

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/>).

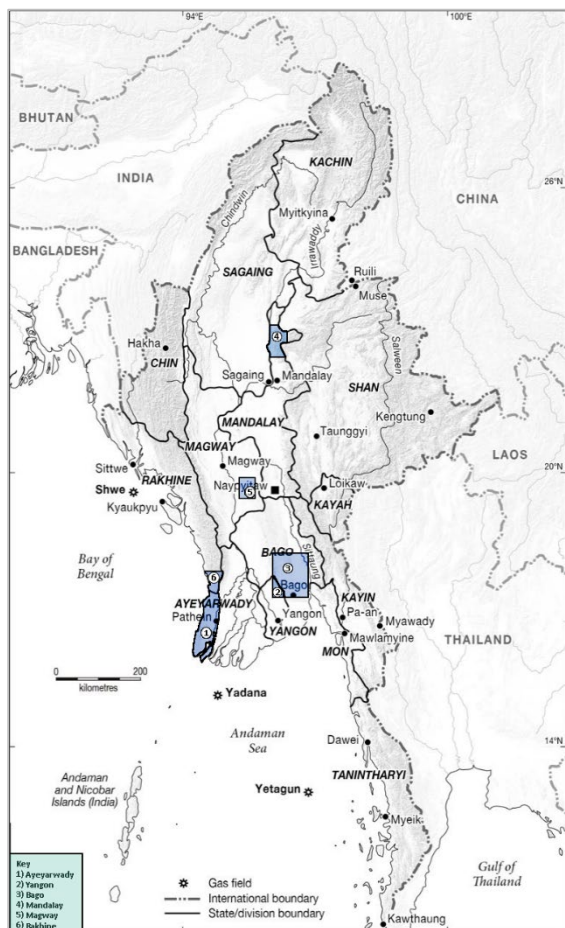
It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2022

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	27-012
Project title	Promoting Human-elephant Coexistence Through Education and Seasonal Fencing
Country/ies	Myanmar
Lead partner	British Asian Trust with Elephant Family (BAT/EF)
Project partner(s)	Grow Back for Posterity (GBP) Myanmar Compass Films (CF) France
Darwin grant value	£365,335
Start/end dates of project	August 2020 – July 2024 (Yr2 extended to cover 2-years)
Reporting period and number	Annual Report Yr2.1 (Apr 21 – Mar 22)
Project Leader name	Belinda Stewart-Cox
Project website/blog/social media	www.britishasiantrust.org www.compassfilms.net www.elephant-family.org www.growbackposterity.com
Report author(s) and date	Belinda Stewart-Cox, Klaus Reisinger, Aung Myo Chit, Auro Shashwat, Ellie Jones (30 April 2022)

1. Project summary



Over 70% of Myanmar’s population lives in rural areas and depends on the land for subsistence. Human-elephant conflict threatens the lives and livelihoods of villagers and elephants in several areas of central Myanmar from retaliatory killings, crop damage and habitat loss/fragmentation. This problem was identified and well documented by our project partners, Grow Back for Prosperity (GBP) and Compass Films (CF) and underpinned our previous Darwin project (24-024, 2017-20) which developed a Human-Elephant Peace (H.E.I.P) programme to embed an HEC mitigation strategy into government policy and practice. This project builds on the achievements of the last one, educating villagers about elephants and how to stay safe living alongside them, thus turning fear into confident understanding and feelings of empowerment while also instilling the concept of human-elephant coexistence (HECx) as a way to stop elephants becoming defensive-aggressive.

However, raising awareness will not maintain HECx or protect elephants if they raid crops and threaten livelihoods. Therefore, this project also trains villagers to install safe, solar-powered seasonal electric fencing using a method pioneered by CCR (the Centre for Conservation Research) that CF/GBP have adapted for use in Myanmar. Most countries affected by HEC use

electric fencing to stop crop-raids, usually erecting permanent fences which block elephants year-round from customary feeding grounds and corridors. Working with CCR, the Smithsonian and Friends of Wildlife, the CF/GBP team implemented a pilot project in 2018-19 to find out whether seasonal electric fencing would work in Myanmar as well as in Sri Lanka. It did, so the government agreed to its adoption as a system of HEC mitigation nationwide using a rotational soft loan scheme (villagers being the principal co-funders) which ensures that the scheme can be sustainably implemented for years. This project is introducing the fencing method in the three central regions where HEC occurs, institutionalising it as a government programme that ensures sustainability and safeguards human and elephant lives and livelihoods, thus reducing retaliatory killings of elephants and the impoverishment of villagers.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The plan to create this project’s partnership with Grow Back for Prosperity (GBP) and Compass Films (CF) was first proposed by Elephant Family (now merged with British Asian Trust) in 2015 when its then Head of Conservation met the partners at the first Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan workshop and learned of the challenges faced in tackling the problems this project aims to address. This partnership was responsive and participatory from the outset and has remained so ever since, with full partner involvement at every stage of planning, evaluations, and report writing, including this report, although the 1-Feb-21 coup in Myanmar has made communication with GBP more difficult. However, working with EF/BAT and Klaus Reisinger (CF) and Aung Myo Chit (AMC), we created a data reporting system, which the GBP team completes after each field trip. This has been a major capacity-building undertaking in difficult conditions, due to the Covid pandemic and Coup in Myanmar, and is still a work in progress, but it does provide the data needed to monitor project progress.

Contact between the implementing partners and government agents at local, regional and higher levels was developed over the course of the last Darwin project and has been maintained and expanded for this one (primarily at a local level). Initially, members of the Forest Department (FD), its Wildlife Conservation Division (WCD), and representatives of the Ministries of Education (ME) and Religious Affairs & Culture (MRAC) attended the H.EL.P educational workshops to find out what GBP was up to, but quickly

recognised the workshops' value. Now conservation officials, teachers, school heads, monks and community leaders are significant aides to project planning and implementation and, importantly, to project continuity. Moreover, it is thanks to these relationships and the trust they engender that villages now report the appearance of strangers thought to be poaching, either to GBP or to local government representatives. This contact continued by telephone after the February 2021 Coup and continues still in remote target areas where it is risky for GBP to travel at present.

For the fence-training, the Elephant Emergency Response Units (EERU) of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise, which is part of the FD, became the main government implementing partner rather than FD officials. This is because the EERU is now responsible for addressing human-elephant conflict on behalf of the government, while district FD officials focus on illegal logging and forest encroachment. This EERU collaboration is proving beneficial as the head of the unit reports directly to the Minister. Friends of Wildlife and the University of Yangon, proposed collaborators, are currently unable to help because of political constraints.

One challenge faced by our in-country partner is the regular transfer of local government officials to new postings, which means forging new relationships with the replacements. This has been even more challenging following restrictions imposed by Covid and the Coup, but because good relations were already established with key individuals at local level (the coup mostly disrupted officials at higher levels), GBP has been able to continue the project, albeit in a modified way. In fact, the turnover of government personnel can be advantageous when supportive officials are promoted to key positions in the regional or national offices. In the past, this helped GBP promote the Human Elephant Peace (H.EL.P) programme at higher levels which, in turn, prompted a request to provide materials for permanent exhibits at the new Elephant Museum in Yangon and, in 2020, helped GBