Darwin Initiative Innovation Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2025

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARNV022
Project title	Community cricket farming for conservation
Country/ies	Cambodia
Lead Organisation	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
Project partner(s)	1. Agri House 2. Siem Pang Conservation Organisation 3. Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 199,805
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2024 - 31 March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Jonathan C. Eames
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Sopheap Mak: 8 - 16 April 2025 Romain Legrand: 10 - 11 April 2025 Mrs. Lundy CHOU: 10 - 15 April 2025 Jonathan Eames 16 – 22 and 29 April 2025

1. Project summary

Project Summary

Lack of economic opportunity amongst the rural poor remains the main driver of biodiversity loss at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS), Cambodia. The project will test the feasibility and scalability of household cricket farming as a novel approach to reduce monetary poverty and promote education, thereby reducing biodiversity loss. The project will establish 50 household commercial cricket farms in villages surrounding SPWS, and participating households will sign conservation contracts committing to not logging, hunting, and encroaching in SPWS.

Pathway to change

The feasibility study will demonstrate the economic viability of household cricket farming as a scalable livelihood, that reduces multidimensional poverty and the drivers of biodiversity loss (Output 1).

Households will be selected on the basis of likelihood of success, proximity to and impact on Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary (SPWS) and its biodiversity.

Selected households will sign a conservation contract with Rising Phoenix committing to cease logging, further land encroachment and hunting in SPWS. In return, householders will receive training in cricket farming, and a cricket breeding unit will be established at their home.

Compliance with the conservation contract, guarantees the household market access. Households sell their cricket crop at a premium and receive cricket feed at a discounted price. This will allow the participants to increase household income, contributing to food security, via acquiring a new transferable skill-set (Output 2).

Most households will abide by their conservation contracts because the economic rewards of participating in the scheme are greater than the consequences of breaking the agreement and being prosecuted. This behaviour change will reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss in SPWS (Output 3).

The approach can be brought to scale within the district and at other key biodiversity areas.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

1. Agri House

Agri House is a Khmer women owned and led registered company, which operates as a social enterprise. It has been operating since 2020 and in that time has modernized the Cambodian cricket industry with end-to-end value chain support for the raising, processing and sales of high-quality crickets and cricket-based products.

They have designed and engineered a semi-automatic cricket farming kit, which can be set up in remote areas. The cricket kit utilizes temperature and humidity control to increase the cricket yield, allowing great income for farmers and higher quality crickets.

Agri house have established over 50 cricket farms, and they provide supports farmers with after-sales service, including a buy back guarantee and connections to market, and financial and digital literacy training.

They have also developed agri-processing to develop roasted crickets, cricket snacks and cricket powder for sale. Agri House will lead on the activities of output 1, and support in output 2.

They are responsible for setting up the household cricket farms and provide the initial training to the farmers. They will sign sales agreement with the participating households and be responsible for the purchase of the crickets and the supply of cricket feed in the first round.

2. Siem Pang Conservation

Established in 2020, Siem Pang Conservation (SPC) is a registered Cambodian NGO. At the end of 2022, SPC signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia to manage Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary for 30 years. Under this agreement Rising Phoenix will deliver conservation management, community development and support for law enforcement.

In 2023, Siem Pang Conservation established an English teaching programme in Siem Pang District with the intent to sponsor fifty places for children who are part of the households participating in the cricket farming scheme. However, this programme was terminated at the end of December 2024 due to fund shortage and low levels of attendance.

3. Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium

Rising Phoenix already has a long-standing relationship with AWA under a Siamese crocodile reintroduction project. Under this new project, AWA will raise tarantula spiders in controlled conditions to test the feasibility of household spider production. Tarantulas fetch up to US$ 1 each and are harvested unsustainably within SPWS currently, negatively impacting a Critically Endangered bird species.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Project inception activities:

0.1 Project staffing, contractual arrangements, equipment and logistics required put in place

Three staff were recruited from April 2024. Mr. Lam Tola was transferred from the Value Chain and Coordination Officer to be the Value Chain Section Leader within the Community Development Unit from the 1 April 2024. Mr. Vieng Toet and Miss. Em Chanthea were recruited from 6 May 2024 to be the value chain technicians.

The first meeting with Agri House was conducted on 8 March 2024 focusing on refining implementation roles, timeline, finalising the implementation plan. The first draft of the contract with Agri House was prepared on 8 May 2024 and the final agreement was signed on 29 August 2024. The delay in signing was caused by personnel changes at Rising Phoenix.

In February 2025, Agri House and Rising Phoenix began installation of smart kits for the first 10 households in Pong Kriel village. Each household received 4 smart kits, so in total 40 smart kits. In February 2025, we completed the instalment for other 12 households with 48 smart kits in Khes Svay village and another 11 households in Khes Svay were completed March 2025. By end of March 2025, a total 33 households in Pong Kriel and Khes Svay villages started their cricket farming. The remaining 17 households will be completed in April 2025.

0.2 Project M & E and reporting and communications framework established and agreed with key stakeholders

In September 2024, Rising Phoenix and Agri House developed the Monitoring and Evaluation framework in an excel spread sheet for the 50 families. The cricket value chain team at Rising Phoenix updates the progress of the farming and the compliance every month ([redacted]

0.3 Project inception workshop with project Partners and key stakeholders

Two inception workshops were held to align project goals and responsibilities. The first was in March 2024, between Agri House and Rising Phoenix in Phnom Penh, focused on refining implementation roles and timelines. The second in October 2024 brought together Agri House, Rising Phoenix, and participating farmers in Siem Pang to introduce the project objectives and co-design local engagement strategies. Both sessions laid the foundation for collaborative delivery.

Other two meetings were conducted with stakeholders and participating farmers. On 29 – 30 May 2024, Rising Phoenix conducted the cricket farming awareness meetings in three villages of Khes Svay, Khes Kraom, and Pong Kriel to call for expressions of interest amongst households to participate in the project ([redacted]On 31 May 2024, the cricket farming project was officially announced to community representative and key stakeholders in the quarterly Stakeholder Forum meeting on 31 May 2024 at the Siem Pang district office and chaired by the Deputy Provincial Governor. [redacted]

Output 1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.

1.1. Investigate different accreditation bodies and requirements

Agri House has begun exploring international certification pathways and compliance requirements to ensure our Golden Cricket standard meets global benchmarks. This includes the selection of an accredited specialist consultant for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), a food safety management system that helps businesses identify, evaluate, and control hazards that could make food unsafe. This certification includes most of the

requirements for the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) certification which applies to fresh produce. We are continuing to research and develop standards for crickets.

In the next few months, we will continue consulting with food safety experts and certification bodies across key target markets including EU, US, and APAC regions. This will include analysing successful certification models from sustainable agriculture and alternative protein sectors to inform our approach. We also aim to further develop relationships with accreditation partners to ensure our standard will be recognized and trusted worldwide.

1.2. Investigate appropriate conservation branding for product

Agri House is still exploring how Golden Cricket branding can reflect the impact and environmental benefits of cricket farming. We have begun researching successful sustainability marks like the FSC logo and Rainforest Alliance seal, in relation to our chocolate cricket powder product as a guide. Once we have compiled our research, we will begin discussions with designers to develop an easily recognisable brand. We are attending an international Insect conference in June to further discuss branding and certification with the regional industry peak body, the Asian Food and Feed Insect Association (AFFIA).

1.3. Investigate organic cricket feed production and scaling

Agri House is working with local families in the Rising Phoenix village network to assess and secure a reliable supply of plant-based inputs for sustainable cricket feed. This includes collaborating with Siem Pang farmers to identify crops subject to post-harvest losses and conducting nutritional analysis to develop optimal, locally sourced feed formulations. The objective is to establish an integrated procurement model that both ensures consistent feed quality and increases household incomes by prioritizing smallholder farmer participation. The research will also explore opportunities to incorporate biodynamic and organic practices, potentially linking these standards to future sales agreements.

1.4. Complete financial modelling and business plan

The development of Agri House's financial model and business plan is currently in progress. This process is closely linked to findings from both the feed formulation research (1.3) and the production system design (1.5), as these will inform key cost structures, pricing strategies, and revenue projections. The final business plan will integrate insights from these components to ensure the financial viability and scalability of the cricket farming model.

1.5. Produce feasibility study for cricket farming

The feasibility study was scheduled to commence in February 2025, aligned with the second production cycle of participating families. There is limited data available from the first harvest due to the initial delays. These then had a knock-on effect for purchasing materials and goods, and ultimately, harvest times. The first 9 families are due to harvest on 22 April, and we were waiting on this to have a validation of the smaller, first yields. This timing will allow for a more accurate assessment of on-farm practices, including the integration of locally sourced feed inputs aimed at reducing production costs. The study will evaluate the technical, economic, and social viability of scaling the cricket farming model, with a focus on long-term sustainability for smallholder households.

1.6. Get feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by a third party

Following the completion of the feasibility study, Agri House will seek third-party validation to strengthen the credibility of the model and support future investment or scaling opportunities. This endorsement process is expected to take place in late 2026, pending the outcomes and quality of data from the second and third production cycles.

Output 2: 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 50 households.

2.1. Announcements made in two target villages looking for households to participate in cricket farming.

We have selected three villages which are all adjacent on the main road through Siem Pang district. These villages were selected because they already have good uptake of the IBIS Rice scheme and we have established networks and relationships, importantly they all have mains

electricity, which will serve storage of crickets, and they are located on the main road, affording ease of product transportation. On 29 and 30 May 2024, we conducted meetings to announce the cricket project and call households to participate in the project in Khes Svay, Khes Kraom and Pong Kriel villages. The meetings were chaired by Mr. Thong Pan, Preak Meas commune chief, and 74 villagers (29 females) participated. After the meeting, 68 farmers registered (43 IBIS Rice members) in the cricket farming project [redacted]

2.2. Selection process implemented and 50 households selected in two target villages for cricket farm establishment.

Between 20-23 June 2024, Rising Phoenix and Agri House conducted a survey, gathering necessary information from the 68 households who registered for the scheme. After the assessment, 50 households were selected in the three villages of Khes Svay, Khes Kraom and Pong Kriel villages [redacted]

2.3. Selected households sign conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and sales agreement with Agri House.

In October 2024, all 50 selected households signed the conservation and sales agreement with Rising Phoenix and Agri House ([redacted]

2.4. Training is implemented for the trainers (Rising Phoenix staff) to allow them to provide support to participating households.

Four Rising Phoenix staff were trained by Agri House team on 18 September 2024 to be future trainers (2 females) [redacted]

2.5. Training participating households in cricket farming and financial literacy

A series of four workshops were conducted from October 15-18, 2024, in Rising Phoenix office in Siem Pang, training 100 participants (51 women) from the three target villages. The training covered five key modules: soft skills, SMART goals, financial literacy, digital literacy, and cricket farming techniques, delivered through participatory methods [redacted]

The training emphasized practical application through hands-on exercises, group discussions, and case studies, making complex concepts accessible to participants. Most participants had very low initial income (below $100) and limited financial literacy, with few tracking their income and expenses before the training. Digital literacy focused on Telegram usage for communication and marketing, though many participants initially didn't have smartphones.

All four workshops showed significant knowledge improvements, with the highest gains in areas like break-even point calculation (up to 65% increase) and soft skills (up to 66% increase). Participants showed near-universal satisfaction with the content and teaching methodology across all workshops (99-100% satisfaction rates).

Key challenges included communication barriers, cultural differences, and limited access to technology, which were addressed through visual aids and community-based training approaches.

2.6. Cricket farms establishing at participating households.

By 28 March 2025, 50 families installed smart pens and the Entocore technology, which is designed to help families close the digital gap/divide and manage their farms better, was completed. 33 families were trained for cricket raising and started cricket farming. Group 1 (10 families in Pong Kriel) started farming on 11 March; Group 2 (12 families in Khes Svay) started on 22 March; Group 3 (11 families in Khes Svay) started on 27 March. For Group 4 (9 families in Khes Kraom) will start on 5 April and Group 5 (8 families in Khes Kraom) will start on 22 April 2025. We set different start dates because we want to make the production supply stable and easy for the delivery from Siem Pang to the factory of Agri House in Phnom Penh. It means every week, we will harvest crickets from 10 families.

However, there were some challenges faced during the farm establishment activities:

- Local transportation distance for delivery to each household
- Cricket egg breeding needs to be arranged into 5 different groups (about 7 to 15 days different between each group to harvest in order)

- The first 9 starting households faced challenges as crickets died during the nymph hatching process due to the new farmers limited experience in maintaining optimal environmental conditions and handling the delicate early growth stage.
- Materials order: A supplier delayed delivery.

2.7. 50 children from participating households are enrolled in English language training, provided by Siem Pang Conservation.

