Applicant: **PAUDEL, Naya Sharma**
Organisation: **ForestAction Nepal**

DIR25S2\100017

Uprating community forest management in Nepal: enhancing biodiversity and livelihoods

Nepal's three-decade long CF programme has largely been successful in improving forest cover. However, its role in conserving biodiversity is contested due to its emphasis on extractive use and focus on a few timber species. We will mainstream biodiversity conservation into Nepal's CF programme through participatory action research in a 6000ha remnant forest in Jalthal. We will demonstrate strategies for integrating biodiversity into CF plans and practice, communicate lessons, facilitate policy dialogues and provide input to CF policy process.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Naya Sharma
Surname	PAUDEL
Organisation	ForestAction Nepal
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Naya Sharma
Surname	PAUDEL
Organisation	ForestAction Nepal
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Organisation**
Name	ForestAction Nepal
Phone (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Uprating community forest management in Nepal: enhancing biodiversity and livelihoods

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR25S1\100123

DIR25S1\100492

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Nepal	**Country 2**	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	**Country 4**	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⦿ No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2019	31 March 2022	3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total request
Amount:	£109,033.00	£101,476.00	£87,930.00	**£** 298,439.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Division Forest Office (DFO) will provide seedling for plantation, training to women group in income generation activities.
Local governments will channelize fund in promoting eco-tourism facilities in the study area.
ForestAction will provide office facilities; prepare manuals for biodiversity assessment and training; editorial and publication support; Experts from FA will contribute for small-scale enterprise development.
RBGE will have an in-kind contribution for biodiversity assessment, species profile preparation and awareness raising.
Kathmandu Forestry College faculties will be carrying out remote sensing analysis and support in agroforestry.
FECOFUN and CFUGs contribute in-kind in removal of invasive species in their forests.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost	27

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on <u>GOV.UK</u>. Please write this summary for a

non-technical audience.

> Nepal's three-decade long CF programme has largely been successful in improving forest cover. However, its role in conserving biodiversity is contested due to its emphasis on extractive use and focus on a few timber species. We will mainstream biodiversity conservation into Nepal's CF programme through participatory action research in a 6000ha remnant forest in Jalthal. We will demonstrate strategies for integrating biodiversity into CF plans and practice, communicate lessons, facilitate policy dialogues and provide input to CF policy process.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

> ◉ No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 2002
What is the legal status of your organisation?	◉ NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	ForestAction Nepal's funding is primarily project based. It is currently funded through grants from our collaborating organizations including both developmental or research based organizations. We develop and jointly implement projects with national as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Currently we are undertaking projects with the University of Michigan, Australian Centre for International Agriculture research (ACIAR), Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI), among others.
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.	◉ Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

Provide detail of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed. These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Enhancing livelihoods from improved forest management in Nepal (EnLiFT-2)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	5 years (2018-2023)
Role of organisation in project	National lead agency responsible for coordinating and implementation of the project
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The aim of the project is to enhance forest management practices in community forests and private land to improve livelihoods, social equity and environmental impact, resulting in improved flow of forest products and services, as well as the more equitable distribution of costs and benefits from community and private forest.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	

Contract/Project 2 Title	Enhancing livelihood and food security from agro-forestry and community forestry in mid-hills of Nepal (EnLiFT)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	5years (Apr 2013- Mar 2018)
Role of organisation in project	National leader as well as lead the community forestry theme, and action research element at the field level

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	This action research project aimed to enhance livelihoods and food security from improved management of agro-forestry, community forestry and underutilized lands in the mid hills of Nepal. The project contributed to improving the livelihood situation of the forest user groups through improved agroforestry systems and silviculture management interventions.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	

Contract/Project 3 Title	Community based adaptive learning in management of conflicts and natural resources in Bangladesh and Nepal (CALCNR)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	3 years
Role of organisation in project	Lead the action research element in community forestry in Nepal
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	The project aimed to address knowledge gap between community management of natural resources, local innovations and national policy debates over climate change and conflict. There have been fundamental changes in institutional arrangement and approaches to resource allocations among user groups that are aimed to mitigate the conflicts in community forests.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	

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

Aims	Promote productive, sustainable and equitable management of natural resources, inclusive and deliberative governance, for biodiversity conservation, enhancing climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods through action research, policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement.
Activities	ForestAction critically engages with diverse stakeholders including state agencies, public sector, local communities and civil society organizations for institutional and technological innovation for sustainable management of natural resources. This is carried out through action research, publications and communication, policy dialogues, project implementation and capacity building of stakeholders in NRM sector.
Achievements	ForestAction has established itself as a well-recognized and a leading actor in natural resource management, social research, analysis, and policy processes in Nepal and beyond. Through policy engagement, it has contributed, and influenced, in number of policy processes in forestry, REDD+, and agriculture sectors in Nepal.

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.

This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide Letters of Support for each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B. There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name:	ForestAction Nepal (FA)
Website address:	https://www.forestaction.org/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Capacity: FA is a leading organization in Natural Resource Management (NRM) related action research in Nepal, and has long standing dialogue and working collaboration with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of Nepal. It has its own office facility and human resources to implement local as well as international projects.
	Roles and responsibility: FA will lead and administer the project, implement and monitor interventions, coordinate and communicate among partners and stakeholders, undertake monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and report to DI. FA will manage finance, keep an account of the project activities and outcomes, publicise project activities, prepare manuals for trainings capacity building activities for the forest user groups and forest technicians.
	Involvement: FA led the conception and designing of the project, established contacts with RBGE and other national partners, organised a visit to the proposed site, held consultations with the local government and forest authorities and identified problems to be addressed.
	Experience: FA implemented several action research projects with public and civil society organisations pertinent to forestry, natural resource management, rural livelihood and climate change adaption. Its current engagement includes an action research project aimed at supporting local livelihoods through improved forest and agroforestry management in midhills of Nepal.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	⦿ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⦿ Yes

1. **Partner Name:**	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) UK
Website address:	www.rbge.org.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Experience: RBGE leads the Flora of Nepal project (www.floraofnepal.org) and has a long-standing research programme on the Himalayan flora, including botany, education, capacity building, sustainable development, conservation, and soft diplomacy.
	Roles and responsibility: RBGE has very long experience in botanical research in Nepal, which is an asset for the project in terms of identifying and documenting plant diversity and associated Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). RBGE will provide trainings to botanists on floral biodiversity identification and monitoring. RBGE will provide guidance and suggestion to lead organizations and national partners for project implementation.
	Involvement: RBGE was involved since the beginning of the project, including project concept, design, development, budgeting, and partnership building. RBGE has supported FA in developing the application and providing feedbacks and comments to the application.
	Capacity: Dr. Mark Watson (Editor-in-Chief, Flora of Nepal) and Dr. Bhaskar Adhikari have a long-standing experience in collaborations with Nepalese botanists and working in Nepal. Mark has led the Darwin supported project in Nepal and Bhaskar has worked as project officer in the ongoing Darwin project (2016-2019).
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

