



Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes



Submission Deadline: 30 April 2011

1. Darwin Project Information

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|---|---|
| Project Reference | 18-005 |
| Project Title | Understanding, assessing and monitoring ecosystem services for better biodiversity conservation |
| Host Country/ies | UK and Nepal |
| UK contract holder institution | Birdlife International |
| Host country partner institutions | Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) |
| Other partner institutions | BirdLife Asia Secretariat Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) King's College London (KCL) |
| Darwin Grant Value | £246,415 |
| Start/end dates of project | April 2010 – March 2013 |
| Reporting period (eg Apr 2010 – Mar 2011) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | 1 Apr 2010 – 31 Mar 2011 Annual Report 1 |
| Project Leader name | Alison Stattersfield |
| Project website | n/a |
| Report authors, main contributors and date | Jenny Birch, Alison Stattersfield, Hum Gurung, Ishana Thapa 19 April 2011 |

2. Project Background

Natural ecosystems provide a range of essential ecosystem services (ES), including the production of food / water and the control of climate, on which human lives depend. Biodiversity loss, leading to ecosystem degradation, can disrupt and diminish ES with severe economic, social and environmental impacts on people.

The case for biodiversity conservation can be strengthened if justified in terms of the ES provided. Yet ES are generally unrecognised and undervalued (or not valued at all). This issue has been highlighted by the EU- and UNEP-funded 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) initiative. Thus far, ES assessment has largely focused on broad scale, global analyses, using rough proxy measures from remote sensing or on intensive and expensive measures at a few sites. To inform practical conservation decision-making, an intermediate approach is needed. This project is developing a ground-based, site-focused, participatory, robust and inexpensive methodology for ES assessment and monitoring through piloting of the methodology in Nepal. In the process we aim to build capacity nationally and regionally to present ecosystem service arguments for the conservation of biodiversity to policy-makers.

Nepal is an exceptionally beautiful country with rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. Nepal's birdlife is among the richest in Asia, with more than 867 bird species recorded so far, and provides a wide range of habitats for both migratory and residential birds from the plain Terai to

the high Himalayas. This diverse geography also provides a range of ecosystem services to rural communities and the wider population. These include climate mitigation, non-timber forest products (including harvested goods), water resources and recreation/tourism. Hence, it is crucial to understand, assess and monitor ecosystem services thus supporting better land-use planning for biodiversity conservation and for the benefit of present and future generations.

BirdLife International and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) have identified 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of which 13 have protected status under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. Three diverse sites were chosen as study sites for this project based on geographic region, development region, ecosystem diversity, accessibility, characteristics of beneficiaries and other relevant criteria.

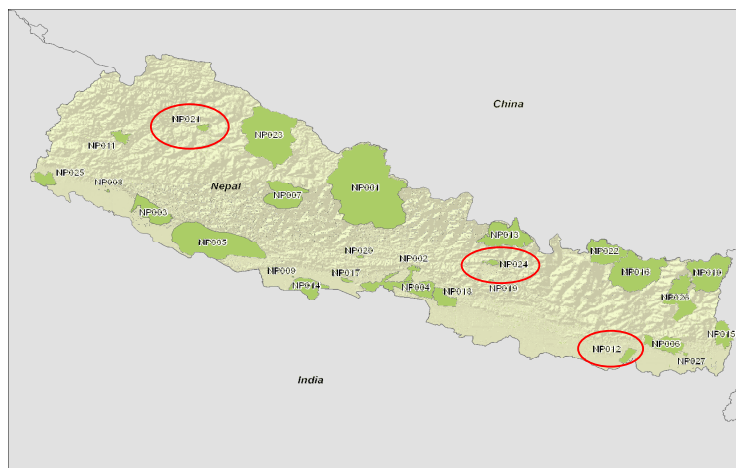


Figure 1. Map of Nepal showing the 27 IBAs and the three study sites. NP021: Rara National Park; NP024: Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park; NP012: Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

In the Terai region, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN) has been working at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and its Buffer Zone for several years. It is a partially protected IBA with good habitat for wetland and grasslands birds. In the Mid-hills, Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park is the most important forested watershed for provision of drinking water supply for the people of the capital city (Kathmandu). Rara National Park is the smallest National Park in Nepal and has great cultural significance. It also contains one of the most beautiful lakes (Rara Lake) which is the source for irrigation in the surrounding agricultural lands.

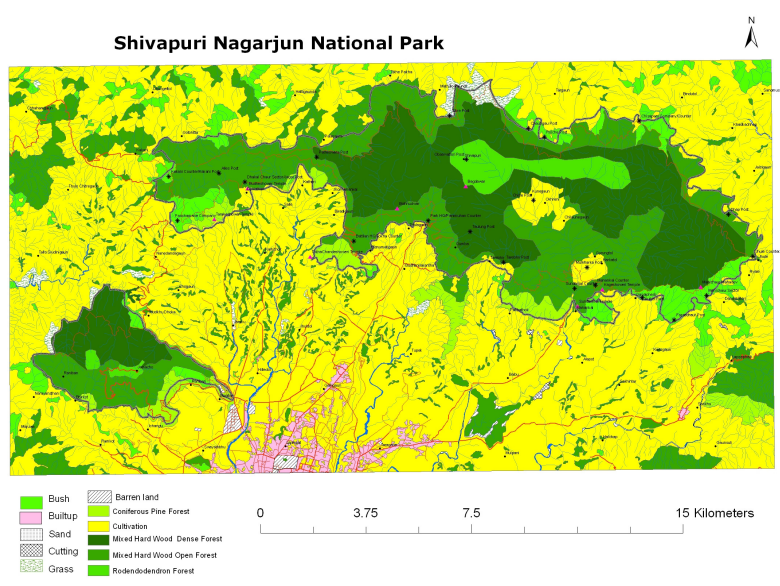


Figure 2. GIS map of Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park, the first pilot site where field work was undertaken this year. Source: Classification of land cover types based on ALOS (Advanced Land Observation Satellite) acquired on 23 October 2009.

3. Project Partnerships

BirdLife International has had a formal partnership with BCN since 1994 and has worked with the organisation on several previous projects setting good groundwork for this project. At the outset it was necessary to agree a change of Host Country Coordinator with the Darwin Secretariat as the original coordinator left his post at BCN and a new Director, Dr Hum Gurung, assumed the role.

The project is led by Alison Stattersfield at the BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge and is managed by Jenny Birch, who was recruited for the role in April and began a 3-year fixed term contract in June 2010. Other staff at the Secretariat who are engaged in this project are: David Thomas, Expert (Sustainable Development); Mike Evans, Expert (Information Management); Muhtari Aminu-Kano, Expert (CBD and policy). Dr Kelvin Peh, Associate Researcher based at Cambridge University, is also contributing to this project through the technical development of the methods. Co-funding has been secured to support his position for 18 months as part of a Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) project which is testing the methods at additional sites outside Nepal.

