (including the most vulnerable groups and HHs) with the potential to increase	2.2.1 37 new community banks established, and 17 existing banks strengthened, supporting income generation for 5,382 HHs members. A cooperative management/financial literacy ToT provided to 150 executive members of community banks.	2.2.1 Agricultural and livestock training activities will begin in Y3. 2.2.2. Please see update under 2.2.1

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
income as highly as 60-120% as shown in previous projects, by the middle of Y2, with: 2.2.1. 3,000 HHs benefitting through improved agricultural practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5). 2.2.2. 4,000 HHs benefitting through improved livestock practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5).	2.2.2 Please see update under 2.2.1	
Output indicator 2.3 265 members from HHs of HWCx champions (under Ind 1.2) and existing homestays are linked to alternative livelihood schemes by the end of Y3, with 2.3.1. 120 HHs benefitting from electrician, plumbing, mobile repair, motorcycle repair skills training by the end of Y2. 2.3.2. 145 HHs benefitting from nature-based tourism skills training by the end of Y3.	2.3.1 91 HWCx champion members trained as electricians, plumbers and mobile repairers in Y2. 2.3.2 Training delivered for 43 individuals in hospitality and hotel management and driving training.	2.3.1 Additional HWCx champions will receive diversified livelihood training in Y3, with the incomes derived from these activities to be tracked in future years of the project. 2.3.2 Additional members will receive nature-based tourism skills training in Y3.
Output indicator 2.4. Average income of the participating 7,265 HHs increased by 20% by the end of the project against Y2 baseline across 750 sample HHs surveyed using a wellbeing index (sample size >10% of total HHs).	2.4 In Y2, average baseline HH income levels established following the analysis of the baseline socio-economic survey completed in Y1.	2.4 average HH incomes will continue to be assessed through the midline and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5.
Output indicator 2.5. Communities' dependency on natural resources in adjacent PAs (i.e., firewood, fodder collection, livestock grazing) reduced by 20% in 50% of the participating HHs (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of Y5	2.5 In Y2, baseline natural resource dependency levels established following the analysis of the baseline socio-economic survey completed in Y1.	2.5 average natural resource dependency levels will continue to be assessed through the midline and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5.
Output 3. HWC mitigation investments for communities and BZUCs: targeted HWC mitigation investments in priority communities resourced and delivered benefiting 1,000 existing HHs from previous projects and 4,000 new HHs through PA-wide community engagement, with longer-term sustainable means of mitigation identified for a further indirect 3,000 HHs.		

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Output indicator 3.1. Areas identified and assessed for locally appropriate interventions against high conflict species (i.e., tigers, elephants, browsing species) by consulting disaggregated groups (with at least 40% from Indigenous and other disadvantaged groups) across households by the end of Y1.	3.1 20 BZUC level HWC mitigation plans, and two PA level plans prepared for endorsement by PAs and BZUC stakeholders.	3.1 The HWC mitigation plans established at a BZUC and PA level will continue to be implemented in future years of the project.
Output indicator 3.2. Exchange visits to previous ZSL and NTNC HWC reduction sites in Chitwan and Bardia NPs promote approaches to HWC mitigation tested by the project to a sub-set of 5,000 HHs and 100 HWCx champions by end of Y3 with uptake of the approaches assessed by the end of Y5.	3. No exchange visits undertaken in Y2.	3.2 Exchange visits are to commence under the project in Y3.
Output indicator 3.3. Lessons and experiences from the 3 project PAs made available to other HWC-afflicted communities including, with BZUCs and PA staff in by the end of Y5: 3.3.1. Proactive mitigation measures against damage by high conflict species are replicated and reduce HWC by the end of the project in 1,000 existing households from previous projects and an additional 4,000 HHs as prioritised in Ind 3.1 3.3.2. At least 60% of 600 representative HHs report increased satisfaction with early warning systems for conflict species by end of Y4 compared to mid Y2 baseline. 3.3.3. 20% increase in use of crop protection methods suitable for elephants and browsing animals in the participating communities by Y4 against baseline set in Y1. 3.3.4. 30% reduction in livestock depredation from large and medium carnivores in the participating HHs by Y4 against baseline set in year 1. 3.3.5. 15% reduction in direct physical harm to human beings by Y5 against baseline set in Y1.	3.3.1 7 HWC mitigation measures implemented in selected HWC hotspots, benefitting 4,222 households. 3.3.2 early warning systems installed, reaching 1,563 HHs. 33% of the baseline survey respondents (n=904) suggested sirens are effective for elephants. 3.3.3 baseline levels of crop protection use established via socio-economic survey completed in Y1. 3.3.3 baseline use of crop protection methods suitable for elephants and browsing animals established via socio-economic survey completed in Y1. 3.3.4. baseline livestock depredation rates established via socio-economic survey completed in Y1. 3.3.5 baseline levels of harm to humans from wildlife established via socio-economic survey completed in Y1. 3.3.6 baseline level of preparedness for mitigating HWC established via consultancy.	3.3.1 The implementation of the HWC mitigation measured identified in HWC mitigation plans at PA and BZUC level will continue in Y3 of the project. 3.3.2 In Y3, the survey will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of early warning system. 3.3.2 levels of crop protection use will continue to be assessed through the midline and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5. 3.3.3 levels of use of crop protection methods suitable for elephants and browsing animals will continue to be assessed through the midline

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
3.3.6. 3,000 additional HHs (repeat sample of 300 HHs) against Y1 baseline reporting a sense of preparedness and increased knowledge base for mitigating HWC incidents based on awareness of case studies from the 3 project PAs delivered by government match funds (i.e., number of people recall viewing awareness materials) by project end		and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5. 3.3.4 livestock depredation rates will continue to be assessed through the midline and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5. 3.3.5 rates of harm to humans from wildlife will continue to be assessed through the midline and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5. 3.3.6 rates of preparedness for mitigating HWC will continue to be assessed through the midline and endline socio-economic surveys to be completed in Y3 and Y5.
Output indicator 3.4. 70% of participating 5000 HHs across 3 PAs reporting an increased sense of human-wildlife coexistence possibilities and resilience by project end (end of Y5).	3.4 baseline: 20% of sampled population reported sense of coexistence.	3.4 In Y3, mitigation measures will be implemented.
Output indicator 3.5. Positive attitudes about conservation and participatory resource management in participating 5000 HHs surveyed in 3 PAs predicted to increase by 60% by end of Y5 against baseline set in at the start of Y2	3.5 Baseline survey revealed In BaNP 100% agree for the sustainable use for conservation; in BNP, only 16% disagree for the sustainable use for conservation; and in ShNP, only 4% disagree for the sustainable use for conservation.	3.5 Awareness campaigns and HWC mitigation related activities will be implemented in Y3.