2. Partner Name:	Federation of Community Forests User Groups Nepal (FECOFUN)
Website address:	http://fecofun.org.np/

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Experience: FECOFUN has a long experience working with the government, non-governmental and civil society organizations in the forestry sector in Nepal. FECOFUN has a long experience in advocacy and campaigning for community rights over forest resources. It has partnered with ForestAction in several projects in the past. FECOFUN has worked in the project sites and supported in handing over the forest to the communities in the past. Roles and responsibilities: FECOFUN will be supporting FA in implementing the project activities at the site level. FECOFUN will organise campaigns for removal of invasive weed Mikania micrantha. FECOFUN will also coordinate with local governments and district level stakeholders in controlling satellite population of Mikania. Involvement: Former chairperson of the district FECOFUN, Jhapa, Mr. Chhatra Paudel has been facilitating meetings with the local communities, stakeholders and the DFO, since the initial phase of this proposal write up. FECOFUN coordinated site visit and local interactions. Capacity: All the 22 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) selected for this project are members of the district FECOFUN. FECOFUN is housed with the institutional capacity for networking, coordinating and community mobilisation in this project.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

3. Partner Name:	Division Forest Office (DFO) Jhapa
Website address:	http://dfojhapa.gov.np/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Experience: DFO is Nepal government's forest specific district level organization under the Ministry of Forest and Environment. DFO is responsible for the management and protection of forest, in addition to supporting the CFUGs in preparation and approval of forest management plans. The DFO, Jhapa has also maintained a nursery for seedling production. DFO regularly provides training to CFUGs in gender inclusion in CFs. Roles and responsibilities: DFO will help in preparation and revision of community forest management plans (CFOPs). Due consideration will be given to biodiversity conservation while revising those plans. DFO will also help in removal of mikania, forest restoration and agroforestry promotion. In addition, the DFO will be providing seedlings for agroforestry to local people. DFO will also organize awareness programs pertinent to forest fire and anti-poaching. Involvement: The DFO, Jhapa has facilitated a meeting with FA members in June and have provided their inputs to the project idea. Moreover, DFO has helped in identifying threats to Jalthal forest and have suggested activities supportive to this project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

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4. Partner Name:	Kathmandu Forestry College (KAFCOL)
Website address:	www.kafcol.edu.np
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Experience: KAFCOL carries out teaching and research on various issues of forest, forestry and Natural Resources Management (NRM). Graduate and senior undergraduate students and faculties are involved in research in various dimensions of NRM, including biodiversity, ecosystems and application of remote sensing and GIS. Roles and responsibility: KAFCOL will be providing research and technical support in sustainable forest management, including silivicultural and biodiversity conservation. KAFCOL will also provide training to forest officers and CFUG leaders on forest management and technical expertise for application of GIS and remote sensing. KAFCOL will engage relevant faculty members and students in research activities. It will also provide technical support in agroforestry promotion and Mikania control. Involvement: KAFCOL was involved since the project design. Ambika Gautam, who has long experience of working with local communities and excellent rapport with the DFO officials, provided site level information and took active part in defining activities and methodologies. Capacity: Ambika Gautam worked as District Forest Officer (DFO)- in Jhapa district in the 1990s during which the community forestry process was started in Jalthal area. Recently, he led development of Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Faculties of KAFCOL has long-term engagement in forest management related research.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

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5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

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6. Partner Name:	No Response
Website address:	No Response
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	No Response
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

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

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

⤓ **Letter-Support_Partners_LocalGovernment**
📅 02/12/2018
🕒 10:34:20
📄 pdf 5.81 MB

⤓ **Cover letter_response-Stage1_Reviewers_FA**
📅 02/12/2018
🕒 10:20:42
📄 pdf 599.21 KB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project personnel

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Naya, Sharma Paudel	**Project Leader**	25	Checked
Mark, Watson	Co-PI/co-leader	20	Checked
Ambika, Gautam	Co-PI/co-leader	20	Checked
Colin, Pendry	Nepal Flora expert	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⊙ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Lila, Sharma	Project manager	100	Checked
To be confirmed	Field officer	100	Checked
To be confirmed 1	Local facilitator/mobilizer	50	Checked
To be confirmed 2 (Women)	Local facilitator/mobilizer	50	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above. Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

⬇ **CV_Project_Staff_Combined**
📅 03/12/2018
🕐 11:36:09
📄 pdf 638.31 KB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

⊙ Yes

Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

Nepal's CF programme-pioneered in 1980s, has been largely successful in increasing forest cover and bringing substantial socio-economic benefits. Over 22,000 CFUGs, manage about 2 million ha. forest. Despite these achievements, regulatory instruments, management plans, and institutional practices around CF narrowly focus on a few timber species. Consequently, CF management is heavily skewed towards extractive use, and biodiversity is largely ignored. There is a lack of concrete effort to mainstreaming biodiversity within CF management as recognized by the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (2014-2020).

This project will take Jalthal CF as a model system to develop strategies to promote biodiversity and livelihood while addressing threats to biodiversity. Jalthal- a 6000 ha remnant moist tropical forest in SE Nepal with diverse ecosystems (swamps, lakes, rivers, hillocks)- is an important biodiversity area with several threatened flora (Cycas pectinata, Magnolia champaca, Rauvolfia serpentina, Dioscorea deltoidea) and fauna (Indian pangolin, Asiatic elephant, Gharial, great hornbill), and has unique assemblages of tropical and subtropical plant species. The forest is managed by 22 CFUGs and is an important livelihood source for over 80,000 local people, including marginalised indigenous groups (Meche, Dhimal and Rajbanshi).

Literature review, experience of FA and KAFCOL professionals, and discussions with CFUGs, FECOFUN, and DFO and site visit revealed unsustainable use of forest products, wildlife poaching, Mikania invasion, and human-wildlife conflict as major threats to biodiversity. These are compounded by pressures on biomass and low awareness about biodiversity and ecosystem services . Forest and wetland degradation and biodiversity loss brought by those threats in turn have negatively impacted forest-dependent people.

This project mitigates these challenges through ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation combined with awareness raising and livelihood support to forest-dependent people. Field-based models and experiences will be documented and disseminated at the national level to mainstream pro-biodiversity practices into CF policy and institutions.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

⤓ **FrequentTerms**
📅 03/12/2018
🕐 12:38:54
📄 docx 15.39 KB

⤓ **Map of Jalthal forest**
📅 03/12/2018
🕐 07:05:16
🖼 jpg 1.22 MB

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the objectives of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

☑ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
☑ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

Q12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement.

The project aims to uprate Nepal's CF programme by bringing concrete evidence and workable models based on participatory action research in Jalthal forest. Project activities are aligned with the objectives of several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and national level priorities as outlined in NBSAP (2014), National Forest Policy (2015) and Forestry Sector Strategy (2016). NBSAP identifies low level of awareness, invasive species infestation and over-exploitation of biological resources as major threats to biodiversity in Nepal and this project works to mitigate these challenges. The project works to mainstreaming biodiversity in CF through local actions and planning and national policy dialogues as suggested by the NBSAP.