In March 2024, 148 students from the three target villages in Preak Meas commune (Khes Svay, Khes Krom, and Pong Kriel) registered for English language training. By August 17 students remained in class. There are two main reasons for the decline in attendance: August falls within school summer holidays and many children work in the fields at this time. [redacted] Reasons for drop-off in attendance include that the classes are in the evening and many of the households whose children first registered do not have means of transportation to attend class. Some of the participating 50 households only have young children below school age whilst others are new couples without children. The English language training scheme was ended in December 2024 by decision of the Chairman of SPC.

2.8. Continued mentoring support to participating households

This activity has not occurred yet in Year 1, though both Rising Phoenix and Agri House teams have both been very active in mentoring during the early stages of cricket farming.

2.9. Buy back of crickets from compliant farmers and provision of cricket feed.

This activity has not yet occurred as cricket sales have not started. The first cricket production (Group 1) will be harvested near the end of April 2025.

Output 3: Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.

3.1. Update household information on compliance database for households who have signed the conservation agreements.

A database of 50 households with a family code, contact information and progress tracking table was established for monitoring the compliance [redacted]

3.2. Regular law enforcement patrols in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary

Regular law enforcement patrols led by the Siem Pang PATROL Unit (SPPU) working together with rangers from the Department of Environment, Forestry Administration and Royal Gendarmerie Khmer were conducted regularly. Rising Phoenix scout patrols (up to 50% female) working together with rangers from the Department of Environment conducted regular snare removal activities in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. Monthly SPPU and Scouts patrols reports were produced reporting in detail on these activities [redacted]

3.3. Regular biodiversity monitoring patrols, vulture restaurants, nest, and roost monitoring for key species.

The Rising Phoenix Biodiversity Monitoring Unit conducted regular monitoring patrols by motorbike and on foot to monitor five Critically Endangered bird species. To monitor the vulture population restaurants were held weekly with the provision of a dead water buffalo. A total of 15 vulture nests were found and monitored by the end of the breeding season in June 2024, and 14 nests so far in 2025. We found and monitored 41 white-shouldered ibis and 10 giant ibis nests in 2024. So far in 2025, thirty nests of white-shouldered Ibis are being monitored. We conducted four roost site counts to monitor the white-shouldered ibis population our roost site counts over the reporting period (monthly in July-October 2024). Monthly biodiversity reports were produced reporting in detail on these activities [redacted]

3.4. Monthly cross checking of law enforcement data against compliance database

Monthly reports on law enforcement were produced by the Siem Pang PATROL Unit (SPPU) and the Surveillance and Intelligence Reporting Unit (SIRU). Data was checked against the compliance database. Between April 2024 to March 2025 no cricket farmer was found to have broken the terms of their agreement.

3.5. Annual forest cover change study completed and report produced

The forest cover change assessment report of 2022-2024 was completed in September 2024 [redacted]

The report provides an analysis of forest cover changes within SPWS using a 2021 baseline, from January 2022 to January 2024, aiming to systematically assess and document the extent, rate, and patterns of deforestation, reforestation, and forest degradation.

Forest cover in SPWS was 91.3% in January 2022. This had declined to 91% by January 2023 and 90.8% by January 2024. In total, 383 ha of forest were lost between January 2022 and January 2023, and a further 303 ha between January 2023 and January 2024. During the reporting period 686 ha of forest were lost.

Net forest loss between 2021-2022 was 1,841 ha, whilst net forest loss between 2022-2024 was 686 ha. This suggests that the rate of forest loss could be declining. The methodology used for the 2021-2022 calculation differed form that used in this study and a source of potential error. In three focal areas the results were as follows: The Khampouk area showed a higher rate of forest loss than during the baseline period. Forest loss in the Khampouk area is as a result of forest conversion to rice and cashew. The southern boundary area showed a lower rate of forest loss than during the baseline period. The IBIS Rice project has helped reduce the rate of encroachment into SPWS. The Sekong River corridor area showed a higher rate of forest loss than during the baseline period. This is of concern because of the rarity and high biodiversity value of this forest type. Seven recommendations to reduce further forest loss are made. The next forest cover change assessment report of 2025 will be completed until October 2025.

3.6. Tarantula harvesting survey implemented, data analyses and short communication submitted.

A questionnaire comprising 24 questions was prepared for the survey with spider collectors [redacted] The survey was conducted in November 2024 in two villages, targeting 30 households identified as spider collectors. That period coincided with the harvesting period.

In another survey for tarantula traders we used a questionnaire comprising 17 questions and this was conducted in January 2025 in villages where they were normally sold to middlemen, targeting 7 people identified as traders [redacted]

The data of both surveys were recorded in the excel database for analyses. Due to staff time constraints during the scheduled reporting period, the analyses and results of the survey will be reported in the next half-year report in Year 2.

3.7. Tarantula breeding pilot is established

A total of 34 tarantulas *Cyriopagopus longipes* were used in the first breeding trial in 2024 (8 males and 26 females). One infertile egg sac was produced and most mating did not prove successful. All males died over time as expected, but none was killed during mating. At the end of 2024, 7 females remained from this first breeding trial.

In January 2025, 40 new individuals (3 males and 37 females) were collected and safely transported to Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium, our partner for this pilot study.

The pilot project faces particularly challenges because this species is territorial. Attempts at keeping the animals in communal groups were unsuccessful because of cannibalism, so each pair must be kept separately from one another. A report on activities conducted over the reporting period was produced [redacted]

3.8. Case study of tarantula breeding pilot is prepared and published

Case study of tarantula breeding pilot will be prepared at the end of Year 2.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.

1.1. One feasibility study for cricket farming produced by the end of the first year of the project. (Core DI-B04)

Work on the feasibility study commenced in February 2025, and was to be aligned with the first and second production cycle of participating families. This timing will allow for a more accurate assessment of on-farm practices, including the integration of locally sourced feed inputs aimed at reducing production costs. The study will evaluate the technical, economic, and social viability of scaling the cricket farming model, with a focus on long-term sustainability for smallholder households. The feasibility study will be documented against existing practices across non Siem Pang farmers to identify income opportunities.

1.2. One feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)

Following the completion of the first feasibility study, Agri House will continue to monitor harvest outputs during the project and seek third-party validation to strengthen the credibility of the model and support future investment or scaling opportunities. This endorsement process is expected to take place in late 2026, pending the outcomes and quality of data from the second and third production cycles.

Output 2: 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 50 households.

2.1. 50 female head of households sign a conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and a sales agreement with Agri house by the end of year 1.