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 4. Mitigation of effects of linear infrastructure and habitat fragmentation on wildlife: impacts of current and developing linear infrastructure (roads, rails, irrigation canals) on key wildlife species reduced through strengthened learning and evidence-based planning and through improved capacity of DNPWC teams to successfully perform wildlife rescue, handling, translocation or holding of various species.		
Output indicator 4.1. National and regional stakeholders identified, and expert learning provided by the end of Y1.	4.1 Completed in year 1.	4.1 No further activities planned.
Output indicator 4.2. Evidence-based assessment of effects of linear infrastructure on wildlife movement and habitat quality/conflict drivers across the three parks and surroundings formalized by the end of Y2	4.2 Working group for co-designed approach created in BaNP and ShNP where the group assessed the effect of linear infrastructure on wildlife movement.	4.2 Assessment of effects of linear infrastructure on wildlife movement will be continued and the findings shared with the working group.
Output indicator 4.3. Priority wildlife crossing sites for key species identified by end Y4 with: 4.3.1 2 priority sites for wildlife crossings in Shuklaphanta NP strengthened by the end of Y4. 4.3.2 10% increase (baseline to be set in Y2) in the rate of use of the wildlife crossings in Ind 4.3.1 by the end of Y5. 4.3.3 10% decrease against Y1 baseline in associated incursions by wildlife to within 1 km of HHs in the two existing conflict project sites by the end of Y5.	4.3.1 Camera trap survey was conducted in wildlife crossing in Mahankali III project. 4.3.2 Camera trap survey was conducted in wildlife crossing in Mahankali III project. 4.3.3 Camera trap deployed in fringe area	4.3.1 Camera trap survey over wildlife overpasses, will be continued in Y3 4.3.2 Baseline will be calculated based on the camera trap data of Y2 4.3.3 Baseline will be calculated from camera trap data of Y2.
Output indicator 4.4. Recommendations for mitigation methods needed are reflected in project documents submitted to DNPWC, Department of Roads, Department of Irrigation, Nepal Electricity Authority and Department of Railways by end of Y2 and finalised by end of Y5.	4.4 Assessment of wildlife friendly mitigation measures carried out and working group for co-design approach formed at BaNP and ShNP. Recommendations compiled to incorporate in future linear infrastructure planning.	4.4. Departmental level sectoral agencies meetings will be conducted to share the findings of camera trap survey and detailed assessment.
Output indicator 4.5. Wildlife rescue response team, led by Bardia NP with two representatives from ShNP and BaNP, strengthened and equipped for wildlife issues (related to canal, road, and HWC) and trained by Wildlife Health Bridge programme of ZSL's Wildlife Health and Living Collection departments, by the end of Y4, with:	4.5.1 One animal holding centre established and two renovated in Y2. Capacity building training were provided to the wildlife veterinarians and technicians of DNPWC and NTNC (a total of 49 individuals). 4.5.2. Radio collar not yet used	4.5.1 One new animal holding centre established in ShNP 4.5.2 Radio collar will be made available to DNPWC to use

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
4.5.1. Animal holding facilities improved through staff training, enclosure improvements and best practice for animal nutrition and behaviour by the end of Y3. 4.5.2. Post-release collaring data of large carnivores (i.e., tiger and leopard) from beginning of any animal releases informs PA wildlife and habitat management and community awareness-raising throughout project period. 4.5.3. Disease monitoring capacity improved with sample collection and analysis links to management centre at Lalmati in Bardia NP established in Y2. 4.5.4. Wildlife rescue response rate increases by 20% by project end compared to baseline set in Y2.	4.5.3. Not initiated 4.5.4. Wildlife rescue data collected at park level.	4.5.3. Will initiate in Y3. 4.5.4. Wildlife rescue response data collected in combination with data shared by HWCx champions
Output 5. Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife: threats to wildlife reduced and kept low, with better habitat and wildlife management interventions meeting needs previously identified by managers, and capability and capacity increased in 3 PA/BZs through better equipped and trained teams		
Output indicator 5.1. Multi-stakeholder engagement (PAs, NGOs, BZUC, CSOs) co-design approaches during Y1, with 5.1.1 priority areas for habitat management identified by the end of Y1. 5.1.2 priority needs of PA in research, infrastructure, equipment, policy, and capacity identified by the end Y1.	5.1.1 Priority area identified in Y1, based on which habitat management work conducted in Y2 5.1.2 activity completed in Y1.	5.1.1 habitat management interventions in 5.1.2. No further activities planned.
Output indicator 5.2. Habitats identified under Ind. 5.1.1 are improved against Y1 baseline for key species by the end of Y4, with 5.2.1 50 ha of grassland maintained by the end of Y4, 5.2.2 6 water holes are strengthened through solar lifts (pumps) by the end of Y3. 5.2.3 75 km fire line maintained by the end of Y4.	5.2.1 185 ha of grasslands were maintained in three PAs 5.2.2 Three new waterholes with solar water pumping systems created and three existing waterholes were maintained 5.2.3 ~123 km of fire-line maintained in three PAs	5.2.1 63 Ha grassland will be managed in Y3 5.2.2 Two waterholes maintained in Y3. 5.2.3 75km fire line will be maintained in Y3
Output indicator 5.3. Priority needs of PAs re research, policy, infrastructure, equipment, and the capacity to monitor wildlife and to address larger biodiversity issues are improved by the end of Y5, against Y1 baseline with	5.3.1. One study on the wildlife movement and habitat use pattern initiated in Y2. 5.3.2 A total of 241 front line park staff (including 32 female) were capacitated in handling/use/deployment of	5.3.1 5.3.2 Capacity building training will be continued in Y3.

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
5.3.1. Key research projects (including 5 master's students' projects) about animal movements, conflict incidents and mitigation, post-translocation, or post-release behaviours by end of Y5. 5.3.2. Capabilities of 450 park and DNPWC staff improved to ensure they comply with Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) requirements for accreditation by the end of Y4 (compared to Y1 baseline) 5.3.3. Three priority needs that were identified in Year 1 (e.g., renovations or facilities improvements for visitor in any of BaNP, BNP, and PA research facility) are addressed by the end of Y3. 5.3.4. Teams equipped with relevant gear for responses and monitoring with 3 vehicles (2 jeeps/trucks, 1 tractor), 20 GPS collars, 12 CCTV Fcameras, 90 cameras, both Global System for Mobile (GSM) and non-GS), supported by the end of Y3.	conservation technologies and wildlife behaviours and signs. 5.3.3 One Visitor centre renovated in BaNP 5.3.4 50 non-GSM camera (Cuddeback Trail Camera Model G-5048) and 15 Reconyx HyperFire 2 were procured.	5.3.3 One visitor centre will be established in ShNP 5.3.4 Camera trap supported in Y1 and Y2 will be used in data collection in Y3.
Output indicator 5.4. Improved evidence of key wildlife species being present within PAs by the end of Y5, with 5.4.1. 20% increase in key wildlife species' use of improved habitats such as grasslands and waterholes (against baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) by the end of Y5. 5.4.2. 15% decrease (baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) in wildlife sightings in HWC hotspots by the end of Y5.	5.4.1 Camera trap survey conducted in key habitats to assess the use of managed habitat by wildlife 5.4.2 Camera traps deployed in fringe area to assess the wildlife incursion rate.	5.4.1 Camera trap survey will be continued in Y3 5.4.2 Will continue to deploy camera traps.
Output indicator 5.5. Lessons learnt are documented, analysed, and promulgated through two peer reviewed papers within a year of project end.	5.5 One manuscript related to effectiveness of HWC submitted.	5.5

