

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

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

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Darwin Project Information

Project reference	26-012
Project title	Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities Restoring a Ramsar Wetland at watershed scale
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partner institution(s)	Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM), Comprehensive Ghodaghodi Lake and Tourism Development Board (CGLTDB) and Himalayan Nature (HN)
Darwin grant value	£320,931.00
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2019 - 31 March 2022
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2020 – Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Hem Sagar Baral
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Zoological Society of London, April 2021

1. Project summary

Ghodaghodi Lake Area (GLA) (28° 41'N, 80° 57'E), a globally significant Ramsar wetland and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) is located in the southwestern part of Nepal in the Ghodaghodi Municipality of Kailali district, Sudur Paschim Province. The designated Ramsar site covers an area of 2,563 ha while the comprehensive GLA occupies 10,670 ha, comprising of 24 smaller wetlands, forest patches, grasslands/shrublands, settlement and agricultural areas. This entire area is known by the name of the main and the largest lake – Ghodaghodi and it lies in between two national parks of the Western Terai Complex (WTC) Bardia National Park (park border lies approx. 30 km east) and Shuklaphanta National Park (park border lies approx. 60 km west) as shown in the map below. Basanta Protected Forest, a critically important biological corridor, supporting the movement of carnivores, mega-herbivores and other threatened species across the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) area covers the entire GLA located west of this area. However, rapid population growth due to migration from the hills to the plains, fast-growing tourism, agro-pollution, over exploitation of natural resources, over-grazing and over-fishing threaten this critical ecosystem.

This project is aimed at improving our understanding of the underlying threats to GLA and developing appropriate mitigation. Activities are aimed at restoring GLA’s ecological integrity through community-led, natural capital-based sustainable management. This is expected to increase the well-being of local people and water security, while protecting biodiversity through sustainable tourism, women-led cooperatives, land-use planning and biological monitoring. Ultimately, the project aims to work towards declaring the area as a Bird Sanctuary supporting the decision taken by community members and authorised agencies.

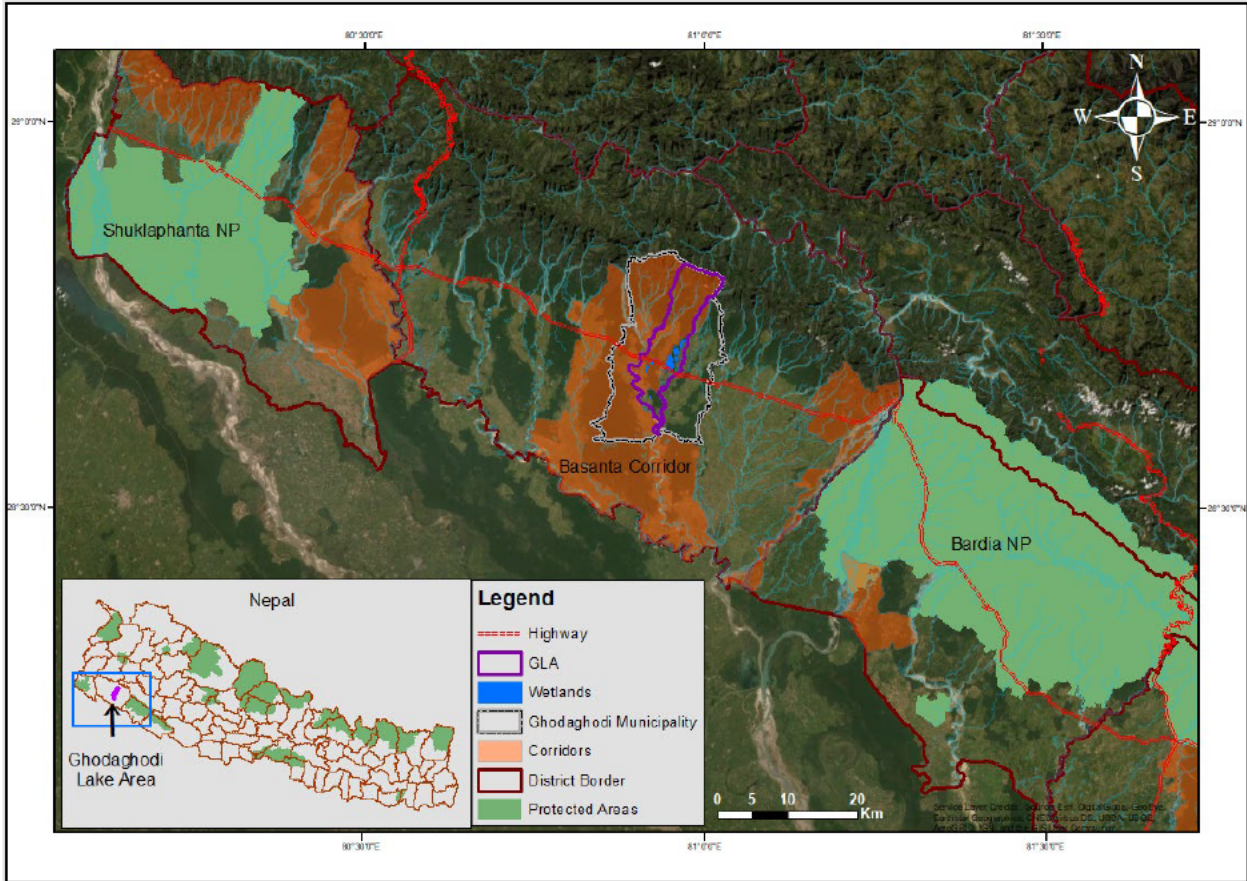


Figure 1: Location map showing GLA

2. Project partnerships

ZSL’s relationship with its partners and stakeholders, including the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC), Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM), Comprehensive Ghodaghodi Lake and Tourism Development Board (CGLTDB) and Himalayan Nature (HN) remains integral to conserving the biodiversity and ecological value within GLA. Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak throughout this project year, the project partners including GM, DoFSC, local communities and other project stakeholders have remained extremely supportive, which was instrumental in delivering the project activities during this reporting period.

GM, the local government authority responsible for the prosperity and development of the entire municipal communities along with the conservation of the GLA has fully supported the implementation of this project. GM is taking a central role in engaging communities and stakeholders, both in and around the area, to secure the designation of the Bird Sanctuary, elevating the conservation status of Ghodaghodi, coordinating the development of watershed management plans, tourism plans etc. and ensuring post–project legacy through the long-term implementation and institutionalisation of plans prepared through this project. DNPWC, DoFSC and Kailali district Divisional Forest Office (DFO) have provided the technical support as needed. CGLTDB, as in previous years, has played a significant role in implementing the project at site to ensure long-term community-led sustainable management and conservation of GLA. In this reporting period, they were particularly focused on sustainable management of GLA through alternative livelihood opportunities especially through sustainable management of fisheries. Based on the outcome of this project, CGLTDB is expected to use its newfound management

ability to sustainably manage the increasing tourist numbers in GLA. This will act as a catalyst in future to empower communities to protect natural capital by reducing pressure on resources extraction and improve their livelihoods. HN has led community engagement employing their team of social mobilisers, supporting communities to adopt supplementary livelihood opportunities through the formation of women-led groups under the local cooperatives, and carried out a biodiversity assessment of the area for GLA conservation planning and establishment of the Bird Sanctuary.

Some notable achievements, lessons, strengths and challenges during this reporting period:

- The support received from GM, CGLTDB and HN remained crucial throughout this reporting period and was very well coordinated despite the COVID-19 outbreak risks-throughout the project year.
- With several consultations and workshops being held, GLA conservation status has been receiving a higher priority and we were able to build promising cooperation with project partners and communities around GLA.
- Communities' attitudes remain positive towards GM and CGLTDB and they are taking a lead in conserving GLA and its lake biodiversity. Likewise, DoFSC and Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) maintain strong bonds with GM and CGLTDB for eco-tourism promotion, watershed conservation and the sustainable preservation of the core value of GLA.
- CGLTDB, a board formed under GM, has now increased its capacity in taking ownership of the project – boding well for the impact and legacy of the project. They are especially committed to conserving the natural and cultural diversity of GLA including tourism development and community wellbeing.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting nationwide lockdown created some difficulties for project partners in implementing project activities in the agreed timeframe, particularly targeted community consultation meetings and workshops. However, partners learnt to ensure the proper health and safety measures for this situation, and ZSL's facilitated virtual meetings and guidance to partners remained instrumental for the implementation of the project.

3. Project progress

This year, the project implementation further supported the aim of preserving and restoring the wetland biodiversity and the ecological integrity of the entire GLA. The main activities implemented were a participatory approach to GLA management, alternative livelihood opportunities, eco-tourism promotion, watershed planning, discussion of the development of the Bird Sanctuary and evidence-based management. Community engagements and local government and stakeholder participation remained vital throughout this reporting period. The details of the project progress are outlined below:

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Natural capital of GLA governed equitably through CGLTDB, and established governance mechanism.

Freshwater Information System for Household (FISH) representatives, the community focal persons, recruited in year 1 to share information to the working groups on conserving GLA integrity, were continuously supported to collect and collate evidence-based information and critical feedbacks from diverse settlements within GLA for the effective management of the lake area (Act 1.5). Besides several informal site level interactions, three consultation meetings of the FISH representatives were conducted (Annex 4 – 1.1) to further strengthen their capacity, sensitize them on GLA conservation and raise awareness on sustainable tourism development and its benefits to local communities. They also collected community level information to feed into management plans for the sustainable development of the area.

A Participatory Natural Capital Assessment workshop was conducted for 40 (19 females and 21 males) representatives (Annex 4 – 1.2) from GLA settlements, including Tharu, Dalit, women and cooperative members (Act 1.7). During the workshop, the participants were sensitized on the natural capital of GLA and its identified ecosystem services, environmental pressures and the impacts of development on GLA which could guide the relevant authorities to implement proper land use planning that considers long-term sustainability of the ecosystem services. The workshop also discussed and built consensus around a performance-based incentive system, tourism and watershed plans, and guidelines to fishing and grazing regulations.

A training was provided to 31 local fishers (18 females and 13 males) (Annex 4 -1.3) to reduce fishing activities within the GLA wetlands (Act 1.9). The fishers represent the vulnerable and fish dependent community, mostly belonging to the indigenous Tharu community within the GLA. The training was significant in raising awareness of wetland ecosystems' importance and the adoption of sustainable fishing practices. Participants were taught about using appropriate mesh size, proper gears for fishing, size of fish catch, time and season for harvesting fish, fishing malpractices and restricted fishing locations in GLA to conserve lake biodiversity. Also, to mitigate the negative impacts on their wellbeing, vulnerable households were supported to manage the community fishponds and other alternative livelihood opportunities (Section 3.1 & 3.2, output 2). ZSL facilitated the local government and CGLTDB to identify the location of the two community fishponds. This will help to bring the indigenous community together with multiple stakeholders to safeguard not only their livelihoods but also the GLA ecosystem and its services. This will be achieved through participatory planning for natural resource management, while safeguarding and embedding the needs and culture of local indigenous populations.

During this reporting period, three workshops were organized for 177 participants (91 females and 86 males) representing different stakeholders including indigenous and marginalised communities, CFUGs, local institutions, CGLTDB, and GM (Annex 4 – 1.4) to build a consensus to delineate a proposed no-take zone of nearly 100 ha in GLA's Ghodaghodi and Nakhrod lakes to help keep the lakes and surrounding areas intact, protect breeding sites of aquatic birds and crocodiles, and reduce excessive resource extraction (Act 1.11). Furthermore, consensus was reached in the workshops to conserve Betini area, the water source for Ghodaghodi and Nakhrod lakes. These workshops have helped create a platform for the GM to delineate a no-take zone, which has been planned for next year. Communities will be informed through signposts, awareness campaigns and FISH representatives.

Likewise, four workshops on regulating grazing and pesticide/fertilizer application in the GLA (Act 1.12) were held for 159 participants (62 females and 97 males, Annex 4 – 1.5). The majority of participants were comprised of CFUG members residing close to GLA's forest habitat and wetlands. The workshop was focused in minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers (pesticides, insecticides, herbicides), and to encourage farmers to plant fodder plants in their private lands and delineate community lands to control open grazing while reducing the pressure of cattle grazing within GLA. Stall feeding of livestock has been widely promoted amongst the farmers living around GLA. Communities were also made aware of using more organic manure in agricultural fields rather than chemical fertilizers. CFUG members have responded positively to regulating grazing and delineating part of their CF as a no-grazing area. The locations of the delineated area will be finalized and reported in the next reporting period. Moreover, communities' opinions and suggestions were also collected to incorporate them into a new set of guidelines on regulating grazing and pesticide/fertilizer usage within GLA.