Multiple activities of the project support more than one objective of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially articles 7 and 8.

Article 7. Identification of component of biodiversity and their monitoring. The project will work to identify, appreciate and document the biodiversity and associated ecosystem services through participatory approaches. The project will also identify the factors that will negatively impact forest biodiversity.

Article 8 (c, d, e) The project aims at integrating biodiversity conservation in community forestry policy and planning process including ecosystem restoration and invasive species control. This will help to enhancing biodiversity across the CF and beyond protected areas. Project will prioritise species for conservation which will help maintaining population of rare, threatened and locally over-exploited species. Conservation activities outside protected areas will indeed help in providing connectivity and steeping stone and alternative habitats.

Article 8 (f) Rehabilitate and restore...strategies, the project will carry out restoration of degraded forest through plantation, weed control and site management and these activities will support this article of CBD.

Article 8(h) One of the serious threats to Jalthal forest is invasive alien species particularly Mikania micrantha. This project will launch campaign for removal of the alien invasive species through 'site management'.

The project objectives and activities are aligned with multiple targets of CBD strategic targets, mainly Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT). Awareness raising and capacity building for biodiversity and conservation through local actions at Jalthal serves to the target 1; mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in Nepal's CF process is aligned with Target 2; sustainable management of forests is directly related to Target 7. Similarly project will work to control and eradicate invasive species - Mikania and other species from the site (Target 9) and ecosystem restoration (Target 14).

This project also directly addresses the objectives of Ramsar Convention, as one of the major areas of our site-specific action will involve restoration, improved management and wise use of degraded wetlands within Jalthal forest. The wetlands in this area are habitats for breeding and migratory birds. Project activities to restore wetlands directly serve to achieve strategic goals particularly Goal 3 target 12 and 13 of the fourth Ramsar strategic plans of 2016-2024 .

Q12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS/ABS/ITPGRFA/CITES/CMS/Ramsar focal point in the host country?

⦿ Yes

Please give details:

Ministry of Forest and Environment is the Nepal government's focal point for CBD, we will liaison the ministry through district/division forest office (DFO). DFO is district level agency of the ministry-a partner in this project. Similarly FA has another joint project with the ministry running for last six years, which also helps in liaison with the CBD focal point in Nepal. ForestAction has joint project for coming five years and active MoU with the Ministry.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The project will demonstrate economically viable and socially acceptable approaches to linking biodiversity conservation with increased livelihoods benefits, several of the project activities are related to the UN Goals for Sustainable Development particularly Goals 1, 13 and 15.

The project will work in Eastern lowland of Nepal- an area inhabited by poor indigenous nationalities where employment opportunities are very scarce. Project will help poor and disadvantaged families in agroforestry, fisheries and tourism enterprise development. These supports along with skill development training will help poor families in income generation. This will contribute towards national goals and UN

SDGs on poverty reduction.

The project will work on managing forest sustainably, thereby ensuring that all facets of biodiversity are conserved. This will be ensured through minimization of all the threats to forest ecosystem and its biodiversity. These activities along with restoration of forests and wetlands from invasive weed Mikania is very much aligned with target 15.1 and 15.2 of the SDGs.

Similarly the project will work towards meeting the biodiversity conservation targets by reducing existing and potential threats. These activities will contribute towards Target 15.5 of the SDGs.

Similarly we will work to integrate biodiversity values in the community forestry planning process which will help towards meeting the targets of National government policies on biodiversity conservation and will contribute towards target 15.9 of the SDGs. Improved forest conservation will also contribute to climate change mitigation (SDG 13).

Section 8 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

This may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you should update or refine as necessary.

Approach: We will adopt a participatory action research approach on planning and implementation by actively engaging local people and other key stakeholders. We will work with 22 CFUGs in and around Jalthal area, involving more than 5000 local people in forest management and restoration activities. The project will also aim at ensuring gender and social inclusion. The project will combine experts' knowledge and local people's traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) to identify and implement practices to achieve social and ecological benefits.

Administration: Site level activities are implemented by establishing a project office at Jalthal, Jhapa. Annual planning workshops will be organised with local stakeholders. Project activities, deliverables and deadlines will be set out in a Gantt chart and progress monitored by project management committee. Activity wise reports will be prepared and baseline and endpoint data will be collected to measure the changes.

Output specific methodologies

Output 1: Participatory assessment of biodiversity, field education programs, exposure visits and capacity building trainings will be organised to sensitise stakeholders for biodiversity appreciation and mainstreaming, threat mitigation and sustainable management of forest. The uniqueness and national/regional importance of Jalthal forest and its biodiversity will be highlighted. Awareness raising activities will be organized to identify and mitigate threats, and offset pressure on biodiversity. CFOPs will be revised integrating dimensions of overall biodiversity conservation.

Output 2: 'Site management activities' will be undertaken with greater and wider local and stakeholder participation for Mikania removal and forest restoration. This will combine concerted manual removal, regulated disturbance including agroforestry, utilization of biomass and promotion of canopy trees. High manpower demand for this will be met by CFUGs. Satellite populations of invasive alien species around the forest will also be destroyed and awareness on invasive species will be developed among local people.

Output 3: Policy dialogue with stakeholders highlighting the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in enhancing livelihood benefits and overall human well-being will be carried out. Stakeholder training, campaigning and sensitisation through publications including policy briefs, documentary film, popular articles will be ensured. CFOPs will be revised to promote biodiversity and sustainable use of natural

resources.

Output 4: Assessment, planning and facility development will be carried out in collaboration with municipalities and CFUGs. Ecological importance of the forest will be demonstrated (Biodiversity blocks, booklets of flora and fauna, leaflets about orchids) to support ecotourism development. Capacity development (including nature guide training) of local people for tourism development will be supported. Project will help promoting traditional skills for bamboos and rattans and help promoting their value chain for income generation of poor families. Restored wetlands will be used for fishery development for women cooperatives/groups including indigenous and poor women.

Women groups in CFs will be supported (Training, information, seedlings, seed funds and market linkup) for agroforestry for income generation. Shade crops, fast growing native fodder species and NTFPs will be provided.

Project partnership: The project structure, roles and responsibilities of partners and combination of action, research and policy feedback have been designed to maximise partners' specific strength/expertise.