Completed. All 50 head of households (50 females) signed the conservation and sales agreement with Rising Phoenix and Agri House in October 2024.

2.2. Four Rising Phoenix staff (50% female) trained as trainers and have delivered further training by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A05)

Completed. Four Rising Phoenix staff (2 females) received training from Agri House in September 2024. All the four staff have full capacity and are able to deliver further training to farmers and they are now monitoring farming activities in the three villages.

2.3. 100 people (50% female) from two target villages complete training on cricket farming and financial literacy by the end of year 1). (Core DI-A01)

Completed. Agri House has conducted training for 100 participants (50% female) from three target villages on cricket farming, financial, and digital literacy from 15-18 October, 2024. The training aimed to improve participants' ability to manage finances, use digital tools like Telegram, and apply effective cricket farming techniques. The workshops were interactive, using practical exercises, group discussions, and real-life examples tailored to rural farmers. Participants showed significant improvement in budgeting, tracking expenses, and understanding profit and loss.

2.4. 80 trained rural people (50% female) are selling crickets by the end of the project. (Core DI-A04)

Partially achieved. As of this reporting period, Agri House is supporting 100 trained cricket farmers (50% female) who have completed or are at the stage of completing at least one full production cycle. They are able to take advantage of both the purchase guarantee with Agri House, or commence small-scale sales of crickets within their local communities. These initial sales are primarily through informal markets, or via bulk sales to Agri House as part of an emerging supply network. Agri House anticipates that at least 80 participants will be actively selling crickets by the end of the project, with continued technical and market access support provided throughout 2025–2026. This output will happen in at the early Year 2.

2.5. 40 households show increased income as a result of cricket farming, as compared to 2023 baseline.

This output will happen in at the end of Year 2.

Output 3: Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.

3.1. 75% of participating households have not broken their conservation contracts by the EOP.

Achieved. Monthly law enforcement reports were produced by the Siem Pang PATROL Unit (SPPU) and the Surveillance and Intelligence Reporting Unit (SIRU). Data collection via

SMART reports from SPPU, SIRU and compliance monitoring, were regularly checked. Between April 2024 to March 2025 no cricket farmer was found to have broken the terms of their agreement.

3.2. Less than 2% of forest is loss in SPWS by the EOP compared to 2022 baseline

Achieved. Forest cover in SPWS was 91.3% in January 2022. This had declined to 91% by January 2023 and 90.8% by January 2024. In total, 383 ha of forest were lost between January 2022 and January 2023, and a further 303 ha between January 2023 and January 2024.

3.3. Population of five critically endangered species remains stable compared to 2023 baseline by the EOP

Achieved. Population of five critically endangered bird species is monitored by attendance at vulture restaurants, attendance at roosting sites and number of nests recorded for each species. In 2024, populations of the five critically endangered species are considered stable for white-shouldered ibis, giant ibis and red-headed vulture, and increasing for white-rumped vulture and slender-billed vulture compared to the 2023 baseline.

White-shouldered Ibis: in 2024 we recorded a maximum of 350 individuals at communal roost counts (baseline 370 individuals in 2023) and monitored 41 nests (baseline of 32 nests).
Giant Ibis: We monitored 11 nests in 2024, against a baseline of 17 nests in 2023.
Vultures: We monitored 15 nests in 2024 (13 nests of slender-billed vultures and 2 nests of red-headed vultures), against a baseline of 13 nests in 2023 (11 nests of slender-billed vultures and 2 nests of red-headed vultures).

At the vulture restaurant, we counted a maximum of 127 vultures in 2024 (maximum of 108 in 2023). The maximum number of birds counted during a same event in 2024 was 80 white-rumped vultures (maximum of 66 in 2023), 45 slender-billed vultures (maximum of 37 in 2023), and 11 red-headed vultures (maximum of 6 in 2023).

3.4. Tarantula hunting by communities in SPWS is assessed and conservation recommendations are made by the BEOP (Core DI-C04)

Partially achieved. The questionnaire comprising 24 questions and 17 questions were presented to 37 households of which 30 involved in tarantula collections and 7 involved in trading in the sanctuary in December 2024 and January 2025, to assess tarantula hunting by communities and trading in SPWS. The study will be repeated in 2025. Results and data gathered will be analyzed and presented by the BEOP.

3.5. One tarantula breeding pilot project is established by the end of the project.

Achieved. Tarantula breeding pilot project was established with a first breeding trial in 2024 with 34 tarantulas (8 males and 26 females), and a second trial started in January 2025.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome Statement: Sustainable cricket farming as a novel approach for reducing multi-dimensional poverty is established, increasing household income for 250 rural people and reducing biodiversity loss, within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia.

O.1. One "feasibility study for cricket farming" endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)

Preparation of the feasibility study commenced in February 2025, aligned with early production cycles to assess the viability of sustainable cricket farming. It will document technical, economic, and social outcomes, to identify income opportunities and long-term scalability.

O.2. 40 sustainable cricket farms are established which are profitable by the end of the project. (DI-A11)

The endorsed feasibility study will document the successful establishment of 40 sustainable cricket farms, supported by ongoing technical and market assistance from Agri House, demonstrating their viability as a long-term livelihood strategy within the SPWS.

O.3. Sustainable cricket farming increases household income and therefore improves resilience to climate change for 250 rural people (DI-D02)

This outcome has not yet been achieved due to commercial cricket production not yet starting.

O.4. Logging and land encroachment are reduced as measured by no more than 2% forest loss per annum and population of five critically endangered species remains stable by the EOP (DI-D04)

Through the compliance report of 2024, no logging case found in 2024 compared to one case in 2023. There were 20 cases of land encroachment in 2024 compared to 23 cases in 2023. This indicated that logging and land encroachment were reduced during the reporting period.

The forest cover assessment report of 2022-2024 showed that 383 ha of forest were lost between January 2022 and January 2023, and a further 303 ha between January 2023 and January 2024. This suggested that the forest loss in 2023 was only 0.2%. The assessment report of forest loss in 2024 will be finalized until Oct 2025.

In 2024, populations of the five critically endangered species are considered stable for white-shouldered ibis, giant ibis and red-headed vulture, and increasing for white-rumped vulture and slender-billed vulture compared to the 2023 baseline.