Five staff members from BCN are engaged to work on the project. Dr Hum Gurung (lead Host Country Coordinate / Policy Advocate), Ishana Thapa (Senior Conservation Officer at BCN and project coordinator in country), Menuka Basnyat (Coordinator, Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park), Ravi Pandit (Coordinator, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve) and Jyotendra Thakuri (Coordinator, Rara National Park). The Asian BirdLife Secretariat will coordinate the wider dissemination of the project outputs in several other developing countries in Asia to learn from BCN's experiences in Nepal. In addition, consultancy work has been conducted by Richard Bradbury at RSPB and Mark Mulligan and his PhD student Bhopal Pandey, both from King's College London, are providing key support regarding the hydrological services at our study sites.

A visit to the UK by Dr Hum Gurung occurred in May 2010 at which point the two organisations signed a formal project agreement specifically outlining the work commitments and financial arrangements. Standard measures and indicators were reviewed during the visit and an internal quarterly reporting framework was agreed to enable timely recording of project activities. Over the past year, communication between the BirdLife Secretariat and BCN has been via monthly Skype calls and regular email correspondence. Quarterly workplans have been developed to aid planning and implementation and to monitor progress. Subsequent to Hum Gurung's visit in May 2010, Ishana Thapa of BCN was able to visit the BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge on 29 September as part of a pre-arranged visit to the UK, and this enabled valuable face-to-face discussion focused on the planning of the first project visit to Nepal.

In Nepal, several key partnerships are developing as a result of the early engagement of institutional stakeholders at a project 'start up' meeting held in Kathmandu on 30 June including representatives from the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), IUCN, and WWF Nepal Programme. A wide range of national and international NGOs and government representatives were present at a National Workshop held in November 2010 resulting in a number of beneficial contacts, including with the *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal* project funded by the UNDP/GEF fund, and involving WWF Nepal and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). In addition, a good working relationship has been established with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) and the National Wetland Committee.

The Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) provides input in the form of an advisory panel and facilitated input of UK experts. Links with CCI are strong as the two projects are finding many synergies and possibilities for working together.

Valuable contact has been made with PlantLife in the UK and one of their partner organisations, the Ethnobotanical Society of Nepal (ESON) that has many years experience in the field. ESON and BCN are already acquainted so email correspondence with the Director of ESON has been established and a representative attended the project workshop in November 2010. In addition, Liz Radford at PlantLife has offered assistance with reviewing some of the data relating to harvested plants and is keen to assist with this project where she can.

CBD focal point

Government instability in Nepal in recent years has resulted in a high turn-over of staff in government roles and hence low institutional memory. BCN has a good relationship with many of the people working at this level but it is difficult to create a strong working relationship for the project because of their shifting roles. A particular issue is that the CBD focal point (the Environment Division of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation) is constantly changing. Thus, there has been no formal engagement of a CBD focal point to date but BCN do have a close link with the Ministry's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. However the CBD focal point has recognised BCN's expertise on ecosystem services related activities as a result of this Darwin project. Dr Hum Gurung was invited to present at the consultation workshop on developing policy mechanisms for Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) organised by the Ministry of Forest and Soil conservation on 1 March 2011 and BCN will be included in the technical committee that will be formed in the near future. Contacts within the National Planning Commission are strong and should also enable engagement of key people in future.

The partnerships developed through the project are building the capacity of the host country institution (BCN) to meet CBD commitments in a number of ways. The project is providing training to BCN staff in Important Bird Area Monitoring of bird populations and habitats and Ecosystem Services Assessments. This capacity will help BCN to support the Government of Nepal in meeting its CBD commitments relating to targets and indicators for biodiversity and contributing important information to the new CBD 2020 target 14 to maintain ecosystem services. BCN's work through this project will support government institutions such as the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, both at the project sites and also at other protected areas where BCN works. The project is also enhancing BCN's ability to raise awareness of the benefits of conservation to people, contributing to Nepal's progress in sustainable use of components of biodiversity and public education and awareness.

4. Project Progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1. Research methodologies developed for cost-effective, site-focused assessment & monitoring of ES

Activity 1.1: Convene UK expert meetings

The link with the CCI co-aligned ecosystem services project was made in the early stages of this project in order to maximise efficiency of work and minimise duplication of effort. This project, entitled 'Measuring and monitoring ecosystem services at the site scale: building practical tools for real-world conservation' is co-ordinated by members of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), which includes Birdlife International, the Department of Zoology (University of Cambridge), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Anglia Ruskin University. A joint UK expert meeting was convened on 17 – 18 May 2010 and attended by 31 participants with a wide range of background expertise (Annex 3.1). Input from this workshop has been incorporated into a practical 'toolkit' of methods for ecosystem services assessment and monitoring. A further expert meeting was convened on 18 October to discuss hydrological services to develop the methodology and guidelines for this particular service (further details in 1.2).

Verification: Workshop Report, hydrology meeting agenda and minutes.

Activity 1.2: Compile & refine scientific framework for site-based ES assessment & monitoring

In conjunction with the CCI project, we have produced a first draft 'toolkit' of methods for site-based ES assessment & monitoring (see contents list in Annex 3.2). Throughout the year,

regular meetings have taken place to discuss the development of the scientific framework. Input from experts on the detailed methodology has been received and reviewed. Field testing at the first site in Nepal (November – December 2010) provided essential trialling and improvements to the approach and methods. In addition, meetings with Mark Mulligan and Bhopal Pandey from Kings College, London were held to discuss the use of a regional hydrological model for rapid (remote) assessment of hydrological services and assistance with the development of methods for hillslope water services. A consultancy was set up with Bhopal Pandey to carry out specific tasks for this aspect of the project.

As preparation for implementing ecosystem services monitoring, BCN are undertaking Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring at the selected sites. The scientific framework for this has already been developed by BirdLife International, so remote training using Go To Meeting facilities was carried out by experts at the BirdLife Secretariat. Training was delivered to four BCN staff via six sessions during August – October 2010. Topics on theory and process of IBA monitoring, data entry in the World Bird Database, acquiring data from the field and review of Nepal IBA data sources, developing a strategic plan, establishing baselines and developing indicators were delivered (Annex 3.3). Feedback from BCN staff on these sessions was extremely positive and resulted in the development of a site monitoring form specifically tailored to collect data at Nepalese IBAs.

Verification: draft version of 'toolkit', meeting minutes, services contract with Bhopal Pandey, IBA training record and materials used, feedback forms from BCN staff, draft IBA monitoring form.

Activity 1.3: Develop database to hold ES data & test for analyses and indicator development

Initial discussions have been held with the Information Management team at the Birdlife Secretariat to assess the potential of the World Bird Database to hold ES data alongside IBA monitoring data. As the 'toolkit' is a working document that will be improved and adapted to meet requirements following the field visits, it has been decided that the development of the database should be held off until the later stages of this project. Therefore datasheets and spreadsheets have been developed to record the raw data collected during the field work. These will be updated to hold all the data until a final specification has been agreed upon.

Verification: datasheets and spreadsheets.