Q14. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

Short term: Three baseline reports (Mikania coverage, biodiversity status, socioeconomic condition), two feasibility studies (tourism and agroforestry) will be prepared as the foundation for future planning and measuring changes. Plans for Mikania control and wetland restoration, agroforestry, fisheries and ecotourism will be prepared engaging all local stakeholders including local governments. Specific business schemes for tourism and fisheries will be prepared for poor households including women and indigenous people. Capacity building activities to help develop technical and institutional capacity of groups and individuals in better managing forests and wetlands in addition to operating enterprises will be carried out. The newly prepared plans, increased capacity and mobilisation of CFUGs will improve forest condition and wetlands; production of bamboo and rattan will be increased, new tree and fodder species (30000 seedlings) will be planted and protected, understory crops will be grown. Poor forest dependent people will be benefitted from small business opportunities during establishment of tourism facilities, agroforestry, and Mikania clearing for composting (funds from project, municipalities, CFUGs and also from private sector).
Invasive Mikania has threatened the forest biodiversity including wildlife and forest-dependent people, Mikania cover will be reduced by 80% (ca 1500 ha. area cleared) which benefits forest health and ecosystem services.
Long term: Substantial improvement in forest ecosystems and biodiversity. Degraded forest areas will be converted into productive systems thereby enhancing conservation as well as livelihood benefits to local people. Forest composition and quality currently occupied by Mikania will be improved; wetlands will be restored with increased biodiversity, tourism and fish farming; visitors and local people benefit from tourism facilities, local people benefited from small forest based enterprises; stakeholders and policy makers will be benefited by new knowledge and management plans. Increased awareness and commitment at national level to integrate biodiversity concerns within CF policy and practice, CF policy documents will be more informed by biodiversity consideration.

Project beneficiaries: Jalthal forest and its biodiversity, rare, threatened and keystone species along with local people dependent on the forest are main beneficiaries. The forest has over 80,000 users from 15,000 households spreading across 22 CFUGs. The project will work with CFUGs so that at around 5000 households are engaged in forest management, Mikania removal and wetland restoration activities. They will get benefits of biodiversity conservation-more ecosystem services, increased fodders and tree products. Fodder plantation in private lands will offset pressure on forest consequently improving forest conditions and saving time of women who otherwise have to go forest for collection. CFUG leaders (66 individuals), forest technicians (20), students (4) also got direct benefit of capacity building.

Women members from poor and disadvantaged group will get direct benefit from the project, 100 poor households involving five women groups engaged and supported in agroforestry, 50 women members are supported for fisheries and 15 women get skill development training including ecotourism. Seed fund will be provided for 30 selected poor households to establish tourism, fisheries and bamboo-rattans products. Skill development and forest enetrprise will help improving livelihood of people in the area.

Q15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

Community forestry has played an important role in increasing women participation, nevertheless, their role in decision making process has largely remained passive. Women in decision making position improves both environmental and social benefits from forests. Project will consider developing women leadership, ensuring meaningful participation and providing opportunities and capacity building of women.

Project will help empowering women by bringing them in leadership in forest management in addition to supporting women members from poor families in agroforestry, tourism, fisheries and forest based enterprise. At least 33 women will receive training on sustainable forest management which will play a critical role in enhancing their leadership.

We will prioritise for direct investment in women led/initiated activities. 30 women from indigenous and poor families will receive seed fund/support for small enterprise establishment from agroforestry, fisheries and tourism. These activities will generate income for women and households.

We will organise awareness raising activities using Community Forestry guidelines and Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategies of the Government of Nepal. Trainings and capacity building activities including exposure visits will be organised for women.

Ms. Samata Manandhar, a gender expert at ForestAction will be primarily leading the gender and social inclusion activities in this project. Project will appoint a woman as a local facilitator to ensure that the women participants will feel more comfortable to interact with our team. Acknowledging rural women's limited access to financial resources, project will support women in fisheries, agroforestry and tourism enterprise and provide seed fund for enterprise development. In training and project workshop half of the participants will be women and such training will also bring women into leadership and decision making process. Similarly, this project will support two female, out of four candidates, for their Master's dissertation.

Q16. Exit Strategy

State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

Project will attain a stable end point for most of the outputs by the end of the project life. Capacity building

training, participatory assessment of biodiversity, species prioritisation for conservation, skill development training, policy brief and booklet publication will be completed earlier than project deadline.

Revision of forest management plan and policy lobbying for biodiversity mainstreaming will be completed with expected outcomes. People receiving trainings will continue acting as leader for biodiversity conservation in CFs and beyond.

Mikania removal, forest and wetland restoration achieved, however these are continuous process. With new capacity, CFUGs will continue these activities regularly in their CF.

Government officers who receive training will be working to integrate overall biodiversity conservation in CF process. Department of Forest will prioritise biodiversity conservation in CFs. Project will work with local Governments (LGs) to assure that livelihood support interventions/program- fisheries, NTFP, tourism and bamboo related skills and associated interventions beyond project life. We will organize a sharing/exit workshop with local and relevant stakeholders so that they will continue their support further. LGs will take ownership of such activities and provide further support to scale up and deepen the activities that the project has implemented to reach large number of people.

Please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

No Response

Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q17a. Harmonisation

Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

◉ Development of existing work

Please give details:

ForestAction and RBGE are currently working together in a Darwin Initiative funded project to manage invasive alien species in community forests. ForestAction is supporting on implementing the project activities with CFUGs in three districts of Nepal. We are engaging local people in identification and management of Invasive species in community forests and helping CF to integrate invasive species control in the community forest operational plans (CFOPs).

Present project is not a continuation of ongoing project but there are many shared lessons learned which help in proposed project. As in the ongoing Darwin project we will be working with CF and we will be working in policy process of CF. Similarly forest action has supported CFUGs in other project sites to update CFOPs, this experience will be used n the proposed project.

ForestAction has conducted several projects on forest and agroforestry management in community forests. Currently ForestAction concluded a project and secured the second phase funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACAIR). In this project FA will support livelihood through forest management and enterprise development in CFs. the learnings of ACAIR project will be useful in the proposed project.

Q17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

◉ No

Q18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the Guidance.

All partner institutions will comply with UK Government's human rights obligations and values and fully meet key principles of ethical implementation of project as suggested by Darwin Initiative guidance document.

1. Project partners and staffs will always respect social norms and traditional knowledge and culture of local communities and people.

2. Project participants will also take prior informed consent (PIC) of local communities engagement in the project. Local communities will be well informed about the project, project activities, anticipated results and their contribution. For any information to be obtained from local people we will comply with PIC principles.

3. We will help developing leadership to women and marginalised and poor people. Project will appoint 2 local facilitator/mobilizer to assist in project implementation and they will be provided with leadership, communication trainings.

4. We will not collect specimens of rare, endangered and threatened species and we will follow research guidelines of government of Nepal .

5. Local products, skills will be promoted while supporting tourism development programs.

6. Project will consider health and safety project staffs. At appropriate times in the project staff will be briefed on the importance of health and safety, assessing risks, and the rigorous standards expected. Project staffs and field expedition teams will be given medical and travel insurance for field visits. For practical and safety purpose no lone field work is allowed.

7. Threats from wildlife will be pre-assessed before conducting any activities inside the forests.

8. We will respect privacy and human rights will comply with labour regulations and national and international human rights principles.