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Well-being of buffer zone and corridor human communities, and status of globally significant wildlife populations, are secured through improved management capabilities of Nepal's Protected Area authorities and other government agencies.			
Outcome: Capabilities strengthened for 12,265 households and three Protected Areas to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and poverty, with investments in proactive-and-tested solutions for better management of increasing and dispersing wildlife species.	0.1 40% reduction in perceived economic and social vulnerability from HWC in 5000 HHs in 3 project PAs in the landscape (Bardia National Park (BNP), Shuklaphanta National Park (ShNP) and Banke National Park (BaNP)) by the end of the project. 0.2 70% of 900 surveyed households in 3 project PAs and indirect beneficiaries in 3 additional PAs report lessened impacts of HWC due to improved knowledge of real examples of preventative and locally appropriate actions (compared to Y1 baseline) by the end of the project. 0.3 60% of 7,265 HHs (selected through consultation with BZUC chairs and participatory meetings and baseline surveys show) at least a 40% improvement in the wellbeing index (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of the project with: - 60% of the community bank members (ca 135 per	0.1 Pre- and post-project surveys to assess household incomes and natural resource dependency 0.2 HWCx champions' meetings reporting feedback, survey results of community members, use of grievance mechanisms 0.3 Wellbeing surveys of community bank members; community bank records of incomes and disaggregated membership groups, government enrolment records of additional HHs 0.4 Analyses and reports on attitude surveys using a LIKERT scale from HHs in HWC-afflicted areas 0.5 Reports on the status (vegetation cover, rate of habitat loss, use by key wildlife species) of the two corridors 0.6 Reports on regular database of elephant, tiger and tiger prey population status conducted by project teams in Banke and Shuklaphanta NPs using National Tiger Monitoring Protocol 2017; reports from	Human-Wildlife Conflict remains a priority challenge for Nepal government post doubling of tiger numbers and increasing of other globally threatened species. The size of the protected areas continues to remain the same. Habitat fragmentation within PAs continues as linear infrastructure (development aspirations) across the PA system continues to be proposed and developed. Climate change will increasingly shift tiger habitat northwards as temperature increases. Multi-dimensional poverty continues to be a challenge for community members living alongside protected areas. Disadvantaged groups (women, indigenous people, people with physical disability) face barriers to better income making livelihood options necessary. Community members remain supportive of biodiversity conservation and are willing to participate and such support

	community bank and at least 52 banks) showing at least a 40% increase in wellbeing. - All women and indigenous ethnic minority people organised into community banks achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups. - Community banking toolkit produced and shared with provincial and local governments in the landscape by mid-Y2 to scale livelihood interventions to additional 3000 HHs through match funding secured from local government. 0.4 Improvement in attitudes to key wildlife species (e.g., tigers, elephants) with by at least 70% of respondents (split into disaggregated groups including women and indigenous groups) in 3 project PAs and 3 additional PAs (Chitwan, Parsa & Koshi Tappu NPs) for HWC-afflicted HHs in the project landscape reporting either positive or strongly positive attitudes, compared to Y1 baseline, by the end of the project. 0.5 The viability for wildlife movements of the corridors in Kamdi (Banke) and Boom-	NTNC and WWF for similar surveys in Bardia NP; reports from government Rhino Count 2025 and Tiger Survey 2026 for all three focal PAs. 0.7 Survey and capability assessment results, (CA|TS) audit results.	increases over the lifetime of the project. Populations of key wildlife species will respond positively to reduced HWC (reduced stress, fewer retaliatory injuries, and killings), improved habitat management, and overall improvements in PA management effectiveness.

	Brahmadev (Shuklaphanta) has been assessed by end of Y4. 0.6 Stable or increasing trends in elephant, rhino, tiger and tiger prey species populations in all three focal PAs throughout project lifetime. 0.7 Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) accreditation achieved for all 3 national parks (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) by the end of the project, bringing recognition and eligibility for additional funding investments by the end of the project.		
Output 1 Foundations set for upscaling HWCx: Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions are created from existing successful "HWC reduction community units", bringing strengthened skills for replication in other PAs to reduce the rate of serious encounters between wildlife and people, and future-proofed by incorporating HWC safeguards, learning and response mechanisms into Nepal's existing and inclusive PA and buffer zone (BZ) management system.	1.1 Protected Area-Buffer Zone HWC mitigation collaborations are incorporated into Buffer Zone Management Committee (BZMC) structures for PAs by being streamlined and upscaled by Y2 with: 1.1.1 An HWCx position in the BZMC of each park (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) created and institutionalised by the end of Y1 and scaled-up to be functional also in Koshi Tappu National Park (KTNP), Chitwan and Parsa NPs by the end of Y3 1.1.2 Climate-change-aware, lowland-Nepal-wide, participatory HWC maps prepared by the end of Y1 and informing	1.1 Protected area and Buffer Zone Management Council (BZMC) employment records; workshop reports/minutes, participant logs and photographs; HWC maps prepared and in use, updated based on ground-truthing as necessary 1.2 Reports and photographs pertaining to creation of HWCx champions for all target PAs; training reports; bylaw documents; reports on data flows 1.3 Community and school programme minutes, drill reports, photographs	Structural barriers to institutionalising HWC mitigation at the PA-BZ interface are present. PA and BZUCs are willing to improve their HWC reduction strategies. CBAPUs are willing to reform their organisation to include HWC reduction as guiding principle. BZUCs are willing to match ZSL's contribution in creating a conduit of HWC reduction unit through providing focal points labour. Awareness and behavioural change programmes increase community members' sense of resilience to HWC thus improving attitudes to wildlife recovery.