Output 2. ES assessments & monitoring methods tested & refined at pilot sites in Nepal, & data collected & analysed nationally

Activity 2.1: Hold local 'start up meetings' at 3 IBAs in Nepal

BCN held a project start up meeting in Kathmandu on 30 June at which 12 conservation stakeholders were present (Annex 3.4). Dr Hum Gurung presented the criteria for site selection and the suggested list of sites. Based on the discussion with conservation partners in Nepal and staff at the BirdLife Secretariat, three sites/IBAs were selected. DNPWC have provided a letter of commitment to assist the project with work in these three areas (formal letter provided in Nepali). The proposal suggested that a local start up meeting would be held during each of the three site visits. For the first visit it was considered more appropriate to have more inclusive, national level meetings including one with the site managers from each of the three sites. So in this instance, the 'local start up meeting' was a two-day national level meeting, attended by 45 participants, to introduce the project to the key stakeholders in Nepal, to share experiences with other Nepali projects on this topic and to meet with site managers of all three sites to discuss forthcoming work. This meeting was held on 18 – 19 November 2010 (more details in 3.4, see also Annex 3.5).

Verification: Project start-up meeting summary, internal report covering criteria, rationale, and preliminary selection; National Workshop Report; presentations

Activity 2.2: Conduct fieldwork & enter biodiversity & ES data for 3 IBAs in Nepal

Fieldwork was initiated during the UK visit to Nepal, which took place 13 November – 4 December 2010 (Annex 3.6). This visit had several key objectives including conducting fieldwork and entering the data for the first of three pilot sites, Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park (SNNP). A total of 217 person-hours were spent conducting carbon transects to establish the biomass and hence carbon content of the forested area at this site. In addition, 70 person-hours were spent conducting tourism questionnaires. A Community Workshop was held in the Phulchowki Mountain Forests (Annex 3.7) to pilot the methodology for assessing the value of harvested wild goods (as such activity is illegal at SNNP) and this was followed by an initial piloting of the household surveys to get detailed data on quantity and value of these products. Fieldwork continued throughout January to March at both these sites, with field work effort totalling 413 person hours to date. Data have been recorded in spreadsheets for initial analysis and the World Bird Database has been updated with bird biodiversity information for SNNP.

Verification: site visit report, raw data sheets, completed data entry forms, Community Workshop Report.

Activity 2.3: Trial output & analysis of ES data & review for advocacy relevance

Trial analysis of the first pilot site was conducted in February to March 2010 and presented at the Student Conference for Conservation Science at Cambridge University on 23 March 2010 (Annex 3.8) and as a poster at the British Ecological Society Forests & Global Change conference from 28 – 30 March (Annex 3.9). These opportunities arose unexpectedly and so this activity is ahead of the scheduled implementation timetable.

Verification: conference agenda, presentation, poster.

Activity 2.4: Undertake rapid review of ES at all IBAs

Undertaking the rapid review was not scheduled until Q3 in Year 2, however we have initiated the preliminary stages of this work. Mr Puran Shrestha, former Senior Conservation Officer of the Department for National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, has been contracted for four months to collect information on Important Bird Areas for rapid ES assessment work and for IBA monitoring purposes. A filing system has been created for this information which will be accessed in more detail in Year 2 of the project. Initially the data collection has focused on protected areas.

Verification: filing system, list of references and documents gathered.

Output 3. Awareness raised of the importance of biodiversity conservation & maintenance of ES for livelihoods

Activity 3.1: Develop case studies based on experiences at 3 IBAs in Nepal (plus others elsewhere, as appropriate)

A case study of the first pilot site is underway in the form of a manuscript for peer-review submission. As mentioned above, a presentation and poster have been developed. A second case study for Phulchowki Mountain Forests is also being developed as an additional site to the three target sites originally identified. This site was chosen during the field visit as a good case study for assessing the value of harvested goods from a Community Forest.

Verification: draft manuscripts.

Activity 3.2: Produce a range of other awareness-raising / advocacy materials

This activity was not scheduled until Year 2; however several materials have been produced. A project information leaflet was developed in preparation for the CBD COP10 meeting in Nagoya and for dissemination at other relevant events (Annex 3.10). BCN also developed a leaflet in Nepali to raise awareness on ecosystem services nationally (Annex 3.11).

A proceedings paper has been submitted to the organising committee of the International Conference on Biodiversity, Livelihood and Climate Change following participation by BCN in this conference in December 2010.

Articles on the project have been published in several issues of BCN's newsletter *Danphe* including a full case study in the December 2010 issue and in BirdLife's magazine *World Birdwatch* (Annex 3.12).

A press release during the National Workshop in Kathmandu was picked up by two national newspapers in Nepal which ran stories on the project in the week following the event (Annex 3.13). News items have also been prepared for publication on the News feed of the www.birdlife.org website and BirdLife Community pages, including a report of the importance of the Shivapuri watershed for urban users for World Water Day on 22 March 2011 (Annex 3.14). BCN has also put the project information on their website (www.birdlifenepal.org) under the projects heading section.

A draft advocacy plan to guide the project outputs and target key organisations has also been developed by BCN with support from the Secretariat. This will be used to guide the project and to track engagement with key stakeholders.

The opportunity to create a TV documentary about the project also arose during the first site visit and a renowned documentary team from Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) has conducted filming of the survey work over the past few months. The documentary was telecasted in Akhijyal (environmental programme) on Nepal TV on Tuesday 22 March 2011 at 5:00 pm and by Avenues TV at 6:30 pm. Nepal Television has coverage in all the 75 districts of Nepal. An English version is currently being finalised.

Verification: project factsheet (200 copies), Nepali leaflet for national distribution (2000 copies), *Danphe*, *World Birdwatch*, draft advocacy plan, TV documentary, website news stories

Activity 3.3: Develop websites (BirdLife / BCN) to disseminate ES information

Although no specific development of the partner websites (BirdLife / BCN) has yet occurred to disseminate ES information, a case study on the first project site was produced and is available on the BirdLife Datazone. The Darwin Project website page on the DEFRA website has been updated with point markers showing the location of the three pilot sites.

Verification: case study, project webpage:

<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/18005/>

<http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/casestudy/238>

Activity 3.4: Promote ES & biodiversity conservation at local, national & international meetings

Dr Hum Gurung introduced the Darwin project at the Birdlife Asia Regional Partnership meeting in Taipei on 13 – 14 May 2010 (over 80 participants) and, as a consequence, the project was integrated into the regional workplan / programme. BCN also shared the project during the stakeholder's consultation meeting on the Economic Value of Wetlands in Nepal organised by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation/ Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands in Nepal project on 16 August 2010. A close collaboration with this project has been established. Two of the project team were present at the CBD COP10 event in Nagoya in October. At this event, the ecosystem services approach had a high profile and great interest was shown in the Darwin project through informal networking opportunities. A National Workshop in Kathmandu took place on 18 November at which 45 participants from government, NGOs, INGOs, experts, academics were present. The project was introduced and feedback requested on the draft 'toolkit'. In addition, presentations were heard from Nepali projects that have had an ES component. Good networking and collaborative opportunities were identified as a result. A number of 1-1 meetings were also held with key people in government and other multi-lateral projects. On 16 December, BCN staff presented progress on the project at the International Conference on Biodiversity, Livelihood and Climate Change at Kamaladi, Kathmandu. Hum

Gurung participated in the 27th Wardens' Seminar at Nepalgunj from 8 – 9 February 2011 and presented on the Darwin project.

In the UK, Jenny Birch presented the Darwin project at the British Trust for Ornithology in Thetford, UK, on 24 September as part of their seminar series. Menuka Basnyat (BCN) was also invited to present at the Student Conference on Conservation Sciences in Cambridge, UK on 23 March and she received a bursary from Cambridge University to contribute towards her travel.

Verification: Taipei report and presentation, Wardens' Seminar presentation, ICBLCC presentation, BTO presentation, SCCS presentation, National Workshop report.

Activity 3.5: Prepare, publish & launch National (Nepal) Report

This activity is scheduled for Year 3.

Output 4. Guidelines developed & training undertaken on collection & use of ES information for conservation planning & advocacy

Activity 4.1: Seek feedback from BirdLife Partners on current ES work, & requirements for ES assessment & monitoring

An online survey was designed and disseminated to all BirdLife network organisations (114 in total) to find out about their interest in ecosystem services work and their views on how the outputs of this project could benefit them. A total of 54 replies were received from 48 organisations across all continents. Feedback suggested that Partners are very keen to get involved in ecosystem services work and would like to receive training in the use of the 'toolkit' produced by this project. The responses are being used to further guide the development of the project, particularly in shaping outputs relevant to the BirdLife Partnership (Annex 3.15).

Verification: ES Online Survey Report.

Activity 4.2 & 4.4: Share experiences with other Asian BirdLife Partners / organise regional training & Share experiences across whole BirdLife Partnership

The results of the online survey have been shared with the Asian and other BirdLife Partners. An update on the project was also sent to Partners in February 2011. In Year 2 a project newsletter with updates on progress will be developed. Discussions are underway with the Birdlife Asia Secretariat to arrange a regional workshop in Year 2.

Verification: ES Online Survey Report, update email to Partners.

Activity 4.3: Develop toolkit & guidance

As mentioned in section 1.2, remote training on IBA monitoring has been given to BCN staff to encourage monitoring at sites, which will incorporate assessment of ES. During the visit to Nepal a full-day training session with BCN on 22 November was held to provide support with the implementation of the toolkit at the pilot sites in Nepal, followed by on-the-ground training at the first pilot site. We identified a number of improvements for the methods as a result of engagement with the BCN staff to further develop the toolkit and guidance provided within it. The development of the toolkit and guidance will be ongoing throughout the project.

Verification: training session presentations, toolkit

4.2 Progress towards project outputs

Progress towards Output 1: Research methodologies developed for cost-effective, site-focused assessment & monitoring of ES

Good progress has been made towards the development of research methodologies due to the timely organisation of the UK expert workshop in May 2010 and substantial input from staff working on this project and on the CCI project previously mentioned. Inevitably some of the experts from the initial project workshop were too busy to commit time to the more complex development of the methods so this has resulted in considerably more time investment by the Project Manager and expert support staff than originally planned in order to write and review the document. A great deal of progress on improving the methodologies was made during the Nepal site visit through on-the-ground practical experience. The assumption that we can develop an appropriate methodology within the time-frame still holds true due to the substantial progress we have already made and we anticipate that the project will achieve this output as planned by the end of the project. Outputs have been produced and can be evidenced from the workshop report and draft scientific framework/toolkit. The development of the database has been put on hold until later in the project as outlined above, but we plan to complete this activity by the end of the period and data are being held in simple excel spreadsheets in the interim.

Progress towards Output 2: ES assessments & monitoring methods tested & refined at pilot sites in Nepal, & data collected & analysed nationally

At the outset, three sites were selected for piloting of the scientific framework and the first has proved very appropriate for testing our methods, and so the assumption of finding suitable pilot sites holds true. The first site visit took place in November – December 2010. As part of this visit, UK staff provided training to BCN staff for undertaking the ES assessments. Data were collected at the first pilot site and at an additional site (adding a fourth site), during November – March by BCN staff supported by UK partners. The local start up meeting was a more inclusive meeting than originally planned and was held over two days. The first day was a National Workshop with 45 participants present from a wide range of sectors and the second was a more focused meeting for key stakeholders at the three pilot sites to learn more about the project objectives and implementation. Analyses of the initial data gathered have been produced and presented at two UK conferences in March 2011. The assumption that methods can be modified to conduct a rapid review of ES across all (or a subset of) IBAs to give a national overview has yet to be tested as this work will be developed in Year 2, but we are confident that this will be possible.

Progress towards Output 3: Awareness raised of the importance of biodiversity conservation & maintenance of ES for livelihoods

Although the proposal does not require any awareness raising activities until Year 2, we produced a general leaflet about the project for the COP 10 meeting in Nagoya (Oct). The first site visit to Nepal raised awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services through the numerous meetings held during the visit and at the National Workshop which was very well attended by national level stakeholders and therefore engaged target audiences. Feedback from contacts during this visit showed that there is a need for this work and many people showed a strong interest in being kept informed about development of the project, especially in relation to the publication and finalisation of the toolkit. As a result we will produce a biannual update on the project for national dissemination. The opportunity to create a TV documentary about the project also arose during the site visit. Work on the first case study has also started and will be disseminated as a peer-review article in Year 2 meeting the assumption that sufficient & appropriate scientific data can be generated. Progress towards this output has therefore been better than expected at this early stage of the project as many opportunities have arisen for promotion of the project.

Progress towards Output 4: Guidelines developed & training undertaken on collection & use of ES information for conservation planning & advocacy

The toolkit document is already prepared in draft format and will undergo continual development throughout the project. We anticipate that a toolkit with simple, replicable guidance tailored for IBAs will be available for wider use before the end of this project. Training of BCN staff in the methodologies presented in the toolkit was conducted over a period of three weeks during the November visit to Nepal and trained staff have put their new skills into practice by continuing the field work in following months. The trip also enabled the UK team to get feedback from ‘users’ and other stakeholders in the practicality of using the toolkit and in ensuring that it covers the key issues that need to be considered when carrying out this work. A draft advocacy plan will target the use of the ES information for conservation planning in Nepal. A questionnaire for all BirdLife network organisations was conducted and illustrated that other BirdLife Partners are interested to be involved in this project and carry out future work on ES. Whether Partners are able to participate will depend on future funding opportunities though we are committed to providing support through the new ‘ecosystem services officer’ role created at the BirdLife Secretariat as a result of this Darwin project. The assumption that lessons learned translate well between organisations will be tested in Years 2&3 at the planned workshops.

4.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Year 4 Total | Total to date | Number planned for reporting period | Total planned from application |
|----------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6A | Hum Gurung: project management training in UK; 4 x BCN staff IBA monitoring training; 4 x BCN staff ES survey methods + 6 park staff; Menuka Basnyat visit to UK | 11 | | | | | 5 | 20 (not specified) |
| 6B | 2 (Hum Gurung in UK) 1.5 (6x2hr IBA sessions x4people) 18 (3 weeks x 4 BCN staff , 1 week x 6 park staff) 3 (Menuka Basnyat visit to UK) | 24.5 | | | | | 15 | 45 (not specified) |
| 7 | 1 methods ‘toolkit’ 5 training presentations on ES methods delivered in Nepal 6 training sessions on IBA monitoring delivered via internet | 12 | | | | | 1 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|--|--|--|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| 8 | 3 weeks x2 (Jenny Birch, Kelvin Peh) 2 weeks x2 (David Thomas, Ali Stattersfield) | 10 | | | | | 6 | 18 (not specified) |
| 9 | National Report on ES and biodiversity | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1 |
| 11A | Peer-review papers (2 in preparation) | 0 | | | | | 0 | 3 (not specified) |
| 11B | Peer-review papers (2 in preparation, see above) | 0 | | | | | 0 | 3 |
| 12A | Excel datasheets for ES data storage | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 12B | World Bird Database enhanced (work started / /on-going) | 0 | | | | | 0 | 1 |
| 14A | 1project start up meeting in Nepal (June) 1 (National meeting in Nov) | 2 | | | | | 1 | 6 |
| 14B | HG to regional meeting Taipei; JB at BTO; Int Biodiv Conference KTM; PES 25 th Nov; Warden's Seminar (Feb); MoFSC (Mar); SCCS (Mar); BES Forests (Mar) | 8 | | | | | As opportunities arise | As opportunities arise |
| 15A | 29 June (Kathmandu Post) 19 November (Annapurna Post) 3 December (Kathmandu post) Danphe Newsletter, Thapa. I and Gurung. G, December 2010 National workshop on ecosystem services (BCN website article) | 5 | | | | | 1 | 5 (not specified) |
| 15B | Local press releases | 0 | | | | | 0 | 2 |
| 15C | 2 July (BirdLife website news story) World Birdwatch | 4 | | | | | 1 | As opportunities arise |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|---------|-------------------|
| | magazine, Fowlie. M, Sept 2010 Nepal leads the way in valuing nature, BCN, 19 Nov 2010 (BirdLife Community news story) World Water Day: thirsty cities, 22 March 2011 | | | | | | | |
| 22 | permanent carbon transects | 12 (number required by sampling strategy formula) | | | | | 20 | 40 |
| 23 | CCI project co-ordinator – Kelvin Peh (£19,543) RSPB co-funding (£1,500) Other BirdLife staff in-kind contribution (£4,195) | £25,238 | | | | | £25,238 | £37,009 |
| 17B (added) | BirdLife Partnership – engagement through online survey and project update | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 18A (added) | 1 (Akhijal of NTV on 22 March 2011) | 1 | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 19A (added) | 1 (BCN's regular radio programme 'Panchhi Sansar' on 30 October 2010) 1 (Ishana Thapa interviewed on Ujayalo network, 25 Dec 2010) | 2 | | | | | 1 | 3 (not specified) |

Table 2 Publications

| Type (eg journals, manual, CDs) | Detail (title, author, year) | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (eg contact address, website) | Cost £ |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| News item/Press release | Assessing Nepal's natural benefits, Anon, 02 Jul 2010 | BirdLife International | http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/07/nepal-ecosystem-services.html | Free access |
| Project Factsheet (200 copies) | Understanding, assessing and monitoring ecosystem services for better biodiversity conservation, 2010 | BirdLife International | BirdLife International | Free |

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|--|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| Nepali Project Factsheet (2000 copies) | Understanding, assessing and monitoring ecosystem services for better biodiversity conservation, 2011 | Bird Conservation Nepal | Bird Conservation Nepal | Free |
| Article | Danphe Newsletter, Thapa. I and Gurung. G, December 2010 | Bird Conservation Nepal | Bird Conservation Nepal | Free |
| Article | World Birdwatch magazine, Fowlie. M, Sept 2010 | BirdLife International | http://www.birdlife.org/publications/world_bird_watch/index.html | A quarterly Contributory subscription to <i>World Birdwatch</i> magazine £30 per year. |
| News item/Press release | Nepal leads the way in valuing nature, BCN, 19 Nov 2010 | BirdLife Community | http://www.birdlife.org/community/2010/11/nepal-leads-the-way-in-valuing-nature/?pfstyle=wp | Free access |
| News item | National workshop on ecosystem services | BCN | http://www.birdlifeneपाल.org/news.htm#National_Workshop_on_Ecosystem_Services_ | Free access |
| Poster | A rapid approach for measuring ecosystem services at the site-scale (Birch JC, Peh KSH, Basnyat M) 2011 | Nature Bureau | Displayed in BCN office | n/a |
| News item | World Water Day: thirsty cities, 22 March 2011 | BirdLife Community | http://www.birdlife.org/community/2011/03/world-water-day-thirsty-cities/ | Free access |

4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Purpose: To build capacity of national NGOs in Nepal & other Asian countries to collect & use information on ES for better biodiversity conservation

The first year of this project has made good progress towards the project purpose especially in relation to building capacity of BCN, a national NGO in Nepal, through project development and training in implementing a scientific assessment of ecosystem services at the first site in Nepal. Several training sessions have taken place, including remote training of BCN staff on biodiversity monitoring methods and on-the-ground training of implementing the 'toolkit' methods at a site in Nepal.

Follow up advocacy work in Nepal after the UK site visit has resulted in BCN now being recognised as contributors to national discussions on ecosystem services at the policy level. Since the November workshop, BCN have been invited to participate and provide technical advice to the government on ES issues at the 27th annual Wardens' Seminar in Nepalgunj from 8 – 9 February 2011 and the consultation workshop on developing policy mechanisms for Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES) organised by the Ministry of Forest and Soil conservation on 1 March 2011. It is anticipated that BCN will be part of the committee that will be established to advise the government on these issues in the near future.

Although no specific capacity building of other NGOs has taken place to date, information sharing between our project and other ES work in Nepal was enabled through the organisation of the National Workshop in Kathmandu. This is the first step in bringing together relevant stakeholders who could benefit from the outputs of this project to collect and use information on ecosystem services at sites.

To date, NGOs from other Asian countries have not directly been involved in the project but, as planned, a questionnaire was distributed to all BirdLife Partners to provide information about the project and to find out what their potential involvement might be as a result of their own interests. We plan to conduct an Asian training workshop in the final quarter of Year 2 to share experiences from the project and build capacity of several BirdLife Partners in other countries of the region.

The measurable indicators listed on the original logical framework were:

- in Nepal, monitoring scheme (for birds / biodiversity & ES) established in 3 sites (baseline, Y3)
- in Nepal, at least 3 local & 1 national advocacy opportunities pursued
- in at least 1 other Asian country, 1 advocacy opportunity pursued
- internationally, input to at least 1 CBD meeting

The indicators are adequate for measuring the project outcomes. The implementation of a monitoring scheme, initially at the three pilot sites, will demonstrate that BCN have the capacity to implement research in order to produce outputs that work towards better biodiversity conservation. The pursuing of advocacy opportunities as outlined above will show that this project has integrated into the policy arena, where ecosystem services outputs are required to have effect on biodiversity conservation. Influence at the local and national level will be important in reflecting the need to communicate both to local site managers but also to higher level decision makers. Input at the international level (CBD meeting) will highlight the potential of this project to provide outputs that can be used by the international community to improve maintenance of ES and better biodiversity conservation, focusing on enabling national NGOs to assess these benefits in their countries. Evidence that advocacy opportunities have been pursued in other Asian countries will indicate that experience has been shared widely.