Output 2: Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihood secured for the most vulnerable, marginalized fresh water dependent communities within GLA.

Two revolving fund mobilization and group management trainings were conducted for 51 members (50 females and 1 male, Annex 4 – 1.6) of two women groups (Fulwari and Gurans

saving and credit groups) during this reporting period to support their day-to-day cooperative operation and help monitor the impact of the support provided to them to improve their livelihood practices (Act 2.3). The trainings focused on strengthening the capacities of cooperative members on group management, income generating activities, saving and credit schemes, records keeping of revolving funds and assessment and preparation of business plans. The training has further sensitized women's groups about the 'Revolving Fund Mobilization Guidelines', and its implementation policy and the importance of periodic meetings to further improve their wellbeing.

Altogether, the two women groups conducted a combined 20 cooperative meetings (Act 2.4) this year to review the monthly progress on the support provided to vulnerable households for livelihood and strengthen the capacity of group members to engage in local business thus reducing pressure to the natural capital of GLA. These meetings have helped the group members to coordinate with government and local agencies to promote self-employment opportunities and have given women further opportunities to empower their participation in natural capital governance. Out of the seed fund provided to these cooperative groups, 43 members have already taken out loan with minimal interest (4% interest rate).

Four natural capital cooperative exposure visits were conducted for 160 households (110 females and 50 males) (Act 2.5) to promote the natural capital cooperative concept and support the community members outside the cooperative groups (Annex 4 – 1.7). Community members outside these groups as well as the members of the women's groups were involved in exchanging learnings and best practices from buffer zone communities in Bardia and Shuklaphanta National Parks in order to enhance their capacity in sustainable income generating activities. They observed various livelihood activities e.g., goat farming, fish farming, poultry farming, bee keeping, pig farming, seasonal and off-seasonal vegetable farming that are being implemented by the different cooperatives and public private partnership firms within and outside the Ghodaghodi municipality. They were highly interested in the set of livelihood activities adopted locally, such as fish farming, livestock agriculture and engagement in nature-based tourism. The visits have been extremely effective, and the team members were further encouraged to adopt for more diversified income generating activities.

Two community-managed fishponds (2-ha Tendi pond, 0.75-ha Parsehni pond) have been supported (Act 2.6) to indigenous community to promote sustainable aquaculture during this reporting period. Previously, these ponds were leased to individual contractors by the GM to generate revenue while local people were dependent on other natural lakes of Ghodaghodi complex for food security. Now, 65 members from the Tharu indigenous community are collectively managing these two ponds. A seed fund of NRs. 5 lakh () was provided to the group to operate and manage these fishponds. The operations of these fishponds are guided by the by-laws prepared with the support from CGLTDB and GM. Out of the 65 members, 29 (19 females and 10 males, Annex 4 – 1.8) were trained for sustainable aquaculture (Act 2.7) including, native species aquaculture and productivity-raising techniques to restore the population of native fish, snails and water chestnuts. Furthermore, they were also informed on policy and legal provisions for aquaculture in Nepal. The remaining members will be trained on the sustainable aquaculture methods by CGLTDB using the documents prepared.

This was followed by a workshop to facilitate the market access of fishpond groups via linking with local/national markets and government commercial schemes (Act 2.8) in which 27 fishpond members (16 females and 11 males) took part. In this workshop, better opportunities for high-value fish market and commercial schemes provided by the Government of Nepal to the farmers were described in detail. Through the provided seed fund support, six species of native fish (nearly 131,340 juvenile/fingerlings and matured fish weighing 150 kg in total) were released into these fishponds in the month of August. Fish farmers have now started harvesting fishes that have attained market size. Up to March 2021, they have harvested 451 kg of fish from the two

community-managed fishponds and earned nearly NRs. 1 lakh [REDACTED]. Likewise, another workshop was organised (Act 2.8) for 48 members from women-led cooperative (44 females and 4 males) to expose them to existing markets, especially for animal husbandry. The workshop covered some important aspects of animal husbandry and its commercial schemes like improved breeding, feeds and nutrition, farm management, market linkages, identification of beneficial and steady markets, production promotion, and government subsidies etc.

Output 3: Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a master plan that provides a model for other tourist destinations.

This project has supported sustainable tourism infrastructure development in GLA (Act 3.3). A total of 825 m eco-friendly foot trail was constructed towards the south-eastern edge of the Ghodaghodi lake, close to the east-west highway, helping promote green tourism in GLA. This trail can enhance the experience of tourists by offering the scenic beauty of the lake as well as some common wildlife. Likewise, another 225 m long trail, strategically placed at the southern edge, acts as a check dam to restore the water and minimize the risk of dam burst during the monsoon season. Similarly, an information centre was renovated at GLA's main entrance for tourism promotion, and documents on brief introduction to GLA and information on its conservation needs (Act 3.3) were provided. Wall paintings and seven information boards carrying conservation messages were installed at locations which can be easily viewed by tourists. Likewise, bins for litter/rubbish disposal were added within GLA to minimize solid waste pollutions.

A participatory sustainable tourism plan has been drafted (Act 3.2). A sharing workshop was conducted to get final inputs from community members, working groups, CGLTDB members, GM, hoteliers and other concerned stakeholders, prior to finalising the document. Altogether, 47 participants (10 females and 37 males) attended the workshops (Annex 4 – 1.9) and enthusiastically provided suggestions and feedback.

Output 4: A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.

Four awareness raising drop-in sessions were conducted for 204 members (127 Female and 77 Male) of four upstream settlement communities in the GLA to discuss and consult on the watershed management plan (Act 4.5). The importance of wetland and their conservation issues were shared and discussed, and participants also helped identify problems and threats to water resources, helping guide the development of a participatory framework to address these issues in each specific watershed. Also, 3000 copies of leaflets highlighting the need for, and importance of, watershed management were produced and half of them were distributed in this reporting period.

A workshop on policy engagement (Act 4.6) and a site visit of government officials (Act 4.7) were conducted to share the project impacts and help ensure the long-term conservation and development goals of GLA. As many as 31 participants representing several government institutions attended the engagement workshop (Annex 4 – 1.10). The workshop discussed sustainable tourism development in the area, biodiversity, and wetland and watershed conservation, as well as the policy support needed for conserving GLA that can be facilitated by provincial and national government. The provincial and national government officials visited GLA (Act 4.7) to encourage and support the local government and CGLTDB that are determined to protect the GLA through its designation as a Bird Sanctuary, thereby protecting local biodiversity and livelihoods.

Likewise, two site level events were organized this year on the potential of declaring GLA as a Bird Sanctuary (Act 4.8). A total of 182 people (41 females and 141 males) representing different communities, concerned government stakeholders, GM, CGLTDB, tourism development institutions etc. participated and demonstrated positive responses and support for establishing the Bird Sanctuary. This project objective also aligns to GM's vision for GLA conservation through designating the area as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary. The project has been supporting GM to achieve this vision by facilitating regular communication with other relevant stakeholders to declare this, ensuring watershed management, sustainable tourism management and designation of no take zone or limited resource extraction activities within the core area of GLA.

Output 5: Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.

A two-day training on indicator species monitoring and camera trapping was conducted for 24 (18 females and 6 males) citizen scientists and members of FISH and DFO representatives who were voluntarily interested in biological monitoring at GLA (Act 5.4). The training also included building capacity of the citizen scientists to enable monitoring of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) locally.

An annual biological monitoring (Act 5.5) was conducted and completed during this reporting period. Results showed 70 species of trees belonging to 18 orders, 30 families and 62 genera, out of which *Shorea robusta* had the highest density followed by *Terminalia alata*, *Syzygium cumini* and *Mallotus philippensis*. A total of 234 species of birds were recorded during this survey of which six were completely new to the GLA. Including the results of the present survey, GLA now has a high total of 319 species of birds, which is an exceptionally high level of diversity for such a small area. Similarly, based on the systematic camera trap and sign survey, 17 species of mammals were recorded, with 14 camera trapped, 2 directly observed and 1 indirectly (pellets) observed. Including the results from the last year's survey and other studies, 29 species of mammals have been recorded from GLA so far, which is again very significant for such a small area. Likewise, the survey this year has recorded 434 Cotton Pygmy-goose, 11 adult mugger crocodiles and 12 species of fish. The diversity and estimate of the fish stocks in two lakes of GLA i.e., Ghodaghodi and Nakhrod lake were calculated, with the average fish stock of Ghodaghodi and Nakhrod lake found to be 37 kg/ha and 10 kg/ha, respectively. Also, the current study has identified 4.31 ha of area covered with wild rice within the GLA. The patches of wild rice have been observed mostly on the northern boundary of the main lake.

Annual natural capital assessments (Act 5.6) were carried out during this reporting period. Physio-chemical parameters of water of 13 lakes and 2 streams were assessed including two locations at Ghodaghodi main lake and four locations in each of the 2 streams (Annex 4 – 1.11). The results show that there is no significant changes to the water quality parameters since last year's assessment. Likewise, seedling recruitments were calculated in the area. A total of 34 plots of 20 m X 20 m were further sub divided into five subplots of 5 m X 5 m, where all the seedling data were collected. Altogether 36 different species of plant seedlings have been recorded. The total density of the seedling recruitment was found to be 19086.695/hectare (Annex 4 – 1.12). Based on the results of seedling density, *Shorea robusta* showed good regeneration capacity whereas *Mallotus philippensis* and *Syzygium cumini* have shown satisfactory regeneration capacity. This has been a very encouraging finding as it indicates that forest regeneration is taking place at a healthy manner. Likewise, in total of 20 samples taken from the grassland covered area within GLA, the net primary productivity of Ghodaghodi grasslands ranges between 105 – 420 g/m² indicating low primary productivity.

Questionnaires for household surveys on livelihoods, income, well-being metrics, community knowledge on wildlife and natural capital dependency were revised and designed (Act 5.7) and

used to conduct surveys (Act 5.8) covering 28 settlements of three wards (1,4 and 8) of GM. A total of 474 HHs (297 female and 177 male respondents) were surveyed. Results from the survey showed that approximately 50.9% respondents depend on agriculture which is the major source of income for families, followed by non-agricultural labour (11.6%) and agricultural labour (8.4%). The vast majority of respondents (92.8%) depend on firewood as their primary source of fuel. As most of the communities depend on agriculture, they use pesticides and fertilizers to increase their yield. A total of 79.3% of respondents use only chemical pesticides and fertilizers in their farmland, while 20.7% of respondents use both chemical and organic fertilizers and pesticides. One of the aims of the project is to reduce agro-chemical use and provide substitutes to improve food security. These substitutes include schemes such as trainings and education on the benefits of organic manure and production techniques, which aims to encourage community members to increasingly use organic manure over agro-chemicals. This will help secure water bodies from eutrophication while also securing communities' health from the harmful effects of the agro-chemicals. Nearly 50% of the respondents agree with restrictions on fuelwood, fodder and other aquatic resources extraction like lotus, water chestnut etc. Majority of them were positive to regulate year-round fishing activity within Ghodaghodi lake (Annex 4 – 1.13). On the other hand, the remaining 50% also expressed their support for the restrictions should alternatives be available. Majority of the community members want continued access of the lake for their cultural practices.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Despite the unforeseen situation due to COVID-19, considerable progress was made to achieve the project outputs. During this reporting period, local communities were supported to take up alternative livelihood opportunities, foot trails were constructed to promote green tourism, plans and papers to support local government in declaring GLA a Bird Sanctuary were drafted, and workshops and interaction programs were organised at local and national level to further advance conservation of GLA's ecological integrity through sustainable development.

Output 1: Natural capital of GLA governed equitably through CGLTDB, and established governance mechanism.

40 FISH representatives recruited (Act 1.3) from 39 settlements to provide an information conduit to the GLA working group (ind 1.2, Act 1.4) were engaged in natural capital assessments (ind 1.3), tourism development (ind 3.2) and watershed management plan (ind 4.1) workshops. These representatives and working groups are voluntarily supporting CGLTDB and GM, while acting as a link between authorities and local communities by actively participating in these workshops and relaying vital information for effective GLA conservation. No such groups were formed earlier in the area, and CGLTDB and GM are optimistic about involving these representatives on the long run to collect communities' input while sustainably conserving GLA's ecological services and values.

Likewise, ZSL continued its support to CGLTDB to conduct annual participatory natural capital workshops (ind 1.3) this year and CGLTDB has prepared a performance-based incentive mechanism (ind 1.4) for GLA settlements based on the information received during the natural capital assessment workshops (Act 1.7). The incentive mechanism deals with the economic empowerment of vulnerable communities including women and youths and they will be supported by providing competitive matching incentive fund grants based on eligible agri-business plans from farmer groups, cooperatives, agri-private firms, technology support, agribusiness development, post-harvest facilities and market linkages. This is designed to increase public interest in investments into communities adopting environmentally friendly practices within GLA.

Similarly, GM has prepared a master plan focusing on GLA's sustainable development and management (Ind 1.5). The plan aims to conserve and manage natural capital of GLA, and promote sustainable tourism and economic wellbeing of the local communities. Likewise, fisheries management (Act 1.10), and sustainable grazing management (ind 1.5.4, Act 1.12) documents are being developed, which will ensure the protection of the prime part of GLA in terms of biodiversity by designating a no take zone by the end of the project. CFUG members have responded positively to regulating grazing and delineating part of their CF as a no grazing area. People were made aware of the restrictions on fishing activity in Ghodaghodi lake and Nakhrod lake (approx. 100 ha, ind 1.5.3) through community consultations. Currently, very limited fishing and grazing activities are observed in Ghodaghodi main lake and the surrounding forests.

Output 2: Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihoods secured for the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater dependent communities within GLA.

The project has established two women-led cooperatives (Act 2.1) with a total 52 members from the most vulnerable, marginalized freshwater-dependent communities (Ind 2.1) A total of GBP 5,000 was provided as seed fund to each of the two women groups. This year, vulnerable households were supported to manage two community managed fishponds (Act 2.6) to promote sustainable aquaculture and reduce dependency on Ghodaghodi lake. A total of 4000 GBP was supported to manage these fishponds.

Of these investments, the community has already made profit of NRs. 719184 (GBP 5137) benefitting 137 households (Ind 2.2). A total of 43 cooperative members have already taken loans. More than 75% of the cooperative members (Act 2.4, ind 2.3) are regularly attending the natural capital workshops held by CGLTDB and post cooperative meeting sessions every month.

Output 3: Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a master plan that provides a model for other tourist destinations.

A sustainable tourism plan has been drafted (Act 3.4, ind 3.2) and shared with GM, which is expected to be finalise by next reporting period. After approval, the plan will be implemented by CGLTDB and local communities and shared with DoFSC, DNPWC, and provincial and national government as a model of best practice by the end of the project (ind 3.3). To draft and obtain input into the plan, one workshop was conducted this year with the active participation of 47 people from the local community and other stakeholders. For green sustainable tourism infrastructure development, investments were made to construct 825 m foot trails and upgrade the information centre in GLA (Ind 3.3, Act 3.3), installing information boards with messages on lake conservation and waste management. CGLTDB and GM are now more aware about the likely negative impacts of haphazard infrastructure development on natural capital value within GLA (ind 3.3.3), and no such infrastructure has been built to date. The leadership of the CGLTDB and the mayor of GM have been the dedicated custodians of GLA, ensuring its sustainable conservation.

Output 4: A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.

Under this output, consultations with all upstream settlements (Act 4.2) and drop-in sessions (Act 4.5) in four different communities were organized to discuss and consult on the agendas for the watershed management plan. A draft participatory watershed management plan (ind 4.1, Act 4.3) has been prepared this year and is under review by the GM to finalise in the next reporting period. Likewise, a policy level workshop was conducted (Act 4.6) along with a visit for the national and local government official (ind 4.2) to share the project impact and support CGLTDB and GM in conservation of GLA watershed and its tourism development at the national level. The CGLTDB and GM are continuously being supported (Act 4.8) to upgrade GLA to Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, while different management plans are being prepared to formulate the Ghodaghodi

Bird Sanctuary Management Plan (Ind 4.3). The project will support the CGLTDB and GM to achieve this by the project end.

Output 5: Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.

A total of 24 youths (18 females and 6 males) from among FISH representatives and DFO staff were trained in biological monitoring (Act 5.4), and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs (Ind 5.2). The year 1 monitoring data and preliminary data for year 2 were shared to local stakeholders during the participatory natural capital assessment workshops and with Nepal’s NBSAP and Ramsar technical team during its preparation (ind 5.3). The post project monitoring plan will be institutionalized with CGLTDB, FISH and CFUGs (Ind 5.4) by the project end.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project has made considerable progress towards achieving the project outcome this year. Key indicator species were monitored (Section 3, Output 5) and the count of Cotton Pygmy-goose increased to 434 (from 147 in year 1) whereas the mugger population has remained stable (ind 0.1). The project is supporting CGLTDB and GM to upgrade GLA's conservation status to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary (Ind 0.2), aimed to be achieved by the project end (Section 3.2, Output 4). For this, GM in their comprehensive masterplan of GLA has mentioned to develop the area as a Bird Sanctuary, indicating their management inputs (ind 0.2). However, the projected annual management input has dropped this year due to COVID-19. The idea of the Bird Sanctuary has already been raised by project beneficiaries during project initiated meetings, while different management plans (participatory management plan, sustainable tourism plan, watershed management plan, natural capital monitoring plan) are under review to support the implementation of an evidence-based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (Ind 0.3) by the end of the project.

Water quality indicator for 15 water bodies within GLA have been assessed (Section 3, Output 5) this year, measuring the rate of decline of eutrophication drivers across the watershed (Ind 0.4) during the project period (Annex 4 – 1.11). Out of 18 samples taken for water quality assessment, the average amount of nitrate has dropped compared to the previous year, however the amount of phosphate has increased in most of the lakes. Likewise, baseline data on the overall wellbeing index (Ind 0.5) was collected in year 1. 598 vulnerable and marginalised households were identified and 52 members from the most vulnerable and marginalised households were selected to form cooperatives in the previous reporting period. Cooperative members have already started income generating activities (IGAs) and the expected change (ind 0.5) in the well-being index will be measured by the end of the project.

Barring unforeseen unfavourable developments, these indicators are adequate for measuring the intended outcome. Considering the current progress of the project, the outcomes are achievable and if something unexpected occurs, ZSL and the project will provide support to GM, CGLTDB and DoFSC to safeguard GLA’s biodiversity and well-being of the communities.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

	Outcome Level Assumptions	Comments
Assumption 1	Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM) and CGLTDB remain committed to conservation of GLA.	GM and CGLTDB are the key stakeholders and authorised bodies to carry out conservation measures and GLA conservation has been their priority

		programme. Members of both institutions are highly committed to this.
Assumption 2	Biodiversity conservation remains a national priority, with a political situation conducive for conservation and project implementation.	Ghodaghodi Lake complex is a Ramsar designated site of international importance, so all concerned authorities are monitoring the conservation and implementation of this project which positively correlates with national priority towards conservation. Local government (GM) is one of the key institutions for effective implementation of the project.
Assumption 3	Increased financial resources devoted to the site reflects increased government commitment to its conservation and will result in improved conservation outcomes.	GM has formed a board (CGLTDB) supplied with financial resources to conserve GLA biodiversity and carry out tourism promotion activities.
Assumption 4	Communities will share this information willingly, including on levels of usage near watercourses	Work in progress. FISH representatives are acting as the focal persons to share the required level of information.
Assumption 5	ZSL's deployment of a locally defined participatory wealth- ranking wellbeing index will be appropriate to the local context. Given our experience applying it across different socioeconomic classes and self-identified community subgroups, in the Philippines, Mozambique and Cameroon.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 6	A 10% stratified sample of households in GLA is sufficient to identify wellbeing increases generally and disaggregate this by groups.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 7	Local communities are supportive of conservation and keen to diversify livelihood opportunities.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 8	Equal wellbeing gains between Tharu, women and less marginalised groups are achievable given that 36 % of the population are Tharu and around 12% are Dalit.	Almost all the selected members who receive benefits are women and/or from the Tharu or other marginalised communities.
Output Level Assumptions		
Assumption 9	Suitable and diverse candidates to be selected as FISH representatives are willing and available from the pool of community members. And these individuals do not overlap with the chairmen/women of the CFUGs.	FISH representatives were selected from all the settlements and comprise both men and women, especially those representing indigenous Tharus, CFUG members, and other vulnerable people.
Assumption 10	Community members make the connections between wellbeing. increases and the package of measures/natural capital approach of the project, and therefore abide by the sustainability measures as agreed in the management plans.	Community members have shown positive responses to the plans, but additional support is expected for those who do not benefit directly through this project
Assumption 11	Most community members will readily identify a relationship between their livelihoods and natural capital as the vast majority of community members, if not all, have livelihoods dependent on GLA's natural capital, mostly either livestock, fishing, aquaculture or tourism livelihoods.	This assumption remains reasonable. In addition, people who received trainings on sustainable livelihood practices and those who attended natural capital workshops have been supported to identify this relationship.

Assumption 12	CGLTDB investment, together with other project activities, provides a robust incentive for communities to be supportive of protecting natural capital, while the workshops are able to provide unbiased evidence on community performance.	GM is supporting CGLTDB annually and is committed to provide incentive to vulnerable communities.
Assumption 13	Bringing CFUG leaders, from the 26 settlements with established CFUGS, together with inclusive representatives from the 13 settlements without CFUGs will enable equal representation of all settlements interests and help promote Nepal's Community Forestry Programme.	CFUGs have their own plan endorsed by DFO, however CFUGs remain supportive of GM.
Assumption 13	We assume that 10% of water area protected from harmful fishing impacts is achievable, based on community consultations and ZSL's early-stage experiences in the Philippines where communities have been willing to protect an average of 3ha each.	This assumption remains reasonable. GM and CGLTDB in consultation with community members are working to establish a fishing prohibited zone in the Ghodaghodi main lake and Nakhrod lake covering nearly 100 ha.
Assumption 14	Freshwater no-take zones (NTZ) have the potential to protect valuable intact habitat and spawning areas for freshwater biodiversity, and the community engagement and success of these no take zones will be enhanced by utilising lessons from ZSL trials in the Philippines (DI24-016, DI21-020).	This assumption remains reasonable. If other anthropogenic pressures are reduced and GM and CGLTDB take actions to support NTZs, this is still expected to hold true.
Assumption 15	CGLTDB members remain receptive to equitable and sustainable governance approaches.	This assumption remains reasonable. However periodic trainings on equitable and sustainable governance will be helpful for members.
Assumption 16	Natural capital cooperatives, building on ZSL's successful livelihood cooperative model from DI-funded project DI22-009 are effective and equitable management institutions for natural capital-based sustainable livelihoods.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 17	Participatory natural capital assessments prove an effective means of engaging communities with the link between natural capital and their livelihoods, so making the case for sustainable management of natural capital management transparent, and contributing to GLA conservation.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 18	Take up of loans is similar to demand on other ZSL projects and another DI-funded Nepal project (i.e.87 loans), DI22-009	True. Soft loans received and used by members for income-generating activities, and periodic deposits in cooperatives by the members can make positive changes over a longer time period. This project has provided training on livelihood practices and is encouraging members to contribute their own investments. There is slightly higher intake of loans compared to other DI funded Nepal projects.
Assumption 19	Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops will be attractive for community members to attend due to the opportunity to participate in local resource governance decisions.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 20	Government remains supportive of development of tourism and green tourism	This assumption remains reasonable.