	recommendations for hotspot focussed HWC mitigation efforts by the end of Y2. 1.2 Existing community units for HWC mitigation are scaled up to create 100 HWCx champions across 3 PAs/BZ with capacities strengthened to include a suite of species and for participatory data gathering by the end of Y3, with 1.2.1 Bylaws of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) network in the project landscape are amended to include HWC mitigation actions by the end of Y1**,** 1.2.2 52 existing HWC reduction groups from within the CBAPUs strengthened and the approach replicated to adjoining sites by Y2 to create 100 HWCx champions across the landscape. 1.2.3 Linkages created between Wildlife Rescue Response Team (Ind 4.5) and HWCx champions by the end of Y2. 1.2.4 25% increase (baseline to be set in Y1) in the flow of HWC related information from HWCx champions to PA through Ind 1.1.1 by the end of Y3.	1.4.1 Reports on disbursement of HWC relief payments; receipts 1.4.2 Reports on meetings with insurance companies detailing what schemes are in place in Nepal that might lend themselves to modification to include HWC 1.4.3 HWC data analyses; reports on meetings with insurance companies; insurance companies' analyses and other documents 1.4.4 Reports on meeting with banks, micro-credit agencies, private sector companies, and government agencies 1.4.5 M&E reports on insurance schemes performance for HWC around the PAs produced by insurance companies and project staff	Insurance companies are willing to engage in new areas and interest by communities is at sufficient scale for initial discussions to be explored. Community members in HWC-afflicted areas around the 6 PAs are willing and able to take-up opportunities to insure their crops and livestock against HWC.

	1.3 A total of 10,000 HHs (55,000 people) in the project landscape reached through 96 awareness and drill programmes for behavioural change (disaggregated by gender and ethnicity) conducted by HWCx champions by the end of Y5 , with 1.3.1 In combination with Output 3, a 70% increase across HHs surveyed in the positive perception of communities in three project PAs towards wildlife in current conflict areas against Y1 baseline by the end of Y5. 1.4 Feasibility of HWC insurance options across all six lowland Nepal national park buffer zones assessed by the end of Y3, and if feasible insurance schemes operational in Y4 and Y5, with: 1.4.1 HWC relief payments, e.g., for loss of livestock, supported until insurance schemes in place. 1.4.2 Any existing crop and livestock protection insurance mechanisms or other potentially appropriate insurance schemes identified and mapped by the end of Y1. 1.4.3 Feasibility of adding HWC specific damages to existing insurance schemes assessed in consultation		

	with insurance companies assessed by end of Y3. 1.4.4 Options (micro-credit, CSR, government aid) for supporting farmers to pay insurance premiums explored during years 2 and 3, with feasible methods identified by end of Y3. 1.4.5 HWC insurance schemes operational in at least 50% of HWC-afflicted communities around the 6 PAs by end of Y5.		
Output 2 Livelihood investments to break cycle of poverty: Entry points to breaking the cycle of poverty are strengthened in existing communities (2,615 HHs) and upscaled to adjoining communities (4,650 HHs) around the 3 focal PAs (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) through better access to solid economic returns from existing and/or new livelihood options.	2.1 Livelihood schemes at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level for 7000 HHs within the three western parks are understood, assessed, and improved by mid-Y2, with 2.1.1 Participatory resource mapping for 20 BZUCs conducted by the end of Y1. 2.1.2 Products/services (agriproducts such as vegetable, cash-crops, grains; livestock products; ecotourism services such as nature guides, homestays, and restaurants) assessed by the end of Y1, taking account of access for key vulnerable groups and HHs. 2.1.3 Market access established and functioning by the mid of Y2. 2.2 52 Community banks, 12 existing plus 40 new (with ca.	2.1 Workshop minutes and photographs, meeting minutes, participatory resource maps, market analysis reports 2.2 Community bank records, HH feedback in baseline, midline and project end surveys; livelihood training reports and photographs, survey reports, exposure visit reports and photographs 2.3 Pre- and post-project surveys evaluate learning and livelihoods trainings completed including self-assessments of new skills and 2.5 Pre- and post-project surveys to assess household incomes, natural resource dependency and wellbeing index	Below average income is a persistent problem within the project communities and is one of the major barriers to reducing multi-dimensional poverty. Community banks remain one of the most efficient ways of engaging communities in livelihood improvement schemes as demonstrated in previous ZSL Nepal projects (DI-26-012, 24-015, 22-009) and are particularly appropriate for disadvantaged groups (that include, but are not limited to, women, people with physical disability, and indigenous groups). Natural resource dependency is one of the major sources of livelihoods for communities in the project landscape.

	135 HHs per CB), are established and/or strengthened under the framework of BZUCs and are directly benefitting 7,000 HHs, (including the most vulnerable groups and HHs) with the potential to increase income as highly as 60-120% as shown in previous projects, by the middle of Y2, with: 2.2.1 3,000 HHs benefitting through improved agricultural practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5). 2.2.2 4,000 HHs benefitting through improved livestock practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5). 2.3 265 members from HHs of HWCx champions (under Ind 1.2) and existing homestays are linked to alternative livelihood schemes by the end of Y3, with 2.3.1 120 HHs benefitting from electrician, plumbing, mobile repair, motorcycle repair skills training by the end of Y2. 2.3.2 145 HHs benefitting from nature-based tourism skills training by the end of Y3. 2.4 Average income of the participating 7,265 HHs increased by 20% by the end of the project against Y2 baseline across 750 sample HHs		Avenues to improved livelihood are limited for those from vulnerable groups (women, physically disabled, and Indigenous people). Foreign exchange rate fluctuations are buffered sufficiently in the budget.

	surveyed using a wellbeing index (sample size >10% of total HHs). 2.5 Communities' dependency on natural resources in adjacent PAs (i.e., firewood, fodder collection, livestock grazing) reduced by 20% in 50% of the participating HHs (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of Y5.		
Output 3 HWC mitigation investments for communities and BZUCs: targeted HWC mitigation investments in priority communities resourced and delivered benefiting 1,000 existing HHs from previous projects and 4,000 new HHs through PA-wide community engagement, with longer-term sustainable means of mitigation identified for a further indirect 3,000 HHs.	3.1 Areas identified and assessed for locally appropriate interventions against high conflict species (i.e., tigers, elephants, browsing species) by consulting disaggregated groups (with at least 40% from Indigenous and other disadvantaged groups) across households by the end of Y1. 3.2 Exchange visits to previous ZSL and NTNC HWC reduction sites in Chitwan and Bardia NPs promote approaches to HWC mitigation tested by the project to a sub-set of 5,000 HHs and 100 HWCx champions by end of Y3 with uptake of the approaches assessed by the end of Y5. 3.3 Lessons and experiences from the 3 project PAs made available to other HWC-afflicted communities including, with	3.1 Maps produced and shared, meeting minutes, existing camera trap data, HWC incident reports 3.2 Trip reports, graphics and other learning documents and posters produced; follow-up visits and resulting feedback through end of Y5 3.3.1 HWCx champions' meetings reporting feedback, results of survey of community members, grievance mechanism reports 3.3.2 Reports on number of HHs accessing safety infrastructure (e.g., solar lights. early warning system, mesh wire fencing) and their satisfaction with these (assessed on a LIKERT scale) by end of Y4 3.3.3 Reports on usage of methods to reduce crop damage by elephants/browsing animals	HWC reduction remains a priority area for the DNPWC to invest in. HWC incidents occurring primarily in human settlements within 1 km of forest borders are a motivating factor for community participation. Vulnerable groups within the communities are currently highly dependent on natural resources from the forest as supplements to their livelihoods. Low levels of exposure to and awareness of effective HWC mitigation measures limit capacities of communities to implement best practices for HWC mitigation.