The assumptions listed on the original logical framework were:

- monitoring continues at regular intervals and is extended to 10+ sites
- increased knowledge and capacity to assess & monitor ES will result in more effective biodiversity conservation
- relevant policy opportunities are timely

These assumptions still hold although it remains a challenge to ensure that monitoring continues at regular intervals and is extended to 10+ sites. The amount of time and resource investment in this is not to be overlooked and it will require continued support from UK partners to ensure that this can go ahead as planned. The assumption that increased knowledge & capacity to assess & monitor ES will result in more effective biodiversity conservation relies on advocating the results of the project to higher level decision-making and uptake of the messages by key government officials. BCN are working hard at making good links with the required people in a position of power and this advocacy work will continue throughout the project to ensure the outcome, as far as is possible and relevant. This will also rely on timely policy opportunities arising. One such opportunity, the development of a National Wetland Committee (which has been established to improve links between technical work and government policy, across several departments) as a result of a UNDP/GEF project has arisen and we are in close communication with them regarding our outputs from the second site (a wetland area). In general, we are very encouraged at how readily and enthusiastically the BCN staff have embraced the scientific work on assessing ecosystem services, and at how familiar government officials are with the ecosystem services concept, giving us considerable hope that our efforts through this project will result in better biodiversity conservation.

4.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

This project addresses all three of the goals outlined. The primary impact of the project will be on improving the state of biodiversity through demonstrating the value of conserving Important Bird Areas. The project has delivered some significant steps towards this, through (i) initiation of a monitoring programme to regularly measure the state of biodiversity, current pressures and

conservation responses at Important Bird Areas, and (ii) the development of a scientific framework to implement rapid, robust and cost-effective assessment of ecosystem service values, and (iii) engaging key stakeholders and decision makers in the project at an early stage. We acknowledge that positive biodiversity impacts may take a number of years to be seen, and this is something that can be tracked over time with the methods from this project in place. This project also works towards the goal of moving towards sustainable use and increasing the benefits to the human community by focusing on the delivery and maintenance of ecosystem services.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Many of the key points for monitoring and evaluation have been referred to in previous sections. The principal method of monitoring progress is through the direct engagement of the project coordinator and support staff from Bird Conservation Nepal. At the project outset, a clear outline of the workplan was developed and monthly conference calls are made to discuss issues and monitor progress. Progress is recorded against a quarterly workplan which is developed in advance, in consultation with the Project Leader and with reference to the logframe. The regular calls have been supplemented by several face-to-face meetings which greatly benefit the relationship between project organisations and improve outcomes. The capacity of BCN is such that regular progress reports are delivered and activities duly carried out as planned.

One lesson learnt in this first year of the project is to ensure management of expectations and continued engagement of stakeholders from sites where work is yet to occur. Following the national level meeting in November it was decided that regular contact with the Wardens at the two sites due to be visited in Years 2 and 3 would be crucial to ensure continued engagement and enthusiasm during the months where project work will be focusing elsewhere. As a result, a recce visit to Rara National Park (site 3) was undertaken in March 2011 and background work for Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and Buffer Zone (site 2) is also underway by a dedicated BCN staff member.

The main challenge at present is to ensure that the scientific framework delivers what we anticipate, which is a fairly rapid, robust and cost-effective set of methods for assessing ecosystem services. The main issue we are encountering this year is that a great deal of revision of methods resulting from experiences on the ground are required, and that BCN are required to invest more time than anticipated on carrying out these methods and dealing with unforeseen complexities. However, we feel that this is the natural course of the development of such a toolkit, and that the purpose is to iron out these issues at this stage in order to produce clear guidance by the culmination of the project.

Measuring achievement has been done in a number of ways. Regular reviewing of the progress in the development / publication and quality of the scientific framework is conducted by the UK partners (CCI member organisations) between steering committee meetings. Field work had led to the testing & implementation of ES methods and data entry is checked and monitored by the Project Manager and collaborators before analysis.

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

No previous review as this is the first Annual Report for the project.

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

No changes to the project design have been made nor have any significant difficulties been encountered. However, there have been a few staff changes at BCN, but this has not affected the project in a negative way. On the contrary, it has injected new enthusiasm and direction into the development and implementation of this work.

During the Nepal visit, the issue of high turn-over of staff in government roles and hence low institutional memory was raised. In addition there is currently a caretaker government in control since the Prime Minister resigned, and no agreement has been made on who should be elected

to the cabinet. There are problems with the government budget for the next fiscal year and many more staff roles are expected to change when the new PM gets appointed/elected. This could result in added difficulty forming continuous relationships with key staff at this level.

8. Sustainability

The project is focused on capacity building of ecosystem services assessment and monitoring which is a popular topic and has been well received by organisations within Nepal, including government departments such as DNPWC. Field visits by UK partners and direct interactions with government staff and local communities, through TV documentary, awareness-raising materials, community workshop and meetings has been effective in promoting the project and illustrating the long term benefits of this work.

The project has begun to work in coordination with DNPWC centrally and locally with park offices, Buffer Zone Management Councils, Community Forest User Groups and IBA Local Conservation Groups. We are building capacity in BCN staff and local park staff so that they will further train the CFUGs and LCGs so that they can continue activities after the project finishes. Through the support of BCN the LCGs will be the main beneficiaries at a local level. These stakeholders have been involved from the beginning of project implementation through community workshops and will be engaged in continuing the monitoring at IBA sites.

Besides this, the host country partner, BCN which is the BirdLife Designate in Nepal has identified three of the country's Important Bird Areas for field work piloting studies. As a result, this project has further developed the opportunities for BCN to work with the government officials and local communities involved in site management for improved safeguarding of these IBAs into the future.

The philosophy of the exit strategy is that involvement of the government officials and LCGs enhances their ownership of the project, and therefore the sustainability of the project outputs. Participation of government officials and other conservation partners in project activities (e.g. workshops, training) has been good. We have found that park officials and other conservation partners are keen in using the 'toolkit' when it is released, which indicates increasing recognition for the need of rapid ES assessment toolkit.

Wherever necessary we are pursuing opportunities to maximise the sustainability of the project outputs, and adapting the project as we proceed with this in mind.

9. Dissemination

Early in the project an article appeared in Nepal's most prestigious daily newspaper the Kathmandu Post. The project was also covered by BCN's regular radio programme 'Panchhi Sansar' on 30 October 2010. More will be disseminated through this radio programme in the future. During the National Workshop a press release was sent to BirdLife International for the BirdLife Community webpage and this was adapted for the Nepali audience and distributed to national journalists. The project and details about the National Workshop in particular was covered by articles in two national newspapers (see section 4.1). Project staff member Ishana Thapa was interviewed by Ujayalo network on the project (25 December 2010). Ujayalo network has a connection of over 100 FM stations throughout the country. A TV documentary highlighting the importance of ecosystem services and the work of the Darwin project was developed by the Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists and was telecasted in Akhijyal of NTV on Tuesday 22 March 2011 at 5:00 pm and by Avenues TV at 6:30 pm. NTV covers all the 75 districts in Nepal. An article on the project was published in the December issue of BCN newsletter *Danphe*. 1000 copies of *Danphe* are printed in each quarter and circulated to government offices, partner organisations, BCN members, etc. It is also available online on the BCN website. News items and features have also been produced in other media (see Table 2).