9. While developing tourism facilities/programs we will follow Nepal government's guidelines for tourism development in community forests .

10. RBGE collects herbarium specimens with written permission (including statements on benefit sharing) and export and CITES permits.

Q19. Safeguarding

(see Guidance Note 3.8)

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, we would like projects to ensure they have the appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please tick the box to confirm you have relevant policies in place and that these can be available on request.

Checked

Section 10 - Biodiversity & Project Information

Q20. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

Biodiversity conservation by engaging diverse stakeholders is at the core of the project activities. Lack of awareness of biodiversity has been identified as a threat to biodiversity in Nepal (NBSAP 2014).

Project will target diverse audiences, adopt strategy to reach out to larger audience which include: local people including forest users and farmers, women; students and youths; CFUG leaders; forest technicians; local governments and civil society organizations; policy circle, and conservationists including epistemic

community. Project will maintain balance of gender, social and age class in activities.

Awareness raising programs are integrated in project activities and there are also standalone awareness programs.

1. Local level action/activities: biodiversity conservation awareness components are integrated in field actions. Participatory biodiversity assessment, species prioritisation exercise, Mikania control campaign, meetings for CFOPs revision, biodiversity demonstration blocks etc will inform local people, CFUG leaders about the status, identity and importance of biodiversity.

2. Field education programs will be organised for awareness raising; targeting local CFUG leaders, youths, women and local government officials. We will use 'field as a learning space' to help local people understand, appreciate biodiversity and take action for conservation. Such programs help recognising invasive species, habitat trees, keystone and rare species.

3. Trainings to CFUG leaders/ forest technicians will be organised focussing on prioritisation biodiversity conservation in planning and practices.

4. Publications: Project will publish factsheets, booklets, leaflets, popular articles in national dailies, policy briefs, training manuals and journal articles which will help target audience understand different facets of biodiversity and its conservation.

5.Documentary film will highlight status, importance, threats and conservation actions for biodiversity to wider and larger audience.

6. Policy dialogue at national level will sensitise policy makers, development practiceners, government officers and politicians.

7. Social media- Facebook, twitter and YouTube will be used to highlight various dimensions of Jalthal biodiversity.

Q21. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

Developing capacity of individuals (local people, CFUG leaders), professionals (forest technicians, researchers, policy makers, government officers) and institutions (CFUG, FECOFUN and Women cooperatives) is an important task of the project.

Local people and CFUGs leaders get training and field education program on in identifying, monitoring and prioritising biodiversity for conservation. Project will organize technical and theoretical training to CFUG leaders and forest officers on biodiversity assessment, prioritisation which will help building technical capacity of CF leaders and forest officers.

RBGE experts are leading production of 'flora in Nepal'. Project staffs, FA personnel and government officers from National Herbarium will benefit from their expertise and shared training on plant identification, specimen management and photography.

MSc and PhD students will be involved in field research on Mikania ecology, biodiversity assessment. They get learning opportunities on field methods, data analysis and writing papers/reports.

Project will provide skill development training and arrange support for enterprise development to women and poor people from marginal groups, which will also help in their capacity building. Traditional skills related to bamboo and rattans will be sported by supporting in value chain and skill development of youths. Exposure visits will provide learning platform for enterprise development.

Nature guide trainings will be provided to 30 local youths (15 women) which potentially support tourism and employment opportunities.

Project will appoint two local (one woman) to implement activities at local level. They will get knowledge and practical experience related to stakeholder engagement, project management, biodiversity conservation, facilitation and leadership.

Project will also support ForestAction, KAFCOL and FECOFUN by providing capital equipment-computers and printers.

People trained in biodiversity conservation will work to integrate biodiversity conservation component in CF process while small business supported by project will form basis for income for poor families in future.

Q22. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific funds you are seeking from the Darwin to fund this.

FA, RBGE and project partners firmly believe that the information, activities and outcomes of the project funded through public fund should be open access to all. We will comply with UK government's policies and other standard practices on open access.

Important activities, project information and outcomes will be shared through the website of ForestAction Nepal or partners will do the same. Booklets, newspaper articles, policy briefs, training manuals, guidelines whatever will be published as component of project will also be distributed both hard and soft copies. Such files will also be available to download freely.

Training materials (brochures, guidelines, training materials) will be provided freely to training participants. Research articles will be published in peer-reviewed journals, and as book chapters, etc. Open Access publication will be sought wherever possible so that these articles are available at no charge to the user. ForestAction regularly published a peer reviewed journal 'Journal of Forest and livelihood' (https://www.forestaction.org/publications/jfl/151)and Nepali magazine 'Hamro Ban Sampada' which are open access. We will also use these open access platforms to publish articles and results.

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q23. Logical Framework

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

Impact:

Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in CF policies and practices, biodiversity in CFs enhanced, forest and wetlands are restored and local people benefit through forest-based enterprise including ecotourism and fisheries

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions

Outcome:			
Biodiversity conservation is appreciated and mainstreamed in Community Forestry policy, planning and management, at local to national levels, benefitting biodiversity, ecosystem services and local livelihood	0.1 22 CFUGs (representing more than 80,000 people) and 5000 local people (CFUG members), of which 50% are women, directly engaged in sustainable forest management activities by end of Year 3. 0.2 22 Community Forestry Operational Plans (CFOPs) revised with a separate biodiversity section by the end of Year 3. 0.3 At least 100 foresters and CFUG leaders (40% women) are trained to integrate overall biodiversity conservation in CFOP by end of year 2. 0.4 Jalthal biodiversity assessed and detailed photographic profiles of 40 (20 floral and 20 faunal) species prioritised for conservation prepared and communicated through printed booklets (1000 copies) and field education programs organised for awareness building and biodiversity identification by end of year 2. 0.5 Mikania cover in the forest reduced by 80% and satellite population controlled/destroyed in adjoining areas by the end of project 0.6 Five native forest species including bamboo and rattans will be selected and used to establish forest based enterprise by end of	0.1 Meeting minutes of CFUGs, project briefing notes 0.2 CFOP and general assembly decisions 0.3 Training participant register, training materials, training reports 0.4. Assessment report and species specific profiles and printed booklet 0.5. Baseline and endline data, interview with local resident, photographs, satellite images, assessment reports monitoring evaluation report, comparison of baseline and end line data 0.6. Plantation report, CFUG record books 0.7. Plantation report, registry of participant of Mikania cleaning 0.8 Beneficiary interviews, CFUG records 0.9 Biodiversity demonstration block in place, sign boards, information centre, published materials .10 Policy brief, changed forest operational plans, peer reviewed publication, biodiversity registers	0.1 CFUGs and stakeholders acknowledge Mikania invasion as a major problem 0.2 There will be broader political support in Jalthal forest management and restoration programs 0.3 Local governments also develop plans for tourism development and livelihood support in Jalthal area. 0.4 Mikaina propagation and spread can be achieved through site management and new entry will be early detected and controlled. 0.5 Policy/decision makers in the Ministry of forest in federal and Provincial government cooperate 0.6 Human wildlife (particularly Elephant) conflict minimised.

year 2.