	BZUCs and PA staff in by the end of Y5: 3.3.1 Proactive mitigation measures against damage by high conflict species are replicated and reduce HWC by the end of the project in 1,000 existing households from previous projects and an additional 4,000 HHs as prioritised in Ind 3.1 3.3.2 At least 60% of 600 representative HHs report increased satisfaction with early warning systems for conflict species by end of Y4 compared to mid Y2 baseline. 3.3.3 20% increase in use of crop protection methods suitable for elephants and browsing animals in the participating communities by Y4 against baseline set in Y1. 3.3.4 30% reduction in livestock depredation from large and medium carnivores in the participating HHs by Y4 against baseline set in year 1. 3.3.5 15% reduction in direct physical harm to human beings by Y5 against baseline set in Y1. 3.3.6 3,000 additional HHs (repeat sample of 300 HHs) against Y1 baseline reporting a sense of preparedness and increased knowledge base	3.3.4 Reports on number of HHs with predator proof corals and results thereof 3.3.5 Reports on injuries to people by wildlife 3.3.6 HH survey reports 3.4 HH survey reports 3.5 Baseline, midline and endline HH surveys plus HWCx champions' reports	

	for mitigating HWC incidents based on awareness of case studies from the 3 project PAs delivered by government match funds (i.e., number of people recall viewing awareness materials) by project end. 3.4 70% of participating 5000 HHs HHs across 3 PAs reporting an increased sense of human-wildlife coexistence possibilities and resilience by project end (end of Y5). 3.5 Positive attitudes about conservation and participatory resource management in participating 5000 HHs surveyed in 3 PAs predicted to increase by 60% by end of Y5 against baseline set in at the start of Y2.		
Output 4 Mitigation of effects of linear infrastructure and habitat fragmentation on wildlife: impacts of current and developing linear infrastructure (roads, rails, irrigation canals) on key wildlife species reduced through strengthened learning and evidence-based planning and through improved capacity of DNPWC teams to successfully perform wildlife rescue, handling, translocation or holding of various species.	4.1 National and regional stakeholders identified, and expert learning provided by the end of Y1. 4.2 Evidence-based assessment of effects of linear infrastructure on wildlife movement and habitat quality/conflict drivers across the three parks and surroundings formalized by the end of Y2. 4.3 Priority wildlife crossing sites for key species identified by end Y4 with:	4.1 Case study generated with the IUCN Elephant Transport Working Group and road ecology specialists; working group minutes; monitoring data; training reports 4.2 Pre- and post-project social survey reports, camera trap data, ranger focus group reports, wildlife roadkill and crossings data, community reports, secondary data on human fatalities and injuries, historical monitoring, and crop raiding	Data and recommendations inform linear infrastructure construction/upgrades and associated mitigation interventions for key species in time for reducing drivers of HWC and for cost-effective measures to be taken by relevant departments and budget allocations. Climate extremes do not cause a high level of extraneous effects to severely hamper data collection about key crossings.

	4.3.1 2 priority sites for wildlife crossings in Shuklaphanta NP strengthened by the end of Y4. 4.3.2 10% increase (baseline to be set in Y2) in the rate of use of the wildlife crossings in Ind 4.3.1 by the end of Y5. 4.3.3 10% decrease against Y1 baseline in associated incursions by wildlife to within 1 km of HHs in the two existing conflict project sites by the end of Y5. 4.4 Recommendations for mitigation methods needed are reflected in project documents submitted to DNPWC, Department of Roads, Department of Irrigation, Nepal Electricity Authority and Department of Railways by end of Y2 and finalised by end of Y5. 4.5 Wildlife rescue response team, led by Bardia NP with two representatives from ShNP and BaNP, strengthened and equipped for wildlife issues (related to canal, road, and HWC) and trained by Wildlife Health Bridge programme of ZSL's Wildlife Health and Living Collection departments, by the end of Y4, with: 4.5.1 Animal holding facilities improved through staff training, enclosure improvements and best	data; recommendations document 4.3 Camera trap and wildlife monitoring data, expert workshop minutes and photographs, near-term wildlife crossing adjustments, HH surveys and HWCx champion feedback about conflict incidents 4.4 Reports submitted to government departments and agencies; official policy documents 4.5.1 Reports on training and inspection of facilities, photographs 4.5.2 Reports on animal tracking data and analyses and use thereof 4.5.3 Reports on training and inspection of facilities and sampling protocols, photographs 4.5.4 Reports on rescue operations	Budget allocations by relevant departments and infrastructure development banks continue to reflect interest in funding mitigation of the effects of linear infrastructure effects during and after the project's lifetime.

	practice for animal nutrition and behaviour by the end of Y3. 4.5.2 Post-release collaring data of large carnivores (i.e., tiger and leopard) from beginning of any animal releases informs PA wildlife and habitat management and community awareness-raising throughout project period. 4.5.3 Disease monitoring capacity improved with sample collection and analysis links to management centre at Lalmati in Bardia NP established in Y2. 4.5.4 Wildlife rescue response rate increases by 20% by project end compared to baseline set in Y2.		
Output 5 . **Investments in PA habitat quality benefit wildlife:** threats to wildlife reduced and kept low, with better habitat and wildlife management interventions meeting needs previously identified by managers, and capability and capacity increased in 3 PA/BZs through better equipped and trained teams	5.1 Multi-stakeholder engagement (PAs, NGOs, BZUC, CSOs) co-design approaches during Y1, with 5.1.1 priority areas for habitat management identified by the end of Y1. 5.1.2 priority needs of PA in research, infrastructure, equipment, policy, and capacity identified by the end Y1. 5.2 Habitats identified under Ind. 5.1.1 are improved against Y1 baseline for key species by the end of Y4, with	5.1 Meeting minutes, maps of priority areas, lists of agreed priority needs 5.2 Reports on plot samples to track grassland quality, camera trap images to reveal water hole use, reports including maps on firebreak creation and maintenance 5.3 Iterative implementation plans for each PA 5.3.1. Research project data and reports, students' theses	Avenues exist to complement the activities of existing projects (government and other I/NGOs) within the three protected areas to magnify conservation outcomes. The PA authorities are willing to provide staff to participate in project activities. The quality of habitat and resources within PAs are a limiting factor in supporting the increasing population of wildlife. Climate change continues to alter the intensity and frequency of