3.2. Less than 2% of forest is loss in SPWS by the EOP compared to 2022 baseline

Forest cover in SPWS in Year 1 suggested that the loss was only 0.2%.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: *Communities living within two target villages are willing to work with Rising Phoenix in sustainable agriculture practices*

Comments: This assumption proved to be correct to date, with active participation of villagers in cricket farming as well as the IBIS Rice scheme, irrigation ponds and community engaging in cattle vaccination and trapeang restoration. During the reporting period, farmers in target villages and others were asking to participate in the project.

Assumption 2: *Participating households being able to manage a cricket farm, and the cricket farming systems works in the rural setting.*

Comments: At the end of the Year 1, farmers are paying good attention and implementing the techniques learned from the trainings, the first-cycle crickets are growing normally, and the technology is working as expected.

Assumption 3: *Increased income and less dependence on rice farming improves resilience to climate change for rural communities*

Comments: Farmers have not sold their cricket production yet since they just started raising in March 2025. The first sales will be at the end of April 2025.

Assumption 4: *Law enforcement initiative supported by Rising Phoenix at SPWS continue to be effective.*

Comments: The law enforcement team led by Siem Pang PATROL Unit continue their patrol regularly every month. No cricket farmers suspect was recorded during the reporting period

Assumption 5: *Feasibility study is economically viable and appropriate.*

Comments: Preliminary data from early production cycles, along with previous successful results from Agri House's pilot operations, indicate strong potential for economic viability. The model is further supported by positive outcomes in the Thai market, where smallholder-led cricket farming has demonstrated commercial success. Full validation will depend on consistent yields, integration of local feed inputs, and reliable market access over successive cycles.

Assumption 6: *Suitable households can be identified are willing to participate in the project.*

Comments: This assumption has proved correct.

Assumption 7: *Participating households having the ability to manage the financial inputs and logistics around managing a cricket farm.*

Comments: This assumption is too early to be commented as households just started their farming at the end of the reporting period.

Assumption 8: *It is assumed there will be a 20% drop out rate of local communities participating in Cricket farming by the end of the project*

Comments: The comment is for the end of the project.

Assumption 9: *Households are willing to abide by their conservation agreement.*

Comments: Assumption proved to be correct to date. During the reporting period, no suspect of cricket farmers was recorded of breaking the agreement.

Assumption 10: *Law enforcement officers operate to a high professional standard.*

Comments: Law enforcement team operated regularly during the reporting period with no disciplinary issues or violations of conduct.

Assumption 11: *2024 El Niño climatic event will not impact breeding success of focal species.*

Comments: 2023–2024 period was an El Niño event, but it did not negatively impact breeding success of monitored species according to our monitoring data. Cambodia entered a La Niña event in 2025 which will result in increased precipitations over the dry season. Mitigations measures in place (trapeangs deepening, well digging) continue to prove effective. A drop in the number of giant ibis nests was observed in the 2024 breeding season compared to 2023 (11 nests monitored in 2024 against 17 in 2023), but overall, the breeding success is comparable with 9 nests successfully fledging 13 young in 2024, against 10 nests successfully fledging 16 young in 2023.

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

Impact statement: *Sustainable cricket farming is scaled across key biodiversity areas of Cambodia, reducing multidimensional poverty of rural communities, and achieving biodiversity conservation.*

Comments: The project to date has established 33 households cricket farming in three villages and will fully establish up to 50 households by end of April 2025. During the reporting period, some farmers in the same villages and in other villages are asking to participate with the project, but staff have rejected them and told to wait for the future opportunity when Rising Phoenix has more funds. These are the first steps aiming to improve household income/economic from an environmentally friendly production that will be scalable across key biodiversity areas of Cambodia, reducing multidimensional poverty of rural communities, and achieving biodiversity conservation.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project contributes to Cambodia's national policies relating to biodiversity conservation, fair use of natural resources and climate change mitigation, including the climate change action plan for disaster management and action for disaster risk reduction in agriculture. It supports three of Cambodia's strategic NBSAP objectives, and 11 themes as follows; Contribute to conservation within Protected Areas (Theme 1). The project is located in and surrounding a protected area, Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary; increase knowledge and conservation action for threatened species (Theme 2). The project focuses on monitoring of five Critically Endangered bird species; increase adaptation and mitigation strategies protecting biodiversity and agriculture from climate change impacts (Theme 8) ensure more sustainable wildlife resource and agriculture management (Themes 12 & 13). The project addresses this by providing 50 households with climate resilient agricultural scheme in the form of cricket farming. The 50 participating households will have improved access to food security and benefit sharing, and the inclusion of 50 females household heads means improved community participation, awareness, and improves quality of life and poverty alleviation (Themes 15,18,19,20 & 22).

The project has not had any interaction with any host country convention focal points, via host country or UK partners in the last 12 months.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project to date has just established cricket farming for 33 households in three villages and will fully establish up to 50 households by end of April 2025. During the reporting period, there was no commercial sales of crickets as production has just started. After farmers have signed the sale agreement and conservation contract, they received training in financial, digital literacy and farming techniques which are tools that can help poverty reduction. Once production is underway the project partner, Agri House, will buy the cricket at $3 per Kg and we project that one household will be able to sell around 100kg generating an income of US$ 300 every 1.5 months, or US$1,800 annually.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

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

Rising Phoenix Co Ltd is a gender-neutral meritocracy and is cognizant that gender roles within Cambodia, especially within the remote rural areas where we work, are deeply divided where women are traditionally seen as working within the household or store-shop orientated positions. Rising Phoenix has been able to adjust these traditional roles within our organization without applying stigma by ensuring males and females train together and promoting staff on the basis of ability only.

Based on our experience of working at SPWS we anticipate that the number of people benefiting from this project (over 250 rural people) will be equally split between men and women, and that there will be a reasonably equal gender split amongst those attending the financial, digital literacy and cricket farming skills, village forums and stakeholder forums, ensuring that lessons learnt and best practise are disseminated equally amongst genders. To date this has been accurately reflected in the first-year activities.

The attendant of women in the training was 51 women out of 100 people in the three target villages. In the first year of the project this has also been accurately reflected.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project has been monitored and managed using a comprehensive M & E framework based on the project log frame. In October, the project M & E framework was established and update the progress monthly by the value chain section leader.

The implementation table which is detailed in full at the start of the project and shared with stakeholders and project partners at the Project Inception meeting to ensure that all parties are clear on the M & E plan, responsibilities for data collection and collation, and that any required changes to the M & E plan made early on.

Data collected from the project monitoring has been be used to inform reporting to stakeholders at the quarterly village and stakeholder forums.

8. Lessons learnt

The first 9 starting households of group 1 in Pong Kriel village faced a challenge as crickets died during the nymph hatching process due to the new farmers limited experience in maintaining optimal environmental conditions and handling the delicate early growth stage of the crickets.