Assumption 21	Green infrastructure are sustainable and adopted by government.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 22	Participatory tourism master plan agreed by all stakeholders is subsequently respected and implemented with ZSL's ongoing technical support and engagement.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 23	On advice from local partners, this proposal assumes that this existing Protected Forest designation of the upper watershed and its associated land-use zoning provides an effective framework upon which a land-use plan can be built and implemented, within the timeframe, with sufficient compliance mechanisms pre-built in.	Planning process is ongoing. GM and CGLTDB are bringing all concerned stakeholders together for effective land-use planning.
Assumption 24	All 10 communities are willing to participate, under the existing framework of the protected forest, in sustainable management of their upstream freshwater system.	Communities are positive toward watershed management plan.
Assumption 25	Community members will be keen to agree collective management of riparian forests and fertilisers/pesticides. This is due to commitment to the Community Forestry Programme, which will be built upon, and the existing level of compliance with Basanta Protected Forest land-use zones, in combination with local communities' active desire to seek support to protect GLA.	Besides this project, GM and CFUGs support alternative livelihood schemes provided to local communities further strengthening their participation in management of riparian forests.
Assumption 26	Agreement of plans, alongside technical support, government investment, and encouragement will lead to effective conservation actions on the ground.	This assumption remains reasonable.
Assumption 27	Government remains committed to protection of GLA, and supportive of declaring GLA a Bird Sanctuary.	GM and CGLTDB are now more concerned about and continuously working for this
Assumption 28	Diverse stakeholders are able to agree KPIs that effectively capture the relevant metrics and demonstrate the value of participatory watershed management.	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 29	Being a FISH representative will be attractive to local community members as a route to greater participation in resource governance decision making, and a status position associated with CGLTDB, which is a respected body	This assumption remains reasonable
Assumption 30	Agreed KPIs will be monitorable in the long-term, with buy in from provincial level down to settlement level.	This assumption remains reasonable

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

Target impact: Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity.

The project is providing a wonderful opportunity for the restoration of ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor with a well-managed community-led protected area. In line with this, the project is particularly supporting the local government and relevant

authorities, with the engagement of the communities, to develop effective management plans that promote biodiversity conservation (Section 3, Output 5), a watershed management plan (Section 3, Output 5) and a participatory management plan (Section 3.2, Output 1) to restore the ecological value and services of GLA. These will feed into the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (Ind 4.3). Also, the Natural Capital Assessment (Section 3, Output 1) will inform communities on the benefits of an ecologically intact GLA, making a major contribution towards overall GLA conservation. Along with this, realizing the community need for alternative livelihood opportunities through fishpond support (Section 3, output 2), revolving fund support and training local fisherman on reduced impact fishing practices (Section 3, Output 1), and spreading knowledge of natural capital and sustainable biodiversity (Section 3, Output 1) will help native fish species recover and help regulate grazing and pesticide/fertilizer application in GLA, which will assist in achieving the designation of Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary.

Alternative schemes provided through this project (Section 3, Output 2) along with soft loans with low interest (Section 3.2, Output 2) and the establishment of community-managed fishponds will help to reduce pressure on GLA's biodiversity and improve the community's well-being and reduce poverty through income generated from local business and fishponds. To date, 43 members of women's groups have received low-interest loans to engage in alternative income-generating activities, and they earned nearly half as much as the seed fund provided. Furthermore, in the long term, GLA's designation as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary will create employment opportunities for the local communities in the tourism sector.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The following SDGs are relevant to the project.

Goal 1: No poverty: The project has supported the formation of two cooperatives, provided them with seed funding that has been distributed to all 52 members of the cooperatives (from vulnerable and marginalised households in the form of soft loans. Additional support was provided to manage the two fishponds that help provide food security of the indigenous community. They have used the soft loans for IGAs to enable long-term income generation. Besides this, other support including trainings and education, policy framework support, infrastructure for tourism development etc. will contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing: The project has supported communities to adopt IGAs, helping them generate long-term income. Beyond project-end, the project supported management plan will help ensure the intactness of the ecological integrity of the GLA, while promoting tourism. Through this, the GLA will be increasingly conserved and opportunities in tourism sector will increase. The communities will have the opportunity to leverage this and diversify (increase) their income sources, and gain access to improved healthcare, securing their wellbeing.

Goal 5: Gender equality: Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) training sessions were organized to promote gender equality. Likewise, we have formed two women-led cooperatives, consisting of 88% females from indigenous communities. We are striving to support women's participation in natural capital governance by ensuring women and indigenous communities are adequately represented in all community consultations/workshops/trainings/meetings. To date, more than 1400 women have participated in such events. This will help empower women's role in the community and income generating activities.

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation: The baseline water parameters have been recorded for 18 water bodies within GLA including streams, and the watershed management plan is under development. This plan forms a part of the broader Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan, which will help monitor GLA and ensure clean water and sanitation, for most of the communities inside GLA.

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production: Communities have been trained on aquaculture and reduced impact fishing practices, the importance of native species, and productivity raising techniques for native fish, snails and water chestnuts. Participatory management plans in place will guide resource harvest and consumption in a sustainable way. Alternative income generation activities are being promoted to increase resource production

(animal husbandry, vegetable farming), which will help alleviate poverty along with possible pressure on GLA biodiversity. This will improve fisheries/livestock management, reducing human wildlife conflict and pressure on wild fish stocks.

Goal 15: Life on Land: Development and implementation of evidence based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan by the end of the project, complemented by wise use programmes, scientific knowledge, capacity building and conservation measures will protect terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: A responsive, participatory and representative decision-making approach, across different jurisdictions within the GLA area, and cooperatives will be facilitated through strengthening institutional capacity of CGLTDB and GM, and their partnerships with communities, and local institutions (NGOs, CFUGs and cooperatives).

Goal 17: Partnership for the goals: Close partnerships have been built among the communities, conservation stakeholders and government agencies to carry out the activities that contribute to the goals.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project and its findings have been shared with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (the focal point of the Ramsar Convention) twice a year. It is also shared at the ministry level to the Environment and Biodiversity Division as well as the Climate Change Management Division of the Ministry of Forests and Environment. The former Division is the focal point of CBD work and the latter for the UNFCCC in Nepal. These findings have been briefed through oral presentations as well as by submitting written documents. ZSL has a reporting compliance with both Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation as well as the ministry under the MoUs signed with them. In addition to this, we also provide six monthly update and annual reports of ZSL to the British Embassy and FCDO on Nepal conservation activities including all UKAID-funded projects.

SN	Convention, treaty, agreement	Project contribution to meet national obligations
1	Convention of Biological Diversity	<p>The project contributes to following Aichi Biodiversity Targets:</p> <p>Target 1: Raising awareness of wetland ecosystems' importance (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2), through education and engagement of local people in natural resource management (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3). This particularly benefits the Tharu indigenous people, who combine a desire to understand and protect the natural resources on which they depend, with limited pathways and opportunities to act on this desire.</p> <p>Target 2: Integration of biodiversity conservation into existing local tourism/development strategies, by bringing together multiple stakeholders to develop a sustainable tourism plan of GLA and a participatory management plan (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3). Securing sustainable land use by addressing the impacts of the highway along the southern edge of GLA, and establishing sustainable grazing regimes, aquaculture and no-take zones of fish.</p> <p>Target 5,6,7,8: The GLA management plan and associated measures, will aim to reduce habitat loss (target 5); secure sustainable management and harvest of agricultural land, forests (target 7) and fish (target 6); and reduce pollution to levels that are not detrimental to the functioning of the GLA ecosystem (target 8). The management plans (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3) are under review by CGLTDB and GM.</p>

		<p>Target 12: Improving the conservation status of threatened species, such as Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) and nationally recognised biodiversity indicator species such as Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC), wild rice (<i>Oryza spp.</i>) and the religiously important and threatened Lotus (<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>). Key indicator species were monitored (Section 3.3, Ind 0.1).</p> <p>Target 14: Safeguarding the GLA ecosystem and its services, through participatory planning for tourism and natural resource management (Section 3.3, Ind 0.3), while safeguarding and embedding the needs and culture of local indigenous populations. Supporting women's livelihoods through establishing cooperatives (Section 3.2, Ind 2.1). Safeguarding indigenous Tharu people's rights to celebrate cultural traditions and annual festival at the lake. Utilising a green growth approach, including agreeing a sustainable framework to construct tourism infrastructure and capturing sustainable economic benefits from the growing number of national and international tourists (Section 3.2, Ind 3.3)</p> <p>Target 17: Progressing implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Nepal Government (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2).</p> <p>Target 18 and 19: Providing robust data on the GLA ecosystem and wetland-dependent species. Integrating this with local needs and practices (Section 3.3, Ind 0.1).</p>
2	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)	The project also responds to some of the key challenges set out in Nepal's National Ramsar Report 2018. These are limited technical capacity for wetland management, low awareness of the role of wetlands among stakeholders and beneficiaries and limited financial resources. It also responds to key future priorities such as monitoring and research to ensure Ramsar sites have robust baseline data to inform management; sustainable livelihoods; ecotourism; wetland management. GLA requires protection and a new management plan, as – unusually – it is a Ramsar site with no recognised PA status, which Bird Sanctuary status will address (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2).
3	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	The project also supports key habitat conservation of several species of migratory waterfowl and raptors listed in CMS Appendix I: such as, Ferruginous Duck (<i>Aythya nyroca</i>), Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>), Red-headed Vulture (<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>), Slender-billed Vulture (<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>), White-rumped Vulture (<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>), Greater Spotted Eagle (<i>Clanga clanga</i>), Steppe Eagle (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>) (Section 3.3, Ind 0.2, Ind 0.3)

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The expected beneficiaries of this project are mostly the Tharu indigenous people, women and over the longer term, ca. 5000 fish, agriculture and livestock dependent communities of the GLA. The project has both direct and indirect benefits for the communities. We have formed and trained two women led cooperatives, provided them seed money to facilitate soft loans, provide support to manage fishponds and trained them on different alternative livelihood skills. The members, representing indigenous and vulnerable communities, are now engaged in livelihood-based activities like livestock rearing and fish farming to alleviate poverty. Through trainings and engagement in different interactive meetings/workshops, they are being supported to build on

their skill sets to take advantage of diverse income generating opportunities (Section 3, Output 2).

The project has supported the preparation of GLA's sustainable tourism plan (Section 3, Output 3), and watershed management plan (Section 3, Output 4) to promote GLA's ecological integrity and sustainable tourism development. These will further support the integration of GLA's existing status into Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary which is highly expected to create employment opportunities for the local communities in the tourism sector, alleviating poverty and securing their wellbeing. Apart from this, an ecologically intact and protected GLA will support increased ecological services to the local communities, procuring food and water security for improved community health.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

Women are often less involved than men in decision making processes regarding natural resources and income generation because of the lack of opportunities to learn and grow. To promote gender equality, cooperative members were promoted to participate in natural capital assessment workshops (ind 2.3). Further, we are striving to support women's participation in natural capital governance by ensuring women and indigenous communities are adequately represented in all community consultations/workshops/trainings/meetings (Section 3, Output 1 – Ind 1.3). Moreover, we have formed two women-led cooperatives, consisting of 88% females also positioned in decision-making roles from indigenous communities (Output 2 – Ind 2.1) and continuously supported them through trainings and cooperative meetings. This will help support women and their increased role in community decision-making and income generating activities. Additionally, to offset the existing gender gap in income generation activities in local communities, women were prioritised for inclusion in training programmes on aquaculture and indicator species monitoring (Section 3, Output 2 and 5, ind 5.2).

To date, 2600 participants have attended workshops, trainings, and consultation meetings, through this project, out of which more than 1400 were women from poor, marginalised and indigenous communities, indicating that the gender equality has been considered in this project.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

During the second year, the project activities have primarily engaged CGLTDB, GM and GLA-dependent communities to lay a foundation for building an ecologically intact GLA, with local communities accruing benefits over the long term. In order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these activities, members of GM, CGLTDB, ZSL and HN visited the intervention sites quarterly, overseeing project progress and adaptively planning the future course of action. All partners share the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work, with M&E visits facilitated by ZSL. One staff member of HN and a CGLTDB focal person were based at the project site throughout the project period, and they kept ZSL informed about ongoing project implementation. ZSL compiles the partner-submitted M&E reports and shares this among stakeholders. During this reporting period, project indicators (based on the baselines set in year 1) were tracked and monitored in line with the M&E plan.

Similarly, project milestones have been developed to measure monthly progress. The completion of milestones is being monitored through monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based system - these include activity tracking, indicator tracking, and finance tracking systems. Together, these allow the different aspects of successful project implementation to be monitored simply and effectively, while enabling the information sources to be readily combined to assess overall progress and enable highly flexible adaptive management in response to the changing conditions.

Besides this, a Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) formed centrally under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), with DNPWC section heads and ZSL as members, also monitors overall project progress and makes recommendations.

All these approaches remain effective in monitoring and evaluating the project and will be continued in the coming final year.