0.7 Agroforestry including shade crops, NTFPs generates income for 100 poor households through women cooperatives and contributes in Mikania control by end of year 3.
0.8 50 poor households including indigenous people benefit fisheries (with native fish species) in two restored wetlands
0.9 Tourism facilities (information centre, nature guides, brochure) established and 30 local people including 15 women get trainings for tourism enterprise and 15 of them are supported for enterprise development by end of 2021.

0.10 Biodiversity conservation and values are appreciated and integrated National CF Guidelines by end of the project.

Output 1:			
Forests are sustainably managed with greater diversity, enhanced structural complexity and improved productivity, and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation enhanced	1.1 Participatory biodiversity assessment conducted, 22 members from CFUG and local, national and international experts/ technicians (Forester, ecologist/ botanist and wildlife biologist) engaged in the assessment and forest biodiversity profile prepared by the end of year 2.	1.1 an assessment report, a baseline data, M Sc student thesis, Checklist of flora and fauna, assessment participant registry.	1.1 New Federal Forest Law recognises Community Forestry and respect its objectives
	1.2 Two trainings on forest biodiversity management (including key attributes and habitat trees) organized in Year 1, 66 people trained from 22 CFUGSs	1.2 Training report, forest management plan, Participant interviews	1.2 Local government and CFUGs maintain a good collaboration and cooperation
	1.3 22 CFOP revised and implemented by end of year 3 to incorporate overall biodiversity conservation strategy, approaches and tools by CFs	1.3. copies CFOP/general assembly decision notes	1.3 Human wildlife conflict minimised and managed
	1.4 5,000 bamboo culms planted in forest and private lands, rattan pocket areas identified, and managed by the end of year 2	1.4 Plantation reports, CFUG records	
	1.5 At least 30,000 native fodder trees in CF and private lands planted by the end of project	1.5 Plantation report, users books, baseline survey	
	1.6 Rare, threatened, endangered and unique species and vulnerable ecosystems identified and protection measures are included in CFOP by end of year 2.	1.6. copies CFOP	
	1.7 Species profiles for 40 species (20 floral and 20 faunal including birds) species	1.7. Booklet of profiles (1000 copies)	
		1.8. Biodiversity register available in appropriate office and open access data available ForestAction Website	
		1.9. Checklist hard and soft copy published open access	

prioritised for conservation prepared and disseminated in project sites by end of Year 2.

1.8 Jalthal Biodiversity register as envisioned by Nepal Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2014-2020) prepared and maintained by mid of year 2.

1.9 Checklist of all plant species in Jalthal forest prepared by end of year 2.

| **Output 2:**

Mikania invasion including satellite populations substantially reduced and controlled, degraded forest areas and wetlands reclaimed and converted into productive systems through 'integrated site management' | 2.1 Spatial extent and abundance of Mikania including its environmental correlates analysed for its control, management and monitoring by end of the 3rd quarter of year 1; Endline data by end of year 3.
2.2 Participatory Mikania management and control plan for Jalthal prepared by third quarter of year 1.
2.3 Bilingual (Nepali/local and English) colour booklet (1000 copies) on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) of Jalthal forest prepared and distributed By end of year 2.
2.4 Mega campaign for Mikania control organized annually (ca 10,000 man-days workers involved altogether) to control Mikania in the forest; satellite populations around the forest are also controlled by end of year 3.
2.5 Mikania cover reduced by 80% by the end of year 3.
2.6 Existing and potential use of Mikania identified , promoted and communicated (roughly 5 metric tons of Mikania biomass turned into compost and bio-gas) by end of the project
2.7 Two of the largest wetlands restored by removing Mikania and | 2.1. Assessment report
2.2. Control plan and CFUG record book, photographs
2.3. Printed booklet and PDF documents
2.4 Field report, CFUG records, Remote sensing analysis
2.5 Users record book, field data and comparison of baseline and end line data
2.6. Activity record, users survey, Amount of biomass converted into compost
2.7 baseline and end line data collection | 2.1 CFUGs participate in bush cleaning for dual purpose 1) bush cleaning as part of their regular job and 2) Incentives for bush cleaning to CFUGs
2.2 Local government, civil society and CFUGs acknowledge the threats posed by Mikania |

controlling siltation by
end of year 3.

Output 3:			
Biodiversity conservation and values are appreciated and integrated into community forestry policy and planning process; communication/awareness raising materials highlighting biodiversity conservation prepared and disseminated for diverse stakeholders	3.1 Gaps and opportunities in CF biodiversity identified through detail review of selected 50 CFOPs in year 1. 3.2 A manual for integrating biodiversity in to CFOP developed for CFOP facilitators/ practioners by end of year 1. 3.3 20 forest operational practitioners (Government officers) trained on biodiversity integration in forest OP in year 1. 3.4 National level stakeholders (60 participants- government officers, conservationist, CF campaigners and policy advocates and FECOFUN national leaders) are sensitised and informed on biodiversity integration in CF policy and practice through 3 national dialogue (1 in Year 2 and 2 in year 3) 3.5 Biodiversity conservation on CF highlighted though a policy brief (500 copies printed and circulated) in year 3. 3.6 Publish at least three popular article on leading National dailies to inform wider audience on importance of biodiversity and its conservation measures (One each in Year 1, 2 and 3). 3.7 Awareness building material (A	3.1 Peer reviewed article published by the end of the project 3.2 Printed and e-Copy of the manual 3.3 Training report, Participant register 3.4 Workshop report, participant register, 3.5 printed copies and PDF of Policy brief 3.6 Newspaper cut /e copies 3.7 Video and YouTube viewers data	3.1 Federal, provincial and local government appreciate biodiversity conservation thereby supporting in CF policy and practices

documentary) on biodiversity, its threats and conservation will be produced and disseminated freely by end of year 2.

Output 4:	4.1 A scoping report on potential forest based enterprise prepared by the end of Year 1.	4.1 copies of the assessment report	Municipalities appreciate and prioritise tourism

Output 4:

Forest based micro enterprises including fisheries and ecotourism facilities established and operationalized for enhancement of local livelihoods

4.1 A scoping report on potential forest based enterprise prepared by the end of Year 1.
4.2 A business schemes of selected enterprise (Tourism, fisheries, bamboos and rattans) prepared by the end of Year 1.
4.3 Three training/workshops targeting marginalized and disadvantaged local women group for selected enterprise organized (100 people including 50 women are beneficiary) (one training each in year 1, 2 and 3). Seed money will be provided to a total of 30 women (in agroforestry, fishery and tourism)
4.4 100 poor households involving five women group/cooperatives get benefit from agroforestry including shade crops and NTFPs by the end of the project.
4.5 Fodder trees (30 000), five species of NTFPs including fast growing cash crops and bamboo culms (5000) will be distributed to CFUGs targeting poor households (This activity is linked with forest management as well in output 1)
4.6 50 poor households including indigenous people get benefit from fisheries in restored wetlands by end of year 3.