On 25 February 2025, farmers reported baby cricket deaths in their smart kits, the value chain team went to check immediately and saw that most of the baby crickets in all the 10 households died. The team went to check each smart kit at each household. After the team of Agri House and Rising Phoenix discussed on the case, the team suspects factors related to the new materials used in the kits and the cricket drinking water system, and has put in place corrective measures to prevent future cricket deaths. The measures were to remove and clean all the materials used in the kits and water system, dry in the sun, keep them for an appropriate period before putting the new eggs, for example, drying the egg tray for one day, cleaning the water bottles and keep 14 days before use, etc. After the measure implemented, Agri House had provided the new eggs for the 9 households again on 11 March 2025. After that, all the crickets are growing well.

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

This is the first annual report, and no feedback has yet been received.

10. Risk Management

The most recent version of the project risk register has been attached as Annex B.

Over the first year of the project there has been six risks added to the risk register. Out of these risks, two risks have been closed and four risks remain open. Regular monitoring of the open risks is implemented by the named owners of the risk. No significant adaptation of the project has been required to date.

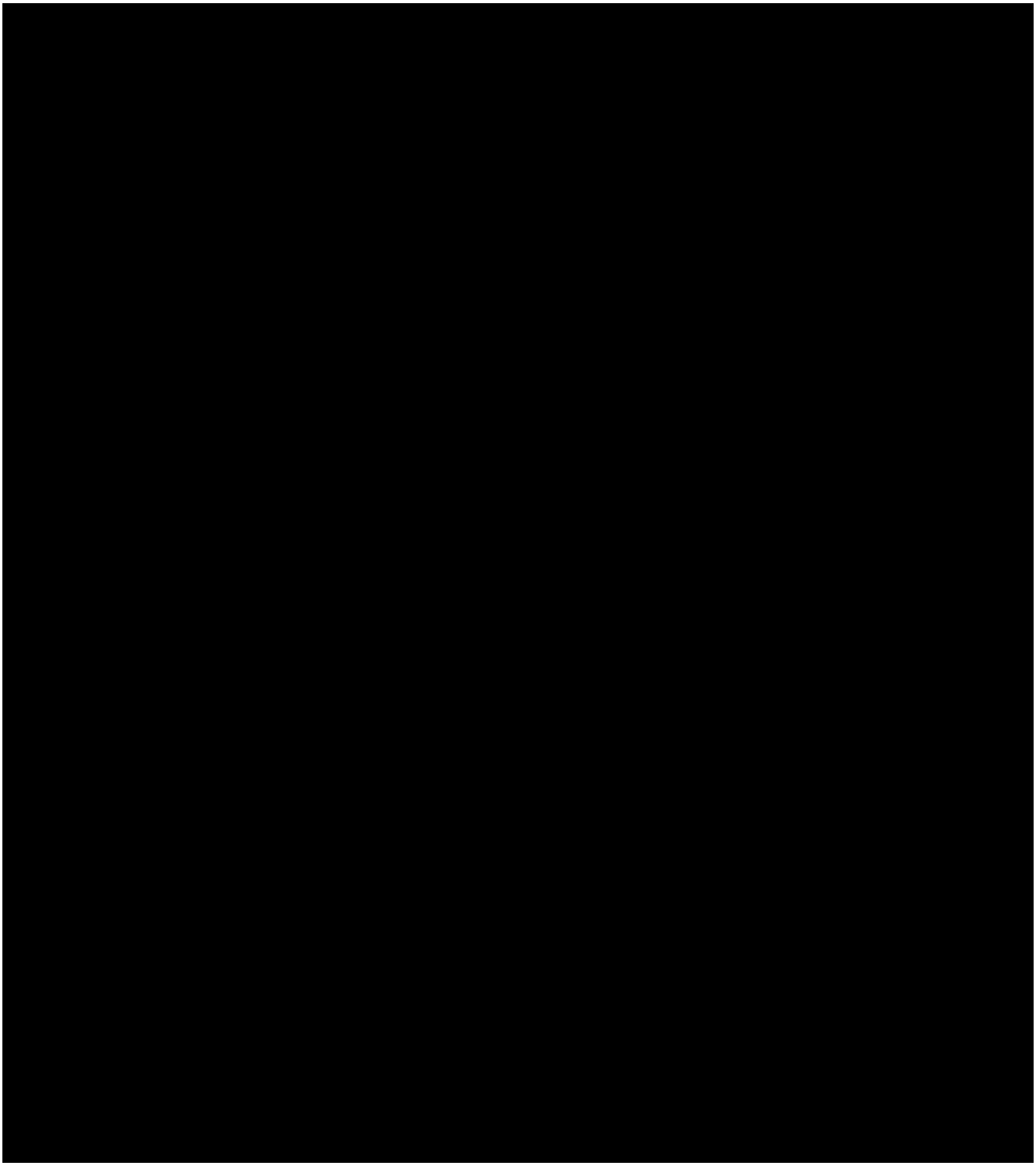
11. Scalability and durability

This comment will be addressed at the end of Year 2.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative logo and information has been included in Rising Phoenix 2024 Annual Report.

13. Safeguarding



14. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Initiative 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)	[redacted]			
TOTAL	**140,855.1**	**140,854.8**	**0%**	

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin Initiative?

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]	[redacted]	Rising Phoenix Conservation Inc, Morodok Baitong USAID, Cartier Philanthropy, CEPF, IUCN
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	[redacted]	[redacted]	CEPF, IUCN Segre

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No further comments to add.

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

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

This is a Darwin Innovation project and after one year the project is on course. At this point we do not consider there to have been any "outstanding achievements."