9. Lessons learnt

Project partners including GM, CGLTDB, DoFSC, HN, local communities and other project stakeholders have remained supportive, which has been instrumental in delivering the project activities. However, a heavy monsoon this year, along with the Covid-19 outbreak, has slightly delayed a few of the project activities in its initial stage. That said, the support from partners has been very well coordinated this year. We have already built very good relationship with GM and all stakeholders, which has brought about positive change in conserving GLA and improving community wellbeing. Such positive feedback and support from all stakeholders are important for creating the desired changes, both during the project and over the long term.

Communities are one of the key components in conserving local natural resources and play a fundamental role in biodiversity conservation. Supporting them with alternatives to the direct use of natural resources will protect the ecosystem in the long run, while enabling communities themselves to be the stewards of nature.

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

1. The expected impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was mentioned in the half yearly report before.
2. The review of annual report in year 1 raised concerns about following the guidance given on reducing chemical use and reducing cattle grazing pressure by local communities. CGLTDB is working with CFUGs within GLA to delineate certain areas as no-grazing zones to protect GLA's core biodiversity, and regularly encouraging farmers to use organic manure rather than use of chemical fertilizers in area close to wetlands. CFUG members have responded positively in terms of controlling over-grazing within the community forests close to Ghodaghodi lakes but reducing chemical use in agricultural fields has proven a bit more challenging, as most of the local people are concerned with increased yield and therefore overuse fertilizers and pesticides. Proper planning for an alternative supply of organic manure by GM and raising public awareness can help to meet the guidance given.
3. Regarding the tourism development plans, there were some documents we reviewed which mentioned tourism but as such no standalone plan for GLA was found. The major document we reviewed was a document prepared by Government of Nepal and United Nations Development Programme for which we have only the hard copies.
4. The review also raised a question about the absence of Lesser Adjutant Storks from last year's survey results and enquired whether there was a record of this wetland bird at other times of the year, just not recorded during the survey, or whether this result is a cause for concern. Regarding the concern raised, the Lesser Adjutant Stork was last recorded in GLA around seven years ago. Further to the absence of the species, we expanded our search in a slightly larger area than Ghodaghodi within the district and also through a network of volunteers, we tried to record the presence of the species in different times of the year. In spite of these efforts, Lesser Adjutant Storks were not observed in the entire area. The species was not reported during this reporting period, either, which is indeed a cause for concern. This species is still found further west in Shuklaphanta National Park which is the westernmost breeding locality for the species as well as in the east to Bardia National Park. If the species is doing well in the park, there is still hope that they might come back to Ghodaghodi Lake but a thorough investigation of the factors influencing their absence needs to be conducted.
5. The concerned raised towards the point that the members of the main partners were 'visited four times in the intervention sites to oversee progress and adaptively plan future work' but provides no more details to these visits. These refer to the visits made by the senior members of the main partners. During these visits, the senior members accompanied representatives from key stakeholders (DNPWC, DoFSC) to gauge the progress of the project by engaging with the project beneficiaries and setting the way forward by taking into account their concerns.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

12. Sustainability and legacy

Local government bodies such as DFO, GM and CGLTDB along with local communities are actively involved in the project. The project has formed two women led co-operative groups and fishponds under the direct supervision of CGLTDB and GM, ensuring a sustainable financial mechanism beyond the completion of the project. Likewise, trainings and interactive workshops have helped CGLTDB and GM to independently conduct tourism assessments and, biodiversity and natural capital monitoring. Feedback collected during these assessments has supported GM in the preparation of plans (participatory management plan, GLA sustainable tourism plan, watershed management plan, and natural capital monitoring plan) to feed into the Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan later which will guide GM and relevant stakeholders to better manage GLA in future. The project has also sought to upgrade the conservation status of GLA to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary. All these are expected to make the impact of the project sustainable and leave a strong legacy.

13. Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative (DI) and UK Government have been mentioned in each agreement signed with the partners. Likewise, DI funding has been mentioned in each project activity and in all events, such as trainings, and workshops. The DI is mostly familiar to both governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the sector of biodiversity and community wellbeing.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Despite the travel restrictions and restrictions on mass gatherings by the Government of Nepal due to the pandemic since March 2020, all planned project activities have been completed within the reporting period, with a few draft plans remaining to be endorsed by the local government. During this reporting period, we have reviewed and discussed the project activities with partners and beneficiaries both virtually and in-person (maintaining physical distance). After consultation, we followed strategic approaches to adapt to the impacts of the pandemic.

- From the very beginning, we reviewed the project activities of year two and looked at how we could fit the activities into the given time frame with regards to the changed context. Compared to year one, fewer activities were planned for the first half of this year without compromising the project objective.
- We increased the role of the project partners and received support from GM, the local government authority, as all partners are based on site and familiar with the context and the communities, which has eased the implementation of the project activities. While we have been working with these communities for 18 months, the enhanced capacity of the partners, communities and local government resulting from the structure set up in the first year of the project has facilitated a smooth implementation. Hence, the support ZSL staff have continued to provide through virtual meetings and guidance has been instrumental.
- After the easing of nationwide lockdown, the planned activities were sped up while still ensuring that the proper health and safety measures advised by WHO, the Nepal government and ZSL were taken while working with the communities.
- Pandemic-induced widespread loss of livelihood options has resulted in increased interest in and expectations of our current livelihood interventions from other families living in the same area. Therefore, it has been realised that the livelihood interventions should increase their scope to diversify the current livelihood activities and to cover a larger number of households for the improved conservation of GLA.

15. Safeguarding

ZSL has its own safeguarding policies and procedures both in the UK and globally. ZSL recognises safeguarding as a key area of responsibility and is fully committed to strengthening and rolling out its safeguarding approach. ZSL's Global Safeguarding Policy; Global Whistleblowing Policies and Procedure; Global Code of Conduct; DBS and Criminal Convictions Policy; Employing Younger Workers Policy; Disciplinary Policy and Procedure; Reference Request Policy; Violence and Aggressive Behaviour Policy; The 4 Rs safeguarding procedure; and staff handbook are some of the policies that ensure adequate safeguarding measures while executing projects.

In addition to these safeguarding efforts, ZSL has been managing many projects funded by IUCN and has been implementing the standard IUCN ESMS and ESMP procedures. All these learnings from other projects have been used in the implementation of this project. Furthermore, ZSL is committed to enabling Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) throughout project implementation with targeted activities to provide entry points to recognised marginalised groups, e.g., women and those with disabilities. ZSL is developing an institutional indicator framework to ensure projects are delivering impact in this area.

The project has set standard safeguarding tools from the outset. The communities were consulted during the project preparation and project implementation phases. Beneficiaries were selected based on the household information collected from social surveys/focus group discussions conducted in the beginning of the project. The project has targeted women and the most vulnerable ethnic groups for inclusion in livelihood activities. All concerned stakeholders contributed to this project from the beginning of project planning through to the implementation phase. The project has not worked against the interest of local communities. Also, there is a grievance mechanism in place, which the project beneficiaries+ and stakeholders have been informed about.

16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity.</p>		<p>By the end of Year 2, the project has set some milestones towards achieving the impact through engagement of FISH representatives, women-led cooperatives, alternative livelihood schemes, conducting participatory natural capital workshops, drafting participatory watershed management plan, tourism plan, biodiversity monitoring etc.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>GLA's globally significant biodiversity and natural capital secured through sustainable and equitable management as a Bird Sanctuary, with upstream watershed threats addressed, safeguarding globally-threatened species' recovery and communities' livelihoods and culture.</p>	<p>0.1 Key local populations of nationally and ecologically relevant indicator species to be confirmed in year 1 (e.g., Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>) (VU), Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) and Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC)) are stable or increasing (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.2 GLA's conservation status is upgraded to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary and prioritised for conservation by local and national government with at least 20% more projected annual management input going to the site (baseline = year 0) by project end.</p> <p>0.3 Implementation of an evidence based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (comprising components: i) participatory management plan, ii) GLA tourism master plan, iii) watershed management plan and iv) natural capital monitoring plan) achieves a 15% increase in natural capital (relevant metrics to be defined in year 1, see 5.1 below) within GLA by project end (baseline = year 1)</p> <p>0.4 20% decline in eutrophication drivers across watershed - non-natural nutrient inputs and pesticide pollution - (baseline = year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5 Households show positive change in overall wellbeing index (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5.1 10% sample of households in GLA (total= ca. 5,000) show at least a 10% increase in wellbeing.</p> <p>0.5.2 All cooperative member households (ca. 100 per cooperative) show at least a 40% increase in wellbeing; and</p>	<p>0.1 Total of 434 Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC) (Baseline – 147) in a single high count and 11 Mugger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) (constant compared to year 1) were recorded from the survey in year 2.</p> <p>0.2 GM master plan developed, Baseline information strengthened, sustainable tourism plan and watershed management plan drafted and number of workshops/meetings organized for the development of GLA as a Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary. Annual budget of CGLTDB for GLA management decreased this year due to COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>0.3 Supporting documents such as GLA tourism master plan and, watershed management plan is under review.</p>	<p>0.4 Awareness/community consultations to regulate pesticides/fertilizers use.</p>

	<p>0.5.3 Women and Tharu ethnic minority people achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups, seen in 0.5.2.</p>	<p>0.4 Compared to the baseline of the primary drivers of eutrophication, nitrate concentration has been reduced; phosphorus has increased.</p> <p>0.5 Achievement to be measured by the end of the project.</p>	
<p>Output 1. Natural capital of GLA governed equitably and effectively through CGLTDB, and established community governance mechanisms</p>	<p>1.1 100% (9 members) of CGLTDB trained in good governance, and coordinating all project outputs and GLA management in an equitable and participatory way (in line with the management plans) by end year 1</p> <p>1.2 39 Freshwater Information System for Households (FISH) representatives (one per settlement) recruited to provide information conduit to GLA working group of CGLTDB and 39 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3 Annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, including inclusive representatives from 39 settlements (utilising information received from 39 FISH representatives):</p> <p>1.3.1 one/first annual workshop held by year 1 end.</p> <p>1.3.2 informing development of natural capital performance-based incentive system (indicator 1.4) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3.3 informing development of GLA participatory management plan (indicator 1.5) by year 2 end</p> <p>1.3.4 with 80% of participants identifying a positively correlated trend in income/wellbeing and natural capital by project end</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB will establish a performance-based incentive system for all 39 settlements, to target their own investment, and implement social recognition and sanctions schemes (based on information from Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops) by year 2 end.</p> <p>1.5 Development and implementation of participatory management plan for GLA site:</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA management plan parameters developed by CGLTDB with all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.5.2 GLA management plan will be developed by GLA working group and agreed by all CFUGs and non-CF settlements (expanding the Community Forestry Programme model to the freshwater system), with CGLTDB as custodian of final agreement, by year 2 end</p>	<p>1.1 Completed.</p> <p>1.2 Completed.</p> <p>1.3 Ongoing</p> <p>1.3.1 Completed. ZSL Nepal provided technical support to the CGLTDB to conduct the annual workshop for 43 participants from CFUGs, FISH representatives and women's groups.</p> <p>1.3.2 Informed and shared the draft incentive mechanism produced by CGLTDB.</p> <p>1.3.3 Informed and received inputs/suggestions from participants for the plan.</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB drafted a performance-based incentive system.</p> <p>1.5 GM prepared a comprehensive management plan.</p> <p>1.5.3 50% of the total lake area of GLA (ca. 100 ha) is proposed for protection. This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>1.5.4 This will be achieved by the project end.</p>	<p>1.3 This will be continued in year 3.</p> <p>1.4 Planned to finalise and endorse the draft by GM in year 3.</p> <p>1.5 Will be completed in year 3.</p>