	5.2.1 50 ha of grassland maintained by the end of Y4, 5.2.2 6 water holes are strengthened through solar lifts (pumps) by the end of Y3. 5.2.3 75 km fire line maintained by the end of Y4. 5.3 Priority needs of PAs re research, policy, infrastructure, equipment, and the capacity to monitor wildlife and to address larger biodiversity issues are improved by the end of Y5, against Y1 baseline with 5.3.1 Key research projects (including 5 Masters students' projects) about animal movements, conflict incidents and mitigation, post-translocation, or post-release behaviours by end of Y5. 5.3.2 Capabilities of 450 park and DNPWC staff improved to ensure they comply with Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) requirements for accreditation by the end of Y4 (compared to Y1 baseline) 5.3.3 Three priority needs that were identified in Year 1 (e.g., renovations or facilities improvements for visitor in any of BaNP, BNP, and PA	5.3.2. Survey and capability results, (CA|TS) audit results 5.3.3. Reports on progress implementation plan 5.3.4 Procurement reports and receipts 5.4.1 Camera trap data 5.4.2. camera trap data, HH surveys, HWC champion reports 5.5 Number of peer reviewed papers in press and in preparation	natural disasters (fire, drought, flash floods) within the protected areas, requiring management to mitigate its effects. Management effectiveness of PA staff is a limiting factor for managing the increasing wildlife within the PAs, necessitating capacity building.

	research facility) are addressed by the end of Y3. 5.3.4 Teams equipped with relevant gear for responses and monitoring with 3 vehicles (2 jeeps/trucks, 1 tractor), 20 GPS collars, 12 CCTV Fcameras, 90 cameras, both Global System for Mobile (GSM) and non-GS), supported by the end of Y3. 5.4 Improved evidence of key wildlife species being present within PAs by the end of Y5, with 5.4.1 20% increase in key wildlife species' use of improved habitats such as grasslands and waterholes (against baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) by the end of Y5. 5.4.2 15% decrease (baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) in wildlife sightings in HWC hotspots by the end of Y5. 5.5. Lessons learnt are documented, analysed, and promulgated through two peer reviewed papers within a year of project end.		

Activities

1.1 Build on existing understanding and capabilities within PA-BZ management with regards to HWC reduction by creating HWCx positions, organizing HWC-themed meetings, and producing participatory HWC maps.
1.2 Review HWC mitigation projects in Nepal and identify the effectiveness of mitigation tools trialled to inform HWC best practices guidelines for South Asia.
1.3 Map the existing network of Community Based Anti-Poaching Unit (CBAPU) and facilitate the CBAPUs to put HWC reduction at their core.

1.4 Strengthen HWCx champion groups within the project sites to deliver their allocated responsibilities and for scaling up the work in other parts of the country.
1.5 Pilot network of GSM-enabled cameras for conflict species (elephant) surveillance in ShNP as an early warning system for communities near agricultural and village areas.
1.6 Strengthen access to existing government quick relief mechanism for compensation for livestock loss.
1.7 Support HWCx champions to conduct awareness programmes linked to behaviour change and safety drills for communities and schools.
1.8 Test and if appropriate scale-up insurance mechanism for mitigating HWC (primarily focused on tiger, elephant, rhino, and leopard).

2.1 Assess the existing mechanism of livelihood support at the Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) level through workshops on value chain promotion for livelihood commodities/services.
2.2 Consultation workshops to identify and establish market needs for key products/services from the project sites and strengthen market access and valuation.
2.3 Replicate community banking (establish new and strengthen existing ones), with by-laws covering conservation and subsidy scaled for households with different levels of marginalisation.
2.4 Enhance community resilience by replicating agricultural practices especially that have been shown to reduce HWC in the project sites.
2.5 Replicate animal husbandry practices for better livestock health and rearing, introduce means of sustainable fodder and productivity reducing dependency on natural resources in PAs.
2.6 Strengthen existing ecotourism ventures in Banke, Bardia and Shuklaphanta through investments in skill development.
2.7 Connect HWCx champions (under Output 1) with skill development trainings.
2.8 Conduct pre and post project surveys of the beneficiaries to assess and evaluate changes.

3.1 Build on the existing knowledge base of HWC in the landscape by participatory consultations for co-developing locally appropriate mitigation methods for the project sites.
3.2 Support BZUCs through HWCx champions under Output 1 to implement HWCx plan using proven proactive HWC reduction measures.
3.3 Arrange exchange visits to past ZSL sites (PAs) to enable best practice adoption for HWC reduction, assessing take-up rate of methods 1-2 years later.
3.4 Produce awareness-raising materials and outlets to spread HWC mitigation and biodiversity conservation messages to the larger public using channels identified under Output 1.
3.5 Pre and post project social and field surveys in the participating communities to ascertain reduction in HWC and measure changes in perception to HWC.

4.1 Relevant stakeholders are engaged through workshops and meetings to identify gaps and opportunities to link with current mitigation strategies for the negative impacts of linear infrastructure.
4.2 Assessment of impact on wildlife of current and proposed linear infrastructures in the three national parks.
4.3 Priority wildlife crossing sites identified by scoping visits to Shuklaphanta NP and Bardia NP are strengthened.
4.4 Produce best practices recommendations for ShNP, BNP and BaNP based on the project learning for mitigating the impact of linear infrastructure on wildlife.
4.5 Strengthen wildlife response team led by Bardia NP, with two representatives from satellite sites (ShNP and BaNP).

4.6 Strengthen existing post rescue structures in the three parks through meeting the parks' infrastructural and equipment needs.
4.7 Support linking the wildlife response team with HWCx champions (under Output 1) to promote participatory approach to safe rescue and handling of wildlife.
4.8 Improve DNPWC's existing institutional capacity regarding post-rescue management of wildlife.
4.9 Scale-up the use of in-country expertise to train and systematically manage other wildlife units such as mini zoos that are operated at the municipal and forest user group level in the country and on wildlife rescue and handling.