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)

				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

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

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Sustainable cricket farming is scaled across key biodiversity areas of Cambodia, reducing multidimensional poverty of rural communities, and achieving biodiversity conservation.	The project to date has created 33 cricket farming for 33 households and will complete up to 50 households in April 2025. All the 50 heads of families have signed conservation agreement committing not to do logging, encroaching land, hunting nor using chemical poisoning substance in their farming fields. No farmer broke the agreement during this reporting period.	[redacted]
Outcome Sustainable cricket farming as a novel approach for reducing multi-dimensional poverty is established, increasing household income for 250 rural people and reducing biodiversity loss, within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia.		
Outcome indicator 0.1: One "feasibility study for cricket farming" endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)	The feasibility study commenced in February 2025, aligned with early production cycles to assess the viability of sustainable cricket farming. It will document technical, economic, and social outcomes, to identify income opportunities and long-term scalability.	Document the technical, economic, and social outcomes, to identify income opportunities and long-term scalability
Outcome indicator 0.2: 40 sustainable cricket farms are established which are profitable by the end of the project. (DI-A11)	33 households just started farming in quarter 4 of Year 1. No product was sold for income yet. The endorsed feasibility study will document the successful establishment of 40 sustainable cricket farms, supported by ongoing technical and market assistance from Agri House, demonstrating their viability as a long-term livelihood strategy within the Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary.	Complete farming up to 50 households Harvest the first cycle production of Group 1 at the end of April 2025
O.3. Sustainable cricket farming increases household income and therefore improves resilience to climate change for 250 rural people (DI-D02)	No cricket product was sold yet in Year 1.	Start selling the cricket products and sell record
O.4. Logging and land encroachment are reduced as measured by no more than 2% forest loss per annum and population of five critically endangered species remains stable by the EOP (DI-D04)	No logging case found in 2024 compared to one case in 2023. There were 20 cases of land encroachment in 2024 compared to 23 cases in 2023, indicating slightly decrease of land encroachment. The forest loss in 2023 was only 0.2% (303ha) compared to 383 ha in 2022.	Continue monitor the compliance of the cricket farmers

	In 2024, populations of the five critically endangered species are considered stable for white-shouldered ibis, giant ibis and red-headed vulture, and increasing for white-rumped vulture and slender-billed vulture compared to the 2023 baseline.	
Output 1: Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.		
Output indicator 1.1: One feasibility study for cricket farming produced by the end of the first year of the project. (Core DI-B04)	The feasibility study commenced in February 2025, to be aligned with the first and second production cycle of participating families. This timing will allow for a more accurate assessment of on-farm practices, including the integration of locally sourced feed inputs aimed at reducing production costs. The study will evaluate the technical, economic, and social viability of scaling the cricket farming model, with a focus on long-term sustainability for smallholder households. The feasibility study will be documented against existing practices across non Siem Pang farmers to identify income opportunities.	Document the technical, economic, and social outcomes, to identify income opportunities and long-term scalability
Output indicator 1.2: One feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)Insert additional rows depending on how many indicators you have	Following the completion of the first feasibility study, Agri House will continue to monitor harvest outputs during the project and seek third-party validation to strengthen the credibility of the model and support future investment or scaling opportunities. This endorsement process is expected to take place in late 2026, pending the outcomes and quality of data from the second and third production cycles.	Proceed the endorsement
Output 2. 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 250 rural people (50% female).		
Output indicator 2.1: 50 female head of households sign a conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and a sales agreement with Agri house by the end of year 1.	In October 2024, all 50 selected households signed the conservation and sales agreement with Rising Phoenix and Agri House ([redacted]	Monitor the compliance of the 50 households to ensure they are following the rules. Regular ground truthing and

		compliant village meetings will be made to identify suspects
Output indicator 2.2: Four Rising Phoenix staff (50% female) trained as trainers and have delivered further training by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A05)	Four Rising Phoenix staff (2 females) got training from Agri House team in September 2024 [redacted] All the four staff have full capacity and are able to deliver further training to farmers	Rising Staff monitor coach the 50 farmers at fields to ensure they follow the techniques they learnt.
Output indicator 2.3. 100 people (50% female) from two target villages complete training on cricket farming and financial literacy by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A01)	100 people (51 women) from three target villages of Khes Svay, Khes Kraom and Pong Kriel completed training on cricket farming and financial literacy, digital literacy, and cricket farming techniques in October 2024.	Farmer apply the skill in their farming
Output indicator 2.4. 80 trained rural people (50% female) are selling crickets by the end of the project. (Core DI-A04)	This indicator will happen from the early Year 2.	Start selling the cricket
Output indicator 2.5. 40 households show increased income as a result of cricket farming, as compared to 2023 baseline.	This indicator will happen from the early Year 2.	Record the income of each cycle
Output 3. Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.		
Output indicator 2.5. 40 households show increased income as a result of cricket farming, as compared to 2023 baseline.	This indicator will happen from the early Year 2.	Record the income of each cycle
3.1. 75% of participating households have not broken their conservation contracts by the EOP.	No record case of breaking the agreement in Year 1.	Monitor the compliance of the 50 households to ensure they are following the rules.
3.2. Less than 2% of forest is loss in SPWS by the EOP compared to 2022 baseline	By January 2024, date of the latest figure available, forest cover in SPWS was 90.8% compared to 91.3% in January 2022, representing a loss of 0.5%.	Forest cover will continue to be monitored over the next reporting period, and a report will be produced.
3.3. Population of five critically endangered species remains stable compared to 2023 baseline by the EOP	Population of five critically endangered species remained stable in 2024 compared to 2023 baseline, according to monitoring data.	We will continue to closely monitor breeding success, attendance at vulture restaurant and communal roost counts.

3.4. Tarantula hunting by communities in SPWS is assessed and conservation recommendations are made by the BEOP (Core DI-C04)	A first survey to assess tarantula hunting by communities was implemented in December 2024. Results and data will soon be analysed.	The survey shall be repeated in December 2025 and recommendations made by the EOP.
3.5. One tarantula breeding pilot project is established by the end of the project.	Tarantula breeding pilot project was established with 34 individuals enrolled in the 2024 trial, and 40 individuals collected in January 2025 for the second trial.	The pilot project will continue over 2025.

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

Project Ssummary	SMART Indicators	Means of Vverification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Sustainable cricket farming is scaled across key biodiversity areas of Cambodia, reducing multidimensional poverty of rural communities, and achieving biodiversity conservation.			
Outcome: Sustainable cricket farming as a novel approach for reducing multi-dimensional poverty is established, increasing household income for 250 rural people and reducing biodiversity loss, within Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia.	O.1. One "feasibility study for cricket farming" endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04) O.2. 40 sustainable cricket farms are established which are profitable by the end of the project. (DI-A11) O.3. Sustainable cricket farming increases household income and therefore improves resilience to climate change for 250 rural people (DI-D02) O.4. Logging and land encroachment are reduced as measured by no more than 2% forest loss per annum and population of five critically endangered species remains stable by the EOP (DI-D04)	O.1.1. Published feasibility plan endorsed by a third party. O.1.2. Darwin Initiative final report O.1.3. Rising Phoenix annual report x 2 0.2.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring reports, developed by Community Development unit (CDU). O.3.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU. 0.3.2. Agri House purchase records and sales contracts. O.4.1. Annual Forest cover change report O.4.2. Monthly biodiversity monitoring reports.	Communities living within two target villages are willing to work with Rising Phoenix in sustainable agriculture practices Participating households being able to manage a cricket farm, and the cricket farming systems works in the rural setting. Increased income and less dependence on rice farming improves resilience to climate change for rural communities Law enforcement initiative supported by Rising Phoenix at SPWS continue to be effective.
Outputs: 1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative	1.1. One feasibility study for cricket farming produced by the end of the first year of the project. (Core DI-B04)	1.1.1. Feasibility study published and uploaded on Rising Phoenix website.	Feasibility study is economically viable and appropriate.