4.1 copies of the assessment report
4.2 Copies of business schemes for specific enterprises
4.3 Participant register, training reports
4.4 Plantation report, CFUG record books, interview with local people
4.5 Plantation reports
4.6 Beneficiary interviews, CFUG reports
4.7 Participant register, training manuals
4.8 BDB block in place

Municipalities appreciate and prioritise tourism development as part of their overall development planning New Forest Law allows such tourism related activities.
The human-elephant conflict managed/minimised by the ongoing projects

	4.7 At least 30 local youths (half are women) get training on ecotourism including nature guide by end of year 2. 4.8 Biodiversity Demonstration Block (BDB) identified, promoted and characterised (Name, ecology, conservation status) for eco-tourism by mid of year 2.		
Output 5: *No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

⊙ No

Activities (each Activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

The word count for each individual activity should be no more than 25 words.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.1

Activity Details

Organize planning workshops cum interaction program with local stakeholders at project site; Inception workshop attended by project partners, CGUG members (3 from each CGUG) and representatives from local governments and other stakeholders

Activity details

Activity Number

1.2

Activity Details

Organize 'Field education program' for local people to demonstrate and identify key species, habitat and traditional

Ecological knowledge associated with bio resources, Rarity and conservation status and ecological features of species and ecosystem also discussed and informed

Activity details

Activity Number

1.3

Activity Details

3 Hold meetings with CFUGs to complement the field education programs to identify key biodiversity, rare and threatened species and traditional ways of forest and resource management

Activity details

Activity Number

1.4

Activity Details

Organize trainings to CFUG leaders to conceptualise them overall biodiversity, ecological uniqueness and significance of Jalthal, and bringing biodiversity to CF process

Activity details

Activity Number

1.5

Activity Details

Support CFUGs in plantation of bamboo culms and other fast growing native fodder species, organise interaction with locals to identify needs and consult experts for fesilbility

Activity details

Activity Number

1.6

Activity Details

6 Work with CFUGs to revise and renew the forest operational plans considering key attributes of forest biodiversity (flora, fauna, birds, habitats, habitat trees, ecological complexity, ecological process, water points, wetlands, marshes, threatened and exploited taxa etc)

Activity details

Activity Number

1.7

Activity Details

Conduct participatory biodiversity assessment of Jalthal forest bringing experts and local people together and maintain database, support KAFCOL master students in thesis on Jalthal biodiversity, management options and human nature interaction

Activity details

Activity Number

1.8

Activity Details

Species are prioritised for conservation using local and expert knowledge coupled with biological data

Activity details

Activity Number

1.9

Activity Details

Prepare and publish booklet containing profile of species prioritised for conservation

Activity details

Activity Number

1.10

Activity Details

Prepare Jalthal biodiversity register (including traditional ecological Knowledge-TEK, associated with biodiversity) and keep the register in relevant locations

Activity details

Activity Number

1.11

Activity Details

Organize programs for forest fire, poaching control and conservation of threatened and rare species (in collaboration with DFO, FECOFUN and Local Governments)

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1

Activity Details

Carryout Mikania cover assessment using remote sensing and ground trouthing tools (it serves as baseline data as well) and carryout end line data collection

Activity details

Activity Number

2.2

Activity Details

Organize workshop with local stakeholders to prepare strategies and plans for Mikania control

Activity details

Activity Number

2.3

Activity Details

Organise campaign and conduct activities for Mikania clearance in forests in wider stakeholders participation including local government representative, provide incentives to CFUGs for users' contribution

Activity details

Activity Number

2.4

Activity Details

Identify and promote technologies to use Mikania biomass (Support local farmers to make compost and bio-gas out of Mikania weeds)

Activity details

Activity Number

2.5

Activity Details

Undertake programs to restore wetlands in collaboration with local governments and CFUGs

Activity details

Activity Number

2.6

Activity Details

Integrate shade crops and fodder trees in Mikania cleared areas with Mikania control program

Activity details

Activity Number

2.7

Activity Details

Work with local farmers, CFUG members and municipalities to remove satellite population of Mikania

Activity details

Activity Number

3.1

Activity Details

Develop a manual on integrating overall biodiversity conservation in CF planning and process, include national expert while preparing the manual

Activity details

Activity Number

3.2

Activity Details

Provide training to CFOP practiceners on values of biodiversity and ways of integrating it into CFOPs

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3

Activity Details

Organize three national dialogue with national level stakeholders on biodiversity mainstreaming in CF planning and process

Activity details

Activity Number

3.4

Activity Details

Prepare, publish and disseminate a policy brief on biodiversity conservation with respect to CF

Activity details

Activity Number

3.5

Activity Details

Publish a peer reviewed article based on review of CFOPs to highlight gaps and opportunities of biodiversity conservation in CFs

Activity details

Activity Number

3.6

Activity Details

Write and publish three popular articles on leading national dailies

Activity details

Activity Number

3.7

Activity Details

Prepare, produce and disseminate a video (documentary) to conceptualise, highlight and operationalise overall biodiversity conservation in community forests.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.1

Activity Details

Conduct a feasibility study on forest based micro-enterprise in Jalthal area

Activity details

Activity Number

4.2

Activity Details

Prepare business plan for Bamboo/rattans, tourism and fisheries

Activity details

Activity Number

4.3

Activity Details

Identify disadvantaged women and support them in enterprise development in agroforestry, ecotourism including fisheries

Activity details

Activity Number

4.4

Activity Details

Designate biodiversity demonstration block, prepare and provide necessary information for visitors

Activity details

Activity Number

4.5

Activity Details

support to establish tourism facilities and prepare broachers highlighting ecological, cultural value of Jalthal forest to attract domestic tourists

Activity details

Activity Number

4.6

Activity Details

Provide skill development training to local people by including women and disadvantaged group of people, promote traditional skills related to bamboo and rattans, support making crafts, utensils and souvenirs out of bamboo and rattans

Activity details

Activity Number

4.7

Activity Details

Support women groups by providing seed fund and technical support to start agroforestry including prioritised non –timber forest products (NTFPs) in designated areas of CF and in private lands

Activity details

Activity Number

4.8

Activity Details

Organise exposure visits for women groups and local people to see ecotourism programs (35 Participants, 18 women)

Activity details

Activity Number

4.9

Activity Details

Organize a sharing and exit workshop with local stakeholders at the end of the project, organise interaction with local government for ownership of the activities and interventions

Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

Q24. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add columns to reflect the length of your project.

For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

    ⬇ **Darwin_R25_-_Stage_2_-_Implementation_Ti metable_ForestAction**

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Section 13 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

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

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

Project management including monitoring and evaluation against the set targets is responsibility of FA. Project monitoring and evaluation will be a continuous process throughout the project life. Project M&E is an adaptive process, project indicators will be closely monitored and strategies will be prepared for maximum possible achievement.