	<p>1.5.3 At least 10% of water area of GLA (ca. 200ha) protected from protective fisheries management measures through a combination of spatial (no-take zones) temporal (non-fishing times e.g. spawning periods), and selective-catch measures (e.g. size limits) (baseline= 0) by project end.</p> <p>1.5.4 Sustainable grassland and grazing management (including application of pesticides and fertilisers), prioritising riparian areas, in place within 50% of the area of the GLA (12.5km² of the total 25km²) by project end. (Baseline = 0)</p>		
<p>Activity 1.1. Short training course on GESI and equitable governance for CGLTDB board members, municipality and project staff</p>		<p>Two training courses were delivered on June 2019 and February 2020 to 64 participants including all members of CGLTDB, representatives of GM and other local communities, community-based organizations etc.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.2. Co-develop, through a workshop with CGLTDB, good governance principles, including draft compliance and incentives mechanism, for GLA</p>		<p>Drafted. One workshop was conducted on November 2019 which 102 participants from GM, CGLTDB, women's groups, CFUGs, social workers, civic organisation and local communities attended.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3. Recruit and train ca. 40 FISH representatives</p>		<p>40 FISH representatives (18 females, 22 male) from 39 different communities were recruited and working as the community focal points for sharing information on GLA condition and its sustainable management to the working group.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.4. Establish working group with representatives of all ca. 40 settlements, CGLTDB, GM representatives and FISH representatives to feed in information.</p>		<p>138 representatives from GM and CGLTDB, FISH representatives, staff of divisional forest offices, social workers and local CBO representatives to feed in information, knowledge and different perspectives on GLA conservation approaches.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Activity 1.5. Provide ongoing support for FISH</p>		<p>Ongoing 3 FISH representative workshops were conducted this year.</p>	<p>FISH representatives will remain the community focal points to inform GLA working groups in year 3. They will be</p>

		trained/informed about GLA conservation approaches through workshops.
Activity 1.6. Share draft compliance and incentive mechanism with representatives of each settlement (ca. 40) including Tharu and women through workshop, hosted by CGLTDB, to obtain inputs and conditional consent.	Draft compliance shared among 71 participants conducting a workshop in year 2 to obtain additional inputs and conditional consent for the draft plan.	Completed.
Activity 1.7. Conduct annual CGLTDB-hosted participatory Natural Capital Assessment workshops (utilising FISH information) and post-workshop questionnaires with representatives of each settlement (ca. 40) including <i>Tharu, Dalits</i> , women, and cooperative members; to include discussion of 1) performance-based incentive system and 2) management plans.	Completed 1 workshop. CGLTDB conducted annual participatory Natural Capital Assessment with 43 participants representing 39 settlements.	Review workshop is further planned for year 3 among cooperative members.
Activity 1.8. Co-develop participatory management plan for GLA through initial CGLTDB-hosted workshop, using baseline data collected under output 5, and subsequently adaptively manage it through Natural capital assessment workshops.	Comprehensive management plan of GLA prepared by GM incorporating feedback and suggestions provided. The feedback will further guide the GLA participatory management plan (tourism and watershed plan);this plan under review by GM, will be finalised, endorsed and implemented by GM .	Planned for Year 3.
Activity 1.9. Train local fisherman on reduced impact fishing practices (covering both techniques and timings and locations)	35 local fishermen trained in December 2019. 31 members trained in year 2	Completed.
Activity 1.10. Hold CGLTDB-hosted workshop to agree fisheries interventions, with representatives of each settlement (ca. 30) including Tharu and women.	Completed. Four workshops conducted for indigenous people to agree on fisheries interventions in GLA.	Completed.
Activity 1.11. Support CGLTDB in delineation and monitoring of no take zones.	Three workshops were conducted this year, with 167 community participants. CGLTDB had prepared a guideline and had proposed it to community members through the workshop. GM will endorse the guideline in the next reporting period.	Brief plan in delineation of no take zone (including fishing times – month or day, size limit) will be prepared and monitoring will be conducted throughout the project period.

<p>Activity 1.12. Facilitate CGLTDB in regulating grazing and pesticide/fertiliser application in GLA in accordance with participatory management plan</p>	<p>Four workshops have been conducted for 159 community members on the benefits of reduced use of chemical fertilizers and reduced grazing. Suggestions from the participants were collected, which will be used to draft a plan in accordance with participatory management plan.</p>	<p>Brief plan for no grazing lands and way of reducing pesticide/fertilizer use around GLA will be prepared. Monitoring activity will be continued throughout project period.</p>	
<p>Output 2. Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihoods secured for the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater dependent communities within GLA</p>	<p>2.1 Two women-led cooperatives established under CGLTDB in the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater-dependent groups of settlements, in GLA. 2.1.1 with soft-loan seed funds and by-laws agreed, enshrining sustainable management of natural capital (e.g., farms for snails, water chestnuts, aquaculture, tourist souvenirs/handicrafts) and equitable benefits sharing by year 1 end. 2.1.2 contributions in-kind or funding for GLA conservation contribute to GLA management by project end. 2.1.3 with 50 members per cooperative by year 2 end 2.1.4 with seed funds grown by 50% compared to baseline by project end. 2.1.5 with vulnerable groups without previous access to financial services, taking 75 livelihoods loans by project end. 2.2 Income of cooperative members increased by 10% compared to baseline (to be determined) by year 2 end and 25% by project end. 2.3 70% of cooperative members attend annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, encouraged through post-cooperative meeting sessions by project end.</p>	<p>2.1 Completed. Two women-led cooperative groups have been formed with 52 members. Seed fund of GBP [REDACTED] was provided as soft loans (interest rate ≤ 4%) for all the members. 2.1.1 Seed fund of GBP [REDACTED] was provided, and by-laws prepared and agreed. 2.1.2 To be achieved by the project end. 2.1.3 26 members established per cooperative in year 1. 65 additional members in year 2. 2.1.4 To be achieved by the project end. 2.1.5 To be achieved by the project end. 2.2 Average income of cooperative member is NPR. [REDACTED] per month 2.3 Monthly meetings of women’s groups are organised and more than 75% of them had attended such a meeting in year 2. This will be achieved by the project end.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1. Work with CGLTDB to identify vulnerable groups, using survey data, and hold initial engagement workshops on cooperatives</p>	<p>Completed in year 1. 22 focal group discussions in different hamlets and several informal meetings with CGLTDB members.</p>		
<p>Activity 2.2. Support CGLTDB in coordination with Provincial Forest and Wildlife Division, and local forest department authority to co-develop 2 new cooperatives with equitable conservation constitutions - one per ward around GLA</p>	<p>Completed in year 1. Two women-led cooperative groups have been formed with 52 members. Seed fund of GBP [REDACTED] was provided as soft loans (interest rate ≤ 4%) for all the members.</p>		

<p>Activity 2.3. Support day-to day cooperative operation and monitoring and evaluation of their impact</p>	<p>Ongoing. Basic training on "Group Management and Revolving Fund Mobilization" was conducted for 51 members of the two cooperatives.</p>	<p>Periodic monitoring planned throughout project period.</p>
<p>Activity 2.4. Hold 16 post-cooperative meeting sessions per cooperative - promoting the importance of natural capital management through participatory natural capital assessments; and sharing the results of these meetings.</p>	<p>Ongoing. CGLTDB facilitated the monthly meetings of these cooperative groups.</p>	<p>Periodic monitoring and meetings are planned throughout project period.</p>
<p>Activity 2.5. Conduct natural capital cooperative exposure visits for 320 households (40 per quarter) from other settlements (those without cooperatives) to promote the natural capital cooperative concept.</p>	<p>160 people participated in natural capital cooperative exposure visit in year 2.</p>	<p>160 more will participate in year 3 visit.</p>
<p>Activity 2.6. Establish two community-managed fishponds for cooperative members (one per cooperative).</p>	<p>Two community managed fishponds established.</p>	<p>Further support for smooth operation will be provided throughout project period.</p>
<p>Activity 2.7. Train local aquaculturalists, and provide guidelines, in sustainable aquaculture, the importance of native species, and productivity raising techniques for native fish, snails and water chestnuts)</p>	<p>Completed. Two-das aquaculture training was provided in November 2019 to 101 fish dependent households. 29 local aqua-culture practitioners were trained this year.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.8. Facilitate access of cooperative members to market via linking with local/national markets and government commercial schemes.</p>	<p>Completed. Two workshops conducted for 75 members.</p>	
<p>Output 3. Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a tourism master plan that provides a model for other tourist destinations.</p>	<p>3.1 All existing tourism development plans for GLA compiled and reviewed, in collaboration with CGLTDB, and presented and discussed at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops (output 1) by end year 1. 3.2 Sustainable tourism master plan is developed and agreed by CGLTDB and representatives from all c.40 settlements (identifying environmental and social impacts and opportunities for green growth and enshrining sustainable tourism approach) and submitted to municipal government by end year 2. 3.3 Participatory tourism master plan being implemented by CGLTDB and local communities, and shared with DoFSC, DNPWC provincial</p>	<p>3.1 Completed in year 1. Compiled and reviewed all existing tourism development plans for GLA in collaboration with CGLTDB and presented and discussed at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshop. 3.2 Draft prepared and submitted to municipal government. GM is reviewing the plan. Interactive meetings were conducted with all concerned stakeholders to draft a tourism master plan. This will be completed in the next reporting period.</p>

	<p>and national government as a model of best practice by end of project.</p> <p>3.3.1 CGLTDB has made direct investments in identified green sustainable tourism- related infrastructure e.g. bicycle trails, information centres and green toilets by project end.</p> <p>3.3.2 Tourist waste and litter management scheme in place around water edges in GLA by project end.</p> <p>3.3.3 New tourist sites and shrines are solely located in areas with low natural capital value and low ecological importance by project end.</p>	<p>3.3 Implemented in next reporting period after GM agreed on this plan. Ongoing.</p> <p>3.3.1 CGLTDB completed the construction of 850 m foot/bicycle trail and renovated the information centre this year. Dustbins have been kept in place and information boards have been erected for litter management. Besides this, GM is also investing on their own for other sustainable tourism activities.</p> <p>3.3.3 Locations of shrines and tourist sites are mentioned in draft plan (review ongoing).</p>
Activity 3.1. Assess existing tourism infrastructure, capacity and market to identify areas likely to negatively impact GLA's ecological integrity.		Completed in year 1.
Activity 3.2. Conduct workshop, hosted by CGLTDB, with representatives of each settlement (ca. 30) including Tharu and women, municipal government, and wider stakeholders to identify key needs for tourism development.		Completed in year 1.
Activity 3.3. Provide support for sustainable tourism infrastructure for tourists e.g. information centres, toilets, ticket counters etc.		<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>850 m foot/bicycle trail constructed; information centre and hoarding boards installed.</p>
Activity 3.4. Draft initial participatory tourism master plan based on results of workshop.		<p>Drafted and submitted to CGLTDB and GM for final review.</p> <p>CGLTDB will further upgrade the information centre on their own in next reporting period.</p>
Activity 3.5. Hold series of 2 working group workshops (with inclusive representation from ca. 40 settlements, CGLTDB, GM) to obtain detailed community inputs on tourism master plan, and then to finalise and agree it.		<p>Completed.</p> <p>A workshop completed with 47 participants representing GLA communities and concerned stakeholders to obtain detailed community inputs for the plan.</p>
<p>Output 4. A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to</p>	<p>4.1 Participatory land-use plan for the upstream watershed (already designated as the Basanta Protected Forest), developed and overseen by CGLTDB and GM</p> <p>4.1.1 Inclusive participatory mapping of land-use and land-use governance; including consultation with all upstream settlements (ca. 10 of approximately 200 households each) by year 1 end.</p> <p>4.1.2 Improved riparian forest management agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.3 Restrictions and logging system for fertilisers, endosulfans and other pesticides agreed by year 2 end.</p>	<p>4.1 Ongoing</p> <p>4.1. Completed</p> <p>4.1.2 & 4.1.3 Participatory watershed management plan is under review and will be completed in the next reporting period.</p> <p>4.1.4 This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>4.2 Official visit completed.</p>

address upstream threats.	<p>4.1.4 Participatory land use plan (including 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 as agreed) being implemented in 50% of riparian land in upstream watershed by project end.</p> <p>4.2 Following visits by fifteen relevant national and local government officials (including CBD national focal point), the annual plans of GM and DoFSC will include GLA and upstream watershed as priorities, by project end.</p> <p>4.3 GLA upgraded to Nepal's first bird sanctuary; with Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan (comprising Participatory Management Plan, GLA Tourism Master Plan, Watershed Management Plan and Natural Capital Monitoring Plan), and associated policy briefs to promote GLA conservation prioritisation by project end.</p>	4.3 Ongoing. CGLTDB along with municipal government is conducting consultation meetings to upgrade GLA as a Bird Sancturay. This has been proposed in Comprehensive Master Plan of GLA in year 2.	
Activity 4.1. Conduct initial participatory land-use and land-cover mapping of upstream watershed through engagement with all 10 upstream settlements.	Completed in year 1. Four workshops completed with the engagement of all 10 upstream settlements.		
Activity 4.2. Hold CGLTDP and municipal government-hosted workshop with inclusive representatives of all 10 upstream settlements to introduce and agree principles of participatory watershed management plan, using baseline data from output 5. and activity 4.1	Completed. One initial participatory community workshop completed in year 1 to introduce to 56 attendees principles of participatory watershed management plan, with inclusive representation of all upstream settlements.		
Activity 4.3. Develop draft watershed management plan for GLA with municipal government and DoFSC office	Initial watershed management plan has been drafted.	GM is reviewing the final plan and will endorsed it in next reporting period.	
Activity 4.4. Conduct workshop, hosted by CGLTDB and municipal government, with representatives of all 10 settlements including Tharu and women, municipal government, and wider stakeholders to finalise watershed management plan	Two workshops conducted this year to obtain the final inputs for watershed management plan.125 persons from GLA settlements, municipal government and wider stakeholders attended the workshop.		
Activity 4.5. Setup and support community engagement drop-in sessions for upstream communities to discuss and consult on watershed management plan.	Conducted in year 1 & 2. In year 1, 53 community members participated in the drop-in sessions.		