5.1 Stakeholders including PAs, NGOs, BZUC and CSOs are engaged to co-design approaches to improve wildlife habitat management.
5.2 Collaborate with PA authorities to better manage priority habitats identified within the three PAs.
5.3 Strengthen PA's existing capacity to monitor key species (Tiger, Elephant, Browsing species) within the PAs.
5.4 Build on existing PA infrastructure and equipment within the three parks to improve management effectiveness.
5.5 Collaborate with stakeholders (PAs, conservation partners, universities) to promote studies towards strengthening the conservation effectiveness of each PA.
5.6 Improve upon existing recommendations and policies to incorporate changes following the results of National Tiger Survey 2022.
5.7 Understand the impact of project interventions on the retention of wildlife within protected areas to assess effectiveness of intervention.
5.8 Produce best practices document as future recommendation strategy for biodiversity conservation.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	2.2.1 (3,000 HHs benefitting through improved agricultural practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5).	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total:0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0	Total: 1379 (Nepal) M: 435 F: 944 Other:0 IPLC: 708				Total:1379 (Nepal) M: 435 F: 944 Other:0 IPLC: 708	Total: 3,189 (Nepal)-structured training related to agriculture practices M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	2.2.2 4,000 HHs benefitting through improved livestock practices by the end of Y3 (refresher training in Y5).	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total:0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0	Total: 672 (Nepal) M:285 F:387 Other:0 IPLC: 303				Total:1783 (Nepal) M:867 F: 916 Other:0 IPLC:809	Total: 2693 (Nepal)-structured training related to livestock practices M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	2.3.1 120 HHs benefitting from electrician, plumbing, mobile repair, motorcycle repair skills training by the end	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: (Nepal) M: 0 F: 0 Other: 0 IPLC:0	Total: 91 (Nepal) M: 75 F: 16 Other:0 IPLC:52				Total:91 (Nepal) M:75 F: 16 Other:0 IPLC:52	Total: 120 (Nepal)-electrician, plumbing, mobile repair, motorcycle repair skills training M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	2.3.2 145 HHs benefitting from nature-based tourism skills training by the end of Y3.	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: (Nepal) M: F: Other: IPLC:	Total: 43 (Nepal) M:27 F: 16 Other: 0 IPLC: 23				Total: 24 (Nepal) M:27 F: 16 Other:0 IPLC:23	Total: 145 (Nepal)- nature-based tourism skills training M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	1.2 Existing community units for HWC mitigation are scaled up to create 100 HWCx across the landscape.	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: 74 (Nepal) M:53 F: 21 Other:0 IPLC:34	Total: 26 (Nepal) M:21 F: 5 Other:0 IPLC:1				Total: 100 (Nepal) M:74 F: 26 Other:0 IPLC: 47	Total: 100 (Nepal)- creation of 100 HWCx champions M: 74 F: 26 Other:0 IPLC: 47

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	5.3.2 Capabilities of 450 park and DNPWC staff improved to ensure they comply with Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) requirements for accreditation by the end of Y4 (compared to Y1 baseline)	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: 30 (Nepal) M:25 F: 5 Other:0 IPLC: 0	Total: 241 (Nepal) M: 209 F: 32 Other:0 IPLC: 104				Total: 271 (Nepal) M:234 F: 37 Other:0 IPLC:	Total: 450 (Nepal)- park and DNPWC staff trained to comply with Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC
DI-A01	*Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training*	4.5.4 Wildlife rescue response rate increases by 20% by project end compared to baseline set in Y2.	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: (Nepal) M: F: Other: IPLC:	Total: (Nepal) M: 43 F: 6 Other:0 IPLC: 26				Total: 271 (Nepal) M:234 F: 37 Other:0 IPLC:	Total: 43 (Nepal)- Wildlife rescue response team members trained across BNP, BaNP, ShNP, by ZSLs Wildlife Health Bridge programme M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC
DI-A03	*Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity*	2.2 52 Community banks, 12 existing plus 40 new (with ca. 135 HHs per CB), are established and/or strengthened under the framework of BZUCs and are directly benefitting 7,000 HHs, (including the most vulnerable	Number of organisations	Country (Nepal) Organisation Type (public)	Total: (Nepal, public organisation)	Total: 20 BZUC; 54 Community Banks, (Nepal, public				Total: (Nepal, public organisation)	Total: 20 BZUC, 57 Community Banks, (Nepal, public organisation-BZUCs supported to improve livelihood schemes)

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
		groups and HHs) with the potential to increase income as highly as 60-120% as shown in previous projects, by the middle of Y2				organisation)					
DI-A03	*Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity*	1.1.1 An HWCx position in the BZMC of each park (BNP, ShNP, BaNP) created and institutionalised by the end of Y1 and scaled up to be functional also in Koshi Tappu National Park (KTNP), Chitwan and Parsa NPs by the end of Y3.	Number of organisations	Country (Nepal) Organisation Type (public)	Total:3 (Nepal, public organisation)	Total:3 (Nepal, public organisation)				Total:6 (Nepal, public organisation)	Total: 3 (Nepal, public organisation-HWCx positions created within BZMC of BNP, BaNP, and ShNP and scaled up to KTNP, Parsa and Chitwan
DI-A03	*Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity*	4.1 National and regional stakeholders identified, and expert learning provided by the end of Y1.	Number of organisations	Country (Nepal) Organisation Type (public)	Total: 0 (Nepal, public organisation)	Total: 2 (Nepal, public organisation)				Total: 3 (Nepal, public organisation)	Total: 3 (Nepal, public organisation-IUCN Elephant Transport Working Group and road ecology specialists BaNP and ShNP authorities-organisations engaged in linear infrastructure mitigation activities)
DI-A03	*Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity*	4.5.1 Animal holding facilities improved through staff training, enclosure improvements and best practice for animal nutrition and behaviour by the end of Y3.	Number of organisations	Country (Nepal) Organisation Type (public)	Total: 0(Nepal, public organisation)	Total:4 (Nepal, public organisation)				Total: 4 (Nepal, public organisation)	Total: 4 (Nepal, public organisation-BaNP, BNP, ShNP, NTNC engaged to improve animal

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
											holding facilities)
DI-B07	*Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended*	1.2.1 Bylaws of Community Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs) network in the project landscape are amended to include HWC mitigation actions by the end of Y1,	Number of instruments	Country (Nepal) Type (amended policies)	Total: 1 (Nepal, amended policies)	Total:0 (Nepal, amended policies)				Total: 1 (Nepal, amended policies)	Total: 1 (Nepal, amended policies-CBAPU by-laws amended)
DI-B07	*Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended*	N/A	Number of instruments	Country (Nepal) Type (amended policies)	Total: (Nepal, amended policies)	Total: 22 (20 BZUC level HWC mitigation Plan and two PA level HWC mitigation Plan (Nepal, amended policies)				Total: (Nepal, amended policies)	Total: 22 (Nepal, enacted policies-HWC mitigation Plans)
DI-B07	*Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended*	N/a	Number of instruments	Country (Nepal) Type (amended policies)	Total:7 BZCF OP (Nepal, amended policies)	Total: 8 BZCF OP (Nepal, amended policies) Nepali				Total: 8 BZCF OP (Nepal, amended policies) Nepali	Total: 40 (Nepal, enacted policies-BZCF OPs)