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3. Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)

Two formal change requests were made to LTS during the year to request the movements of funds between budget lines. These were as follows:

BirdLife International Staff: AS: Alison Stattersfield, Project Leader; JB: Jenny Birch, Project Manager; DT: David Thomas, Expert (Sustainable Development); ME: Mike Evans, Expert (Information Management); MAK: Muhtari Aminu-Kano, Expert (CBD);

Bird Conservation Nepal Staff: HG: Hum Gurung, Host Country Coordinate / Policy Advocate; IT: Ishana Thapa, IBA Coordinator; MB: Menuka Basnyat, BCN Site Coordinator; JT: Jyotendra Thakuri, BCN Site Coordinator; RS: Ravi Shankar, BCN Site Coordinator.

| Item | Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project application or annual grant offer letter) | Expenditure | Variance/ Comments |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| Staff costs specified by individual | | | <p>Staff costs are taken as a percentage of staff salaries and hence there was some minor variation in the exact amount allocated.</p> <p>JB did not start work on the project until June 2010 hence the underspend here</p> <p>AS and DT invested more time than originally planned on development of the methodology and so additional salary was allocated to them to reflect this</p> <p>Staff time for BCN staff was increased slightly on what was outlined from the proposal to reflect more time invested</p> |

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|-------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|---|
| | MB | 1000.00 | MB | 1200.00 | in the project than originally planned |
| | JT | 1000.00 | JT | 1200.00 | |
| | RS | 1000.00 | RS | 1200.00 | |
| | TOTAL | 3000.00 | TOTAL | 3600.00 | 5.0% |
| Overhead costs | | | | | 3.7% A result of the slight change in staff costs |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | | -16.4% We received a refund from the insurers for the cost of a flight that one of our consultants had to cancel due to last minute medical reasons, this was unexpected at the time of changing the T&S allocation. We also included sufficient funds for the unplanned visit of a BCN staff member to the UK to present at a conference in March 2010, which cost less than we budgeted for. |
| Operating costs | | | | | -3.4% |
| Capital items/equipment | | | | | -1.6% |

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| | |
| Others: Consultancy | |
| Others (please specify) | |
| TOTAL | |

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2010-2011

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2010 - March 2011 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources | | <p>The project has delivered some significant steps towards the goal through (i) initiation of a monitoring programme to regularly measure the state of biodiversity, current pressures and conservation response at Important Bird Areas, and (ii) the development of a scientific framework to implement rapid, robust and cost-effective assessment of ecosystem service values, (iii) engaging key stakeholders and decision makers and increasing the profile of a national NGO in Nepal (iv) promoting sustainable use and identifying benefits to the human community from ecosystem services and maintenance of these services.</p> | |
| <p>Purpose To build capacity of national NGOs in Nepal & other Asian countries to collect & use information on ES for better biodiversity conservation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in Nepal, monitoring scheme (for birds / biodiversity & ES) established in 3 sites (baseline, Y3) ○ in Nepal, at least 3 local & 1 national advocacy opportunities pursued ○ in at least 1 other Asian country, 1 advocacy opportunity pursued ○ internationally, input to at least 1 | <p>Training provided to host country staff in survey methods for assessing ecosystem services</p> <p>Training provided and biodiversity monitoring forms developed for assessing 27 sites in Nepal</p> <p>Data on ES collected at 1 pilot site and one other site</p> <p>Information shared with stakeholders including government and NGOs at National Workshop</p> | <p>Asia Regional Workshop to provide training to BirdLife Partners from other Asian countries</p> <p>Further training of BCN staff and volunteers in assessment of ecosystem services methods</p> <p>Data collecting at 2nd pilot site</p> <p>Local meeting at the 2nd pilot site to provide dissemination of project outputs and further training</p> |

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| | CBD meeting | BCN contributing to national discussions with government on ecosystem services at the policy level Survey sent to BirdLife Partners globally (including Asia region) to initiate project engagement | Project update to be sent to global Partners Further expert input and development of methods Publication of 1st case study |
| Output 1. Research methodologies developed for cost-effective, site-focused assessment & monitoring of ES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in UK, expert meetings held (Y1,2,3) ○ scientific framework & database for biodiversity & ES assessment produced | Research methodologies for site-focused assessment & monitoring of ES developed as a result of an inaugural workshop in the UK attended by experts and the development of a scientific framework. Indicators appropriate in measuring this output. | |
| 1.1 Convene UK expert meetings | | UK expert meeting held 17-18 May attended by 31 participants. A follow up meeting will take place in Year 2 attended by a wide range of key people who are involved in ES projects worldwide, to share experiences and provide further inputs. | |
| 1.2 Compile & refine scientific framework for site-based ES assessment & monitoring | | Draft framework produced and formatted as a 'toolkit' document with comprehensive guidance. This activity will be continued throughout the project with a view to making this publicly available in Year 2 along with a peer-reviewed paper outlining the approach published in Year 3. | |
| 1.3 Develop database to hold ES data & test for analyses and indicator development | | Data currently held in Excel spreadsheets as we anticipate several adjustments to input data during the early stages. Database specification will be discussed in Year 2. | |
| Output 2. ES assessment & monitoring methods tested and refined at pilot sites in Nepal, & data collected & analysed nationally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in Nepal, local 'start up' meetings held (1 in Y1,2,3 with 15 people each) ○ data on ES collected ○ analyses produced | Three pilot sites selected, field work undertaken at the first site as scheduled this year. Project start up meeting (12 participants) and National Workshop held (45 participants). Methods tested and refined according to local context and emerging issues. Data gathered and analysed for one oral presentation and one poster at two different conferences, and two scientific papers are in preparation (to be submitted in Year 2). Indicators reflect the progress on this output well. | |
| 2.1 Hold local 'start up meetings' at 3 IBAs in Nepal | | First start up meeting occurred at a national level with 12 participants from government, NGO sector, Universities and invited experts. A second meeting will be held to coincide with field work at the second site in Year 2. | |
| 2.2 Conduct fieldwork & enter biodiversity & ES data for 3 IBAs in Nepal | | Field work conducted at the first pilot site during November – March. Data entered into spreadsheets. Biodiversity information for this site was updated in the World Bird Database. Fieldwork in Year 2 will focus on the 2 nd pilot site. | |