		In year 2, 166 community members participated in the drop-in sessions.	
Activity 4.6. Hold annual policy engagement workshop to share project impact and importance of GLA in Kathmandu.		Completed. Held at Province 7 and include the central government officials and concerned stakeholders. 31 representatives from wider stakeholders participated in the event. Governmental officials are positive towards the plan of GLA.	
Activity 4.7. Conduct site visit for 15 National government officials, with GM and CGLTDB.		All 31 members who participated in policy engagement workshop visited GLA.	
Activity 4.8. Support CGLTDB and local municipality in declaring GLA a bird sanctuary.		Ongoing. The idea has been raised among local communities and relevant authorities during project-initiated meetings/workshops/consultations. Most of them have supported the idea, as this declaration will be the first of its kind in Nepal.	GM and CGLTDB will further interact with concerned stakeholders throughout project period.
Activity 4.9. Hold workshop with all stakeholders (GM, CGLTDB, municipal DoFSC office etc.) in GLA to integrate land use management plan, tourism master plan, watershed management plan, and biological monitoring plan into Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan.		Some of these plans are already in draft phase.	Planned for quarter 3 of year 3.
Output 5. Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.	<p>5.1 Appropriate socio- economic indicators and ecological and natural capital KPIs (e.g. fish stocks and harvest by species, indicator species, water quality (oxygen, pesticide and nutrient levels), forest cover change; forest above ground woody biomass; seedling recruitment; grassland NPP; area of waterway clear) and a monitoring plan are agreed by GM, CGLTDB, and representatives of all c. 40 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2 Training in biological monitoring, analysis and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs:</p> <p>5.2.1 Two (2) DoFSC staff and ten (10) FISH representatives trained and begin monitoring by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2.2 Four (4) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by year 2 end</p> <p>5.2.3 Five (5) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by project end</p>	<p>5.1 Agreed during year 1.</p> <p>5.2 Ongoing</p> <p>5.2.1 Trained 24 FISH representatives and 2 DoFSC staff in year 1</p> <p>5.2.2 Additional 24 trained in year 2.</p> <p>5.2.3 This will be achieved by the project end.</p> <p>5.3 Data gathered are shared in workshops. For NBSAP, this will be given to concerned stakeholder.</p> <p>5.4 This will be achieved by the project end.</p>	

	<p>5.3 Monitoring data is fed into 1) local stakeholders via Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, 2) Nepal's NBSAP (2015-25) and 3) Nepal's reporting to the CBD and Ramsar convention to inform effective and integrated multi-level conservation governance by end year 2.</p> <p>5.4 An ongoing (post- project) monitoring plan agreed and institutionalized with CGLTDB, FISH representatives, all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements), municipal government and provincial DoFSC by project end.</p>		
<p>Activity 5.1. Conduct rapid assessment of key landscape biological monitoring methods and locations within Ghodaghodi watershed.</p>	<p>Completed in year 1.</p>		
<p>Activity 5.2. Produce an integrated plan for site-indicator and threatened species monitoring and natural capital assessment in Ghodaghodi watershed.</p>	<p>Completed in year 1.</p>		
<p>Activity 5.3. Hold GLA working group meeting (representatives of all 40 settlements, CGLTDB, GM, FISH representatives) to agree KPIs in plan.</p>	<p>Completed in year 1.</p>		
<p>Activity 5.4. Support the annual training and refresher training of all monitoring personnel on indicator species monitoring and camera trapping (55 people at project end).</p>	<p>Two-day training conducted on indicator species monitoring and camera trapping to 24 people this year.</p>	<p>10 more voluntarily interested candidates will be selected and trained in year 3.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.5. Conduct annual biodiversity monitoring of key site indicator and threatened species (bird, vegetation surveys, opportunistic camera trapping).</p>	<p>Annual monitoring for this year completed. Results are briefed in section 3.</p>	<p>Annual monitoring will be continued in coming years.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.6. Conduct annual natural capital assessments (with GLA working group members and DoFW staff) covering indicator species, forest above ground woody biomass; seedling recruitment; grassland NPP; area of waterway clear; UNEP Water Quality Indicator for Biodiversity score conductivity, Nitrogen, Oxygen, pH, Phosphorous, Temperature results; and fish stocks.</p>	<p>Completed for this year. (Section 3; output 5).</p>	<p>Assessment is planned annually.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.7. Design annual household surveys on livelihoods, income, wellbeing metrics, wildlife knowledge and natural capital dependency.</p>	<p>Completed and revised in year 2.</p>		
<p>Activity 5.8. Conduct annual household surveys and analysis.</p>	<p>Completed. 474 households were surveyed this year.</p>	<p>Annual survey will be conducted.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.9. Prepare report on natural capital monitoring in Ghodaghodi and encourage DoFSC to utilise it as a model of wetland monitoring.</p>		<p>Planned in year 3</p>	

Activity 5.10. Publish results in a peer-reviewed journal.		Planned in year 3
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Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Ecological connectivity through the critical Western Terai Corridor is restored, with a well-managed community-led protected area at its heart, providing an innovative model of freshwater-based conservation of Nepal's ecological connectivity..</p>			
<p>Outcome: GLA's globally-significant biodiversity and natural capital secured through sustainable and equitable management as a Bird Sanctuary, with upstream watershed threats addressed, safeguarding globally threatened species' recovery and communities' livelihoods and culture.</p>	<p>0.1 Key local populations of nationally and ecologically relevant indicator species to be confirmed in year 1 (e.g. Lesser Adjutant Stork (<i>Leptotilos javanicus</i>) (VU), Muger Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) (VU) and Cotton Pygmy Goose (<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>) (LC)) are stable or increasing (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.2 GLA's conservation status is upgraded to become Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and prioritised for conservation by local and national government with at least 20% more projected annual management input going to the site (baseline = year 0) by project end.</p> <p>0.3 Implementation of an evidence-based Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary management plan (comprising components: i/participatory management plan, ii/GLA tourism master plan, iii/watershed management plan and iv/natural capital monitoring plan) achieves a 15% increase in natural capital (relevant metrics to be defined in year 1, see 5.1 below) within GLA by project end (baseline = year 1) .</p> <p>0.4 20% decline in eutrophication drivers across watershed non-natural nutrient inputs and pesticide pollution - (baseline = year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5 Households show positive change in overall wellbeing index (baseline= year 1) by project end.</p> <p>0.5.1 10% sample of households in GLA (total = ca. 5,000) show at least a 10% increase in wellbeing;</p> <p>0.5.2 All cooperative member households (ca. 100 per cooperative) show at least a 40% increase in wellbeing; and</p> <p>0.5.3 Women and Tharu ethnic minority people achieve equal gains in wellbeing to less-marginalised groups, seen in 0.5.2.</p>	<p>0.1 Annual indicator species monitoring results</p> <p>0.2 Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary documents and reports, GM annual plan, DoFSC annual plan, media coverage</p> <p>0.3 Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan; Natural capital assessments of KPIs identified under indicator 5.1</p> <p>0.4 Community pesticide and fertiliser purchase and use records, and water quality monitoring records as applicable.</p> <p>0.5 Community survey (year 1 & project end): scores on overall economic wellbeing index, compiled from locally defined wellbeing indicators, using a participatory wealth ranking approach [9], material style of life measures [A], the Food Insecurity Experience Scale [10] and a subjective wellbeing measure.</p>	<p>Ghodaghodi Municipality (GM) and CGLTDB remain committed to conservation of GLA.</p> <p>Biodiversity conservation remains a national priority, with a political situation conducive for conservation and project implementation.</p> <p>Increased financial resources devoted to the site reflects increased government commitment to its conservation, and will result in improved conservation outcomes.</p> <p>Communities will share this information willingly, including on levels of usage near watercourses</p> <p>ZSL's deployment of a locally-defined participatory wealth ranking wellbeing index will be appropriate to the local context. Given our experience applying it across different socioeconomic classes and self-identified community subgroups, in the Philippines, Mozambique and Cameroon.</p> <p>A 10% stratified sample of households in GLA is sufficient to identify wellbeing increases generally and disaggregate this by groups.</p> <p>Local communities are supportive of conservation and keen to diversify livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Equal wellbeing gains between Tharu, women and less marginalised groups are achievable given that 36 % of the population are tharu and around 12% are Dalit.</p>