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-B07	*Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended*	0.6 Stable or increasing trends in elephant, rhino, tiger and tiger prey species populations in all three focal PAs throughout project lifetime	Number of instruments	Country (Nepal) Type (amended policies)	Total: (Nepal, amended policies)	Total: 1 (Post rescue wildlife handling) Nepali				Total: 1 (Nepal, amended policies)	Total: 3 (Nepal, amended policies – National Park and Wildlife Conservation Regulation, Tiger monitoring Protocol, Post rescue wildlife handling) Nepali/ English
DI-C01	*Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed*	3.1 Areas identified and assessed for locally appropriate interventions against high conflict species (i.e., tigers, elephants, browsing species) by consulting disaggregated groups (with at least 40% from Indigenous and other disadvantaged groups) across households by the end of Y1 1.4 Feasibility of HWC insurance options across all six lowland Nepal national park buffer zones assessed by the end of Y3, and if feasible insurance schemes operational in Y4 and Y5	Number	Country (Nepal) Language (English/ Nepali)	Total: 1 (English)	Total:3 (Effectiveness of HWC mitigation measures) (HWC insurance Mechanism) (Market value chain assessment of livelihood				Total: 3 (English)	Total: 4 (English - (Effectiveness of HWC mitigation measures) (HWC insurance Mechanism) (Market value chain assessment of livelihood products) (Linear infrastructure best practices report)) (English)

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
		2.1.2 Quantity and diversity of existing products/services (agriproducts such as vegetable, cash-crops, grains; livestock products; ecotourism services such as nature guides, homestays, and restaurants) assessed by the end of Y1, taking account of access for key vulnerable groups and HHs.				products) (Nepal, English)					
DI-C01	*Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed*	5.5 Lessons learnt are documented, analysed, and promulgated through two peer reviewed papers within a year of project end	Number	Country (Nepal) Language (English/ Nepali)	Total: 0 (Nepal, English and Nepali	Total:0 (Nepal, English and Nepali)				Total:0 (Nepal, English and Nepali)	Total: 2 (Nepal, English and Nepali- lessons learned peer reviewed papers published within 2 years of project end)
DI-C02	*Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published*	5.3.1 Key research projects (including 5 Masters students' projects) about animal movements, conflict incidents and mitigation, post-translocation, or post-release behaviours by end of Y5	Number	Country (Nepal) Taxa (Flora/Fauna/Fungi-TBC)	Total: 0 (Nepal) Taxa: N/a	Total: 0 (Nepal) Taxa: N/a				Total: 0 (Nepal) Taxa: (Flora/Fauna/Fungi-TBC)	Total: 5 (Nepal)- Masters students/key research projects published Taxa: (Flora/Fauna/ Fungi-TBC)
DI-C03	*New assessments of habitat*	0.5 The viability for wildlife movements of the corridors in Kamdi (Banke) and Boom	New assessments of habitat conservation	Country (Nepal)	Total: 0 (Nepal, Tropical-subtropic	Total: 1 (Nepal, Tropical-				Total: 0 (Nepal, Tropical-subtropic	Total: 1 (Nepal, Tropical-subtropical forests-joint Kamdi/Boom-

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	conservation action needs published	Brahmadev (Shuklaphanta) has been assessed by end of Y4	action needs published	Biome (Tropical - subtropical forests)	al forests)	subtropical forests)				al forests)	Brahmadev corridor assessment published)
DI-D01a	*Area under Sustainable Management Practices*	5.2.1 50 ha of grassland maintained by the end of Y4,	Number of hectares	Country (Nepal) Biome (Tropical - subtropical forests) Management type (Vegetation management)	Total: 0 ha (Nepal, Tropical-subtropical forests, Vegetation management)	Total: 185 ha (Nepal, Tropical-subtropical forests, Vegetation management)				Total: 185 ha (Nepal, Tropical-subtropical forests, Vegetation management)	Total: 50 ha (Nepal, Tropical-subtropical forests, Vegetation management-grassland area managed under project)
DI-D03b	*Number of people with improved income*	2.4 Average income of the participating 7,265 HHs increased by 20% by the end of the project against Y2 baseline across 750 sample HHs surveyed using a wellbeing index (sample size >10% of total HHs).	Households Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: 0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0 Sector (Business)	Total: 0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0 Sector (Business)				Total: 0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0 Sector (Business)	Total: 750- number of people experiencing 20% improvement in income by end of project M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
				Sector (Business)							IPLC: TBC Sector (Business)
DI-D04	*Number of people with enhanced wellbeing*	0.3 60% of 7,265 HHs (selected through consultation with BZUC chairs and participatory meetings and baseline surveys show) at least a 40% improvement in the wellbeing index (baseline to be set in Y1) by the end of the project.	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: 0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0	Total:0 (Nepal) M: F: Other:0 IPLC: 1865				Total: 3328 (Nepal) M:2184 F: 1144 Other:0 IPLC: 1144	Total: 7265 households showing 40% improvement in wellbeing by end of project M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC
DI-D04e	*Number of people with improved security*	3.3.1 Proactive mitigation measures against damage by high conflict species are replicated and reduce HWC by the end of the project in 1,000 existing households from previous projects and an additional 4,000 HHs as prioritised in Ind 3.1 3.3.6 3,000 additional HHs (repeat sample of 300 HHs) against Y1 baseline reporting a sense of preparedness and increased knowledge base for mitigating HWC incidents based on awareness of case studies from the 3 project PAs delivered by government match funds (i.e., number of people recall viewing	Number of people	Country (Nepal) Gender (men, women) IPLC status (IPLC)	Total: 0 (Nepal) M:0 F: 0 Other:0 IPLC: 0	Total: 4222 (Nepal) M:2749 F: 1428 Other:0 IPLC: 2428				Total: 3328 (Nepal) M:2184 F: 1144 Other:0 IPLC: 1865	Total: 8,000 (Nepal)- number of people experiencing improved security by end of project M: TBC F: TBC Other: TBC IPLC: TBC

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Project indicator number	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Year 5 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
		awareness materials) by project end)									
DI-D07	*Number of threatened species with improving conservation status*	5.4.1 20% increase in key wildlife species' use of improved habitats such as grasslands and waterholes (against baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) by the end of Y5. 5.4.2 15% decrease (baseline to be set in Y1/Y2) in wildlife sightings in HWC hotspots by the end of Y5	Number of taxa	Country (Nepal) Kingdom (Animal)	Total: 0 (Nepal, animal species)	Total: 1 (Nepal, Tiger)				Total: 0 (Nepal, animal species)	Total: 0 (Nepal), animal species)- increasing elephant, rhino, tiger and tiger prey populations

Table 2 Publications

No publicly facing publications have been published in Y2 of the project. Several outputs are under development for publication in Y3 of the project (HWC Mitigation Best Practices Document (Activity1.2.3), BZUC HWC Management Plan (Activity 3.2.8), Safer Behaviours Around Wildlife Handbook (Activity 3.4.4) and Project Case Study.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	✓
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	✓
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	✓
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	✓
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	✓
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	✓
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	✓
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	