livelihood for conservation, and scalable.	1.2. One feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by the end of the project. (Core DI-B04)	1.2.1. Published feasibility study is endorsed in writing by a third party.	
2. 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 250 rural people (50% female).	2.1. 50 female head of households sign a conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and a sales agreement with Agri house by the end of year 1. 2.2. Four Rising Phoenix staff (50% female) trained as trainers and have delivered further training by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A05) 2.3. 100 people (50% female) from two target villages complete training on cricket farming and financial literacy by the end of year 1. (Core DI-A01) 2.4. 80 trained rural people (50% female) are selling crickets by the end of the project. (Core DI-A04) 2.5. 40 households show increased income as a result of cricket farming, as compared to 2023 baseline.	2.1.1. 50 new conservation contracts signed with household information databased on members. 2.1.2. 50 Sales agreement with Agri house 2.2.1. Cricket Farming training and set up report. 2.2.2. Attendance list for training. [Gender – Age Group] 2.3.1. Cricket farming training and set up report. 2.3.2. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU. [Gender – Age group] 2.4.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU [Gender – Age group] 2.5.1. Cricket farm half year and annual monitoring report, developed by CDU	Suitable households can be identified are willing to participate in the project. Participating households having the ability to manage the financial inputs and logistics around managing a cricket farm. It is assumed there will be a 20% drop out rate of local communities participating in Cricket farming by the end of the project
3. Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.	3.1. 75% of participating households have not broken their conservation contracts by the EOP. 3.2. Less than 2% of forest is loss in SPWS by the EOP compared to 2022 baseline	3.1.1. Monthly Law Enforcement report 3.1.2. Half year compliance reports 3.2.1. Annual forest cover change report for SPWS.	Households are willing to abide by their conservation agreement. Law enforcement officers operate to a high professional standard.

	3.3. Population of five critically endangered species remains stable compared to 2023 baseline by the EOP 3.4. Tarantula hunting by communities in SPWS is assessed and conservation recommendations are made by the BEOP (Core DI-C04) 3.5. One tarantula breeding pilot project is established by the end of the project.	3.3.1 Attendance at vulture restaurant, attendance at roosting sites and number of nests recorded for each species documented in BMU report 3.3.2. A WSI conservation action plan is endorsed by CIWG by EOP (DI-B02) 3.4.1. Tarantula harvesting short communication submitted to peer reviewed journal. 3.5.1. Case study of tarantula breeding pilot project published.	2024 El Nino climatic event will not impact breeding success of focal species.

Activities

Project inception activities:

0.1 Project staffing, contractual arrangements, equipment and logistics required put in place
0.2 Project M & E and reporting and communications framework established and agreed with key stakeholders
0.3 Project inception workshop with project Partners and key stakeholders

Output 1. Feasibility study completed testing if cricket farming is viable alternative livelihood for conservation, and scalable.

1.1. Investigate different accreditation bodies and requirements
1.2. Investigate appropriate conservation branding for product
1.3. Investigate organic cricket feed production and scaling
1.4. Complete financial modelling and business plan
1.5. Produce feasibility study for cricket farming
1.6. Get feasibility study for cricket farming endorsed by a third party

Output 2: 50 cricket breeding units established in two villages providing additional income for 50 households.

2.1. Announcements made in two target villages looking for households to participate in cricket farming
2.2. Selection process implemented and 50 households selected in two target villages for cricket farm establishment.
2.3. Selected households sign conservation agreement with Rising Phoenix and sales agreement with Agri House.
2.4. Training is implemented for the trainers (Rising Phoenix staff) to allow them to provide support to participating households.

2.5. Training participating households in cricket farming and financial literacy
2.6. Cricket farms establishing at participating households.
2.7. 50 children from participating households are enrolled in English language training, provided by Siem Pang Conservation.
2.8. Continued mentoring support to participating households
2.9. Buy back of crickets from compliant farmers and provision of cricket feed.

Output 3: Drivers of biodiversity loss (hunting, logging, land encroachment) are reduced at SPWS compared to baseline at start of project.
3.1. Update household information on compliance database for households who have signed the conservation agreements.
3.2. Regular law enforcement patrols in Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary
3.3. Regular biodiversity monitoring patrols, vulture restaurants, nest, and roost monitoring for key species.
3.4. Monthly cross checking of law enforcement data against compliance database
3.5. Annual forest cover change study completed and report produced
3.6. Tarantula harvesting survey implemented, data analyses and short communication submitted.
3.7. Tarantula breeding pilot is established
3.8. Case study of tarantula breeding pilot is prepared and published.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation.

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	100 people (51 women) from three target villages of Khes Svay, Khes Kraom and Pong Kriel completed training on cricket farming and financial literacy, digital literacy, and cricket farming techniques in October 2024.	2.3	People	49 Men	100			100	100
DI-A11	The project to date has created 33 cricket farming for 33 households and will complete up to 50 households in April 2025. (Each household has 5 people)	0.2	People	50% Women	165			165	250
DI-B04	One feasibility study for cricket farming produced by the end of the first year of the project. (Core DI-B04): The feasibility study commenced in February 2025, to be aligned with the first and second production cycle of participating families. This timing will allow for a more accurate assessment of on-farm practices, including the integration of locally sourced feed inputs aimed at reducing production costs. The study will evaluate the technical, economic, and social viability of scaling the cricket farming model, with a focus on long-term sustainability for smallholder households. The feasibility study will be documented against existing practices across non Siem Pang farmers to identify income opportunities.	1.1	Feasibility study	New	1	0		1	2

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A05	Four Rising Phoenix staff (2 females) got training from Agri House team in September 2024. All the four staff have full capacity and are able to deliver further training to farmers	2.2	Staff	2 Women	4			4	4

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
	N/A					

Checklist for submission

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