<p>Output 1</p> <p>Natural capital of GLA governed equitably and effectively through CGLTDB, and established community governance mechanisms</p>	<p>1.1 100% (9 members) of CGLTDB trained in good governance, and coordinating all project outputs and GLA management in an equitable and participatory way (in line with the management plans) by end year 1</p> <p>1.2 39 Freshwater Information System for Households (FISH) representatives (one per settlement) recruited to provide information conduit to GLA working group of CGLTDB and 39 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3 Annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, including inclusive representatives from 39 settlements (utilising information received from 39 FISH representatives):</p> <p>1.3.1 one/first annual workshop held by year 1 end.</p> <p>1.3.2 informing development of natural capital performance-based incentive system (indicator 1.4) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.3.3 informing development of GLA participatory management plan (indicator 1.5) by year 2 end</p> <p>1.3.4 with 80% of participants identifying a positively correlated trend in income/wellbeing and natural capital by project end</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB will establish a performance-based incentive system for all 39 settlements, to target their own investment, and implement social recognition and sanctions schemes (based on information from Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops) by year 2 end.</p> <p>1.5 Development and implementation of participatory management plan for GLA site:</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA management plan parameters developed by CGLTDB with all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements) by year 1 end</p> <p>1.5.2 GLA management plan will be developed by GLA working group and agreed by all CFUGs and non-CF settlements (expanding the Community Forestry Programme model to the freshwater system), with CGLTDB as custodian of final agreement, by year 2 end</p> <p>1.5.3 at least 10% of water area of GLA (ca. 200ha) protected from protective fisheries management measures through a combination of spatial (no-take zones) temporal (non-fishing</p>	<p>1.1 Post-training assessments; CGLTDB meeting minutes; CGLTDB records and annual report</p> <p>1.2 FISH representative recruitment records, FISH workshop minutes</p> <p>1.3 Workshop minutes and records, including male and female representation; FISH representative reports/presentation minutes; socioeconomic survey (baseline & project end): community knowledge and attitude questionnaire detailing understanding of natural capital and its link to their livelihoods.</p> <p>1.4 CGLTDB and community workshop minutes; CGLTDB records; community agreements</p> <p>1.5.1 GLA working group meeting minutes</p> <p>1.5.2 Participatory management plan for GLA;</p> <p>1.5.3 FISH representative reports; Socioeconomic survey (baseline & project end): self-reporting by practicing fishermen; fisheries assessments based on self-reported CPUE;</p>	<p>Suitable and diverse candidates to be selected as FISH representatives are willing and available from the pool of community members. And these individuals do not overlap with the chairmen/women of the CFUGs.</p> <p>Community members make the connections between wellbeing increases and the package of measures/natural capital approach of the project, and therefore abide by the sustainability measures as agreed in the management plans</p> <p>Most community members will readily identify a relationship between their livelihoods and natural capital as the vast majority of community members, if not all, have livelihoods dependent on GLA's natural capital, mostly either livestock, fishing, aquaculture or tourism livelihoods.</p> <p>CGLTDB investment, together with other project activities, provides a robust incentive for communities to be supportive of protected natural capital, while the workshops are able to provide unbiased evidence on community performance.</p> <p>Bringing CFUG leaders, from the 26 settlements with established CFUGs, together with inclusive representatives from the 13 settlements without CFUGs will enable equal representation of all settlements interests and help promote Nepal's Community Forestry Programme.</p> <p>We assume that 10% of water area protected from harmful fishing impacts is achievable, based on community consultations and ZSL's early-stage experiences in the Philippines where communities have been willing to protect an average of 3ha each (DI24-016, DI21-020).</p>
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	<p>times e.g. spawning periods), and selective-catch measures (e.g. size limits) (baseline= 0) by project end.</p> <p>1.5.4 Sustainable grassland and grazing management (including application of pesticides and fertilisers), prioritising riparian areas, in place within 50% of the area of the GLA (12.5km² of the total 25km²) by project end. (Baseline = 0)</p>	<p>1.5.4 Self-reporting by practicing pastoralists; household records of pesticide and fertiliser purchases.</p>	<p>Freshwater NTZ have the potential to protect valuable intact habitat and spawning areas for freshwater biodiversity, and the community engagement and success of these no take zones will be enhanced by utilising lessons from ZSL trials in the Philippines (DI24-016, DI21-020).</p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Access to sustainable natural capital-based livelihoods secured for the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater dependent communities within GLA</p>	<p>2.1 Two women-led cooperatives established under CGLTDB in the most vulnerable, marginalised freshwater-dependent groups of settlements, in GLA</p> <p>2.1.1 with soft-loan seed funds and by-laws agreed, enshrining sustainable management of natural capital (e.g. farms for snails, water chestnuts, aquaculture, tourist souvenirs/handicrafts) and equitable benefits sharing by year 1 end</p> <p>2.1.2 contributions in-kind or funding for GLA conservation contribute to GLA management by project end.</p> <p>2.1.3 with 50 members per cooperative by year 2 end</p> <p>2.1.4 with seed funds grown by 50% compared to baseline by project end.</p> <p>2.1.5 with vulnerable groups without previous access to financial services, taking 75 livelihoods loans by project end.</p> <p>2.2 Income of cooperative members increased by 10% compared to baseline (to be determined) by year 2 end and 25% by project end.</p> <p>2.3 70% of cooperative members attend annual Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, encouraged through post-cooperative meeting sessions by project end.</p>	<p>2.1 Community vulnerability context analysis; cooperative constitutions; cooperative management meeting minutes; soft-loan seed-fund records</p> <p>2.2 Cooperative records (including, for example, the number of loans, amount loaned, repayment rate, growth in seed funds and agreements on GLA conservation fund expenditure.</p> <p>2.3 Participatory natural capital assessment workshop records.</p>	<p>CGLTDB members remain receptive to equitable and sustainable governance approaches.</p> <p>Natural capital cooperatives, building on ZSL's successful livelihood cooperative model from DI-funded project DI22-009 are effective and equitable management institutions for natural capital-based sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>Participatory natural capital assessments prove an effective means of engaging communities with the link between natural capital and their livelihoods, so making the case for sustainable management of natural capital management transparent, and contributing to GLA conservation.</p> <p>Take up of loans is similar to demand on other ZSL projects and another DI-funded Nepal project (i.e.87 loans), DI22-009</p> <p>Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops will be attractive for community members to attend due to the opportunity to participate in local resource governance decisions.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Growing tourism industry in GLA is increasingly sustainable, with wider community benefits, based on a tourism master plan that provides a model for</p>	<p>3.1 All existing tourism development plans for GLA compiled and reviewed, in collaboration with CGLTDB, and presented and discussed at Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops (output 1) by end year 1.</p> <p>3.2 Sustainable tourism master plan is developed and agreed by CGLTDB and representatives from all c.40 settlements (identifying environmental and social impacts and opportunities for green growth and enshrining sustainable tourism approach), and submitted to municipal government by end year 2.</p>	<p>3.1 Tourism plan report.</p> <p>3.2 Participatory tourism master plan, stakeholder workshop minutes</p> <p>3.3 CGLTDB records; tourism annual reports; workshop minutes where tourism plan is presented. Photographic evidence of</p>	<p>Government remains supportive of development of tourism and green tourism.</p> <p>Green infrastructure are sustainable and adopted by government.</p> <p>Participatory tourism master plan agreed by all stakeholders is subsequently respected and implemented with ZSL's ongoing technical support and engagement.</p>

<p>other tourist destinations.</p>	<p>3.3 Participatory tourism master plan being implemented by GGLTDB and local communities, and shared with DoFSC, DNPWC provincial and national government as a model of best practice by end of project.</p> <p>3.3.1 CGLTDB has made direct investments in identified green sustainable tourismrelated infrastructure e.g. bicycle trails, information centres and green toilets by project end.</p> <p>3.3.2 Tourist waste and litter management scheme in place around water edges in GLA by project end.</p> <p>3.3.3 new tourist sites and shrines are solely located in areas with low natural capital value and low ecological importance by project end.</p>	<p>any construction (before/after), use records and user satisfaction surveys of bike trails and green toilets and the GLA more widely</p>	
<p>Output 4</p> <p>A robust protection framework is implemented, by designating GLA as Nepal's first Bird Sanctuary, and building on the existing Basanta Protected Forest designation in the upper watershed, to address upstream threats.</p>	<p>4.1 Participatory land-use plan for the upstream watershed (already designated as the Basanta Protected Forest), developed and overseen by CGLTDB and GM:</p> <p>4.1.1 Inclusive participatory mapping of land-use and land-use governance; including consultation with all upstream settlements (ca. 10 of approximately 200 households each) by year 1 end.</p> <p>4.1.2 Improved riparian forest management agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.3 Restrictions and logging system for fertilisers, endosulfans and other pesticides agreed by year 2 end.</p> <p>4.1.4 Participatory land use plan (including 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 as agreed) being implemented in 50% of riparian land in upstream watershed by project end</p> <p>4.2 Following visits by fifteen relevant national and local government officials (including CBD national focal point), the annual plans of GM and DoFSC will include GLA and upstream watershed as priorities, by project end.</p> <p>4.3 GLA upgraded to Nepal's first bird sanctuary; with Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan (comprising Participatory Management Plan, GLA Tourism Master Plan, Watershed Management Plan and Natural Capital Monitoring Plan), and associated policy briefs to promote GLA conservation prioritisation by project end.</p>	<p>4.1 DoFSC records; municipal government records; workshop minutes; Land-use maps and analysis reports; participatory management plan agreements; participatory management plan; socioeconomic survey: self-reporting by households; pesticide and fertiliser logs</p> <p>4.2 Government visit reports, GM and DoFSC annual plans.</p> <p>4.3 Official Municipal Government records of bird sanctuary designation; Ghodaghodi Bird Sanctuary Management Plan; DoFSC letter of receipt, policy briefs, workshop minutes.</p>	<p>On advice from local partners, this proposal assumes that this existing Protected Forest designation of the upper watershed and its associated land-use zoning provides an effective framework upon which a land-use plan can be built and implemented, within the timeframe, with sufficient compliance mechanisms pre-built in.</p> <p>All 10 communities are willing to participate, under the existing framework of the protected forest, in sustainable management of their upstream freshwater system.</p> <p>Community members will be keen to agree collective management of riparian forests and fertilisers/pesticides. This is due to commitment to the Community Forestry Programme, which will be built upon, and the existing level of compliance with Basanta Protected Forest land-use zones, in combination with local communities active desire to seek support to protect GLA.</p> <p>Agreement of plans, alongside technical support, government investment, and encouragement will lead to effective conservation actions on the ground.</p>

			Government remains committed to protection of GLA, and supportive of declaring GLA a Bird Sanctuary.
<p>Output 5</p> <p>Data and experience from GLA, with its natural capital and socioeconomic monitoring, inform evidence-based conservation interventions, management plans and policy.</p>	<p>5.1 Appropriate socioeconomic indicators and ecological and natural capital KPIs (e.g. fish stocks and harvest by species, indicator species, water quality (oxygen, pesticide and nutrient levels), forest cover change; forest above ground woody biomass; seedling recruitment; grassland NPP; area of waterway clear) and a monitoring plan are agreed by GM, CGLTDB, and representatives of all c. 40 settlements by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2 Training in biological monitoring, analysis and adaptive management to enable local monitoring of KPIs:</p> <p>5.2.1 Two (2) DoFSC staff and ten (10) FISH representatives trained and begin monitoring by year 1 end</p> <p>5.2.2 Four (4) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by year 2 end</p> <p>5.2.3 Five (5) DoFSC staff and ca. 40 FISH representatives trained and carry out KPI monitoring, and analysis supported by ZSL, by project end</p> <p>5.3 Monitoring data is fed into 1) local stakeholders via Participatory Natural Capital Assessment Workshops, 2) Nepal's NBSAP (2015-25) and 3) Nepal's reporting to the CBD and Ramsar convention to inform effective and integrated multi-level conservation governance by end year 2.</p> <p>5.4 An ongoing (postproject) monitoring plan agreed and institutionalised with CGLTDB, FISH representatives, all 26 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) and inclusive representatives of 13 other settlements without CFUGs (non-CF settlements), municipal government and provincial DoFSC by project end.</p>	<p>5.1 Annual M&E reports, workshop minutes, municipal government records.</p> <p>5.2 Post training assessments, training curriculum.</p> <p>5.3 Workshop minutes; Natural Capital Monitoring Plan;</p>	<p>Diverse stakeholders are able to agree KPIs that effectively capture the relevant metrics and demonstrate the value of participatory watershed management.</p> <p>Being a FISH representative will be attractive to local community members as a route to greater participation in resource governance decision making, and a status position associated with CGLTDB, which is a respected body.</p> <p>Agreed KPIs will be monitorable in the long-term, with buy in from provincial level down to settlement level.</p>

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
6A	Training on GESI and equitable governance	M=24 F=40	Nepali	64			64	
6A	Training local fisherman on reduced impact fishing practices	Y1 (M=8 F=27) Y2 (M=13, F=18)	Nepali	35	31		66	
6A	Basic Training on Group Management and Revolving Fund Mobilization	Y1 (M=6 F=43) Y2 (M=1, F=50)	Nepali	49	51		100	
6A	Training to local aquaculturalists	Y1 (M=16 F=85) Y2 (M=10, F=19)	Nepal	101	29		130	100
6A	Training on biodiversity survey and monitoring	Y1 (M = 11 F = 13) Y2 (M = 6, F = 18)	Nepali	24	24		48	55
14A	Workshop for FISH representatives	Y2 (M=53, F=69)			122		122	
14A	Workshop to codevelop draft compliance and incentive mechanism	M = 77 F = 25	Nepali	102			102	
14A	Workshop to share draft compliance and incentive mechanism	M = 42 F = 29	Nepali	71			71	
14A	Workshop on annual participatory natural capital assessment	Y1(M = 31, F = 59) Y2 (M = 21, F = 18)	Nepali	90	40		133	
14A	Workshop to agree fisheries intervention	M = 8 F = 44	Nepali	52			52	
14A	Support CGLTDB in delineation of no take zones	M= 86 F = 91			177			
14A	Facilitate CGLTDB in regulating grazing and pesticide/fertiliser	Y1 (M = 21, F = 195)	Nepali	216	159		375	

	use – Meeting with community people	Y2 (M = 97, F = 62)						
14A	Workshop to facilitate access of cooperative to market	M = 15 F = 75			90		90	
14A	Workshop to identify key needs for tourism development	M = 86 F = 77	Nepali	163			163	
14A	Working group workshops to obtain detail community inputs on tourism plan	Y1(M = 15, F = 40) Y2 (M = 37, F = 10)	Nepali	55	47		102	
14A	Initial participatory landuse and mapping through engagement of 10 upstream settlements	M = 80 F = 45	Nepali	125			125	
14A	Workshop to introduce participatory watershed plan	M = 34 F = 22	Nepali	56			56	
14A	Workshop to obtain inputs and further draft watershed plan	Y1(M = 42, F = 45) Y2(M = 90, F = 81)	Nepali	87	171		258	
14A	Drop-in sessions Workshop		Nepali		204		204	
14A	Working group meeting to agree KPIs	M = 34 F = 22	Nepali	56			56	
14A	Workshop to interact on potentiality of GLA as a Bird Sanctuary	M = 141 F = 41	Nepali		182		182	
14A	Annual Policy Engagement Workshop	M = 27 F = 44			31		31	

Table 2 Publications – N/A

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, 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)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? 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 should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	√
Do you have hard copies of material you need 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. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	√
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	√
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	