A project management committee (PMC) involving co-PI, representatives partner organisation and the Ministry of Forest will be formed. Project leader will organise PMC meeting half yearly. Project manager will report to PMC and the project leader. PMC meetings will evaluate progress against milestones, learn from experiences, and discuss challenges and opportunities.

Project field staffs (field officer and two local facilitators) along with project manager will regularly collect and compile activities and relevant evidences to monitor the project activities. Land areas restored, number of seedlings planted, agroforestry supported, tourism and microenterprises developed, field education programs, number of CFOPs revised will be recorded. Project staff will maintain their logbook which include their own meeting records, financial accounts, and analysing feedback, questionnaires, interviews and survey forms which are the means of establishing baselines, verifying outcomes and evaluating impacts.

Baseline and endline data will be collected wherever possible to measure the project impact and success. Data on Mikania cover status of forest disturbances, reports of illegal harvesting/hunting and number of tourism facilities established, income generated and number of people benefited will be compared by collecting baseline and end line data. In some case data in CFUGs and local government can also be used as reference.
Project has set indicators for biodiversity as well as socioeconomic changes.
Biodiversity indicators: The coverage of Mikania, area cleared for Mikania, number of rare, threatened and vulnerable species considered for local action (that would otherwise ignored in local action), number of habitat trees identified and protected, events of illegal felling and poaching, number of trees planted, area of wetland restored, number of CFOPs revised are quantitative indicators of biodiversity conservation. Project has several awareness building materials, field education and training programs, national dialogues that directly feed to biodiversity and sustainable forest management which can be qualitatively measured through interviews and participant feedbacks.

Socio-economic indictors: Several local people will be engaged in project activities and some of them will get direct economic benefits. Households and individuals getting direct benefit from projects livelihood support activities will be disaggregated by gender and well being ranking . People getting direct benefit from income generation activities like Agroforestry, fisheries, tourism and bamboo-rattans skills will be analysed. Income generated out of these activities will be quantified by participant surveys/interview or compared against reference data. Number of women cooperatives/groups formed, number of people attending field education program, number of participant in biodiversity assessment activities, attendees in sustainable forest management training will be .Production of compost and biomass out of invasive species and their economic analysis will also be performed. Annual gender audit of project implementation will be performed by FA.

Total project budget for M&E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	250

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E   10

Section 14 - Funding and Budget

Q26. Budget

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

 Darwin and IWT Budget Template

Please refer to the <u>Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance</u> for more information.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

> ⬇ **Budget_St2 - Darwin_R25_IWT_R5_ForestActi on**
> 📅 03/12/2018
> ⏲ 12:33:28
> 🗎 xls 104 KB

Q27. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

We priorities to reach to large number beneficiaries, more engagement in the field and direct investment to poor and disadvantaged family. We prepared a gnatt chart containing activities and timeline which helped us to figure out the tentative budget. We have considered relevant polices of Nepal government and financial polices of FA and partner organizations.

In this we aim to flow more amount to the activities in sites therefore we proposed only 12% overhead. Partner organization in Nepal get cost for office, communication stationary and communication and overheads.

Rates of events and activities are based on current market, field assessment and experience from our ongoing projects. We have put practical and cost-effective rates for all the activities.

We worked out to minimize the administrative and staff costs. Staffs are proposed based on workload in office and the field. Project leader gets 15% of his salary and Project officer will work for 100 % of his time. His salary is based on qualification and salary history . Our budgeting, Staffing and activities are proposed to channelize maximum possible amount to activities in the field.

FA, KAFCOL and FECOFUN understand financial transparency in purchase of equipment. We ensure procurement under the project follows good practice and achieves value for money.

Project will be implemented by establishing a project office in project site to reduce the cost and time for

travel and will maintain close contact with local stakeholders to efficiently operate the project activities. Wider local support and collaboration with local government is crucial to achieve many targets. We assume that we get wider support from local stakeholder for forest wetland restoration activities. Similarly we expect we work jointly with local governments for tourism activities.

Exchange rate of £1=145 NRS was used in budget calculations as of 23/11/2018.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

Project will purchase laptops, a digital SLR camera and a printer. Two laptops and a printer at FA and one each at FECOFUN and KAFCOL. One of the FA laptop will be used by field officer and one by project officer. These will be registered as project of respective organization. These will be used by respective organization following the project end.

We will purchase basic furniture to establish office in project site; these will be handed over to a women-led CFUG in project site on completion of project.

Q29. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

⊙ Yes

Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh		£	Salary contribution of CoPI and other two experts
ForestAction from EnLiFT project		£	10% salary contribution of PI and enterprise development and forestry expert
Haldibari Rural Municipality		£	We have discussed with the Meyor of Haldibari Rural municipality and he will consider our request in their
FECOFUN, DFO and KAFCOL		£	They will contribute in plantation, Mikania removal and Forest operation plan revision and agroforestry

Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

◉ No

Q30. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

ForestAction has established a system of financial system in which two or more officials are involved in financial decisions and transections. All the project expenses are subject to independent external auditing. This has minimised our financial risk from fraud, corruption and bribary. Accountability, transparency and anti-corruption are fundamental principles for FA and a requirement for all our projects and activities. We have an excellent track record of financial management with major international donors, and a zero tolerance to mismanagement in financial and other areas.

One risk in projects funded in USD or Pound Sterling may be related to the fluctuation in value of Nepalese currencies in relative those currencies. The effect of any fluctuations in currency which reduce the money available to spent in Nepal will be closely monitored throughout the project. If possible these will be absorbed and the full range of activities continued, but if they have major effect then activities will need to be reassessed and if necessary change requests made to the logframe.

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q31. FCO Notifications

Please put an X in the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Unchecked

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

⊙ No

Section 16 - Certification

Q32. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

ForestAction Nepal

I apply for a grant of

£298,439.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- **I have uploaded CVs for project principals and letters of support.**
- **I have uploaded our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report.**

Checked

Name	Birendra Kumar Karna
Position in the organisation	Executive coordinator
Signature (please upload e-signature)	⬇ **Signature_Birendra_Karna_ForestAction** 📅 03/12/2018 🕐 08:04:01 🖼 jpg 21 KB
Date	03 December 2018

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance (including Guidance for Applicants and Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance)	Checked
Have you read, and can you meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	Checked
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Checked
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	Checked
Have you checked that your budget is complete and correctly adds up?	Checked
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	Checked
Have you uploaded a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff on this project, including the Project Leader?	Checked
Have you uploaded a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations?	Checked
Have you included a cover letter from the lead organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed?	Checked
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Checked
Have you uploaded a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	Checked
Have you checked the Darwin website to ensure there are no late updates?	Checked
Have you read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK?	Checked

We would like to keep in touch! Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available **here**. This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organization, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004

Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).