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| 2.3 Trial output & analysis of ES data & review for advocacy relevance | Trial output and analysis was conducted for oral presentation at the Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge in March and as a poster at the BES Forests & Global Change conference. Two peer-review papers are in development and further outputs will be considered in Year 2. |
| 2.4 Undertake rapid review of ES at all IBAs | Due to the time consuming nature of other activities this year, the rapid review is yet to be undertaken. This is planned for Years 2-3 as projected in the original timetable. |
| Output 3. Awareness raised of the importance of biodiversity conservation & maintenance of ES for livelihoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in Nepal, 3 case studies based on study sites published & disseminated (Y2-3) ○ Case Studies based on other BirdLife Partner ES experiences published (as appropriate) ○ National (Nepal) Report (incl. assessment, map, baseline etc.) produced & distributed (Y3) ○ other awareness raising materials produced & disseminated ○ target audiences engaged <p>Exceptional investment by BCN in promoting the project at local and national events alongside international events such as the CBD COP10. Engagement of key institutions in Nepal timely. Many participants from different sectors at the National Workshop raised awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation & maintenance of ES for livelihoods in Nepal. The case studies indicator is a good measure of whether results from the project have been disseminated. Production of other materials such as a leaflet and TV coverage indicates increased awareness of the public.</p> |
| 3.1 Develop case studies based on experiences at 3 IBAs in Nepal (plus others elsewhere, as appropriate) | Draft manuscript produced for first site. Second case study also underway. |
| 3.2 Produce a range of other awareness-raising / advocacy materials | A leaflet for general dissemination produced and taken to the CBD COP10. Nepali leaflet produced and disseminated locally. We will develop project update/newsletter in Year 2 to send to people who have attended project meetings and workshops and have shown interest in the project. |
| 3.3 Develop websites (BirdLife / BCN) to disseminate ES information | News stories posted on the BirdLife International website and BirdLife Community webpages as well as BCN's website. Further website development will take place in Year 2 as projected in the timetable. |
| 3.4 Promote ES & biodiversity conservation at local, national & international meetings | Promotion undertaken through local and national meetings both in the UK and Nepal. Presentations given at the Asia Regional Partnership meeting of BirdLife International (Taipei); the British Trust for Ornithology (UK); Student Conference on Conservation Science (UK); International Conference on Biodiversity, Livelihood and Climate Change in the Himalayas (Nepal) among others. Future promotional opportunities will be taken advantage of in Year 2. |
| 3.5 Prepare, publish & launch National (Nepal) Report | Work on this activity has not yet begun as it is planned for Year 3. However, there will be discussion about the format and timing of this during the next project visit to Nepal in Year 2. |

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| <p>Output 4. Guidelines developed & training undertaken on collection & use of ES information for conservation planning & advocacy</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ toolkit with simple, replicable guidance tailored for IBAs (Y2-3) ○ in Asia, 1 regional workshop with 9 NGOs (Yr 2) ○ 1 global workshop with 9 NGOs (Y3) | <p>Novel toolkit with simple, replicable guidance tailored for IBAs drafted. Training of BCN took place at first site. Plans for regional workshop underway. The indicators reflect progress by illustrating training has taken place and that a document has been produced.</p> |
| <p>4.1 Seek feedback from BirdLife Partners on current ES work, & requirements for ES assessment & monitoring</p> | | <p>Questionnaire developed and sent to global BirdLife Partners. Responses analysed and taken on board for further development of the project. A summary report was sent back to all partners. Partners invited to contact the Project Manager and regular project updates will be sent out to keep Partners informed of progress.</p> |
| <p>4.2 Share experiences with other Asian BirdLife Partners / organise regional training</p> | | <p>Project update sent to share experience of the project with partners. This activity will be mainly covered by the Asia Regional Workshop in Year 2.</p> |
| <p>4.3 Develop toolkit & guidance</p> | | <p>Toolkit & guidance document produced in draft form.</p> |
| <p>4.4 Share experiences across whole BirdLife Partnership</p> | | <p>As 4.2</p> |

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p> | | | |
| <p>Sub-Goal</p> <p>To assist Nepal & other Asian developing countries achieve more effective biodiversity conservation and ES delivery</p> | <p>site indices (already developed by BirdLife to monitor trends in the status of birds / biodiversity at sites) at 10+ Nepali sites show improvement 5–10 years after end of Project</p> <p>ES indices (to be developed by this Project) at 10+ Nepali sites show improvement 5–10 years after end of Project</p> | <p>Monitoring reports</p> | |
| <p>Purpose</p> <p>To build capacity of national NGOs in Nepal & other Asian countries to collect & use information on ES for better biodiversity conservation</p> | <p>in Nepal, monitoring scheme (for birds / biodiversity & ES) established in 3 sites (baseline, Y3)</p> <p>in Nepal, at least 3 local & 1 national advocacy opportunities pursued</p> <p>in at least 1 other Asian country, 1 advocacy opportunity pursued internationally, input to at least 1 CBD meeting</p> | <p>database (data held in BirdLife's World Bird Database)</p> <p>NGO, local / district authority & national government reports</p> <p>advocacy materials</p> | <p>monitoring continues at regular intervals and is extended to 10+ sites</p> <p>increased knowledge & capacity to assess & monitor ES will result in more effective biodiversity conservation (see discussion in concept note)</p> <p>relevant policy opportunities are timely</p> |
| <p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Research methodologies developed for cost-effective, site-focused assessment & monitoring of ES</p> | <p>in UK, expert meetings held (Y1,2,3)</p> <p>scientific framework & database for biodiversity & ES assessment produced</p> | <p>meeting minutes & presentations</p> <p>scientific reports / literature</p> <p>database specification</p> | <p>an appropriate methodology can be developed within the time-frame</p> |

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| 2. ES assessment & monitoring methods tested and refined at pilot sites in Nepal, & data collected & analysed nationally | in Nepal, local 'start up' meetings held (1 in Y1,2,3 with 15 people each) data on ES collected analyses produced | meeting minutes & presentations fieldwork notes database (data stored in BirdLife's World Bird Database) Project reports & materials | suitable pilot sites based at IBAs in Nepal can be selected methods can be modified to conduct a rapid review of ES across all (or a subset of) IBAs to give a national overview |
| 3. Awareness raised of the importance of biodiversity conservation & maintenance of ES for livelihoods | in Nepal, 3 case studies based on study sites published & disseminated (Y2-3) Case Studies based on other BirdLife Partner ES experiences published (as appropriate) National (Nepal) Report (incl. assessment, map, baseline etc.) produced & distributed (Y3) other awareness raising materials produced & disseminated target audiences engaged | Case studies websites (BirdLife, others) scientific & other literature press releases / articles Project reports & materials | sufficient & appropriate scientific data can be generated target audiences are receptive to information |
| 4. Guidelines developed & training undertaken on collection & use of ES information for conservation planning & advocacy | toolkit with simple, replicable guidance tailored for IBAs (Y2-3) in Asia, 1 regional workshop with 9 NGOs (Yr 2) 1 global workshop with 9 NGOs (Y3) | ES Questionnaire (ES work underway & needs) toolkit & other training materials workshop reports & presentations trainee reports follow-up activities (via BirdLife Partner reports) | lessons learned translate well between organisations other BirdLife Partners are willing & able to participate trained staff put their new skills into practice |

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Annexes listed below will be sent on a CD by post to arrive prior to the 30 April 2011 deadline.

Annex 3.1 – Ecosystem services expert consultation workshop report and photo of Dr Hum Gurung at BirdLife International in Cambridge.

Annex 3.2 – 'Toolkit' contents page (draft version)

Annex 3.3 – Important Bird Area Monitoring training sessions and feedback

Annex 3.4 – Project start up meeting in Kathmandu report, participants list and photo

Annex 3.5 – National Workshop report

Annex 3.6 – Nepal site visit report

Annex 3.7 – Phulchoki Community Workshop Report

Annex 3.8 – Student Conference on Conservation Science agenda and bursary letter

Annex 3.9 – Poster for British Ecological Society conference

Annex 3.10 – Project factsheet (English)

Annex 3.11 – Project Brochure (Nepali)

Annex 3.12 – Newsletter articles

Annex 3.13 – News stories in Nepal

Annex 3.14 – News stories on BirdLife International website

Annex 3.15 – Online Survey Report

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|--|--------------------|
| Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line. | x |
| Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | |
| Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | x |
| Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. | Yes – to be posted |
| 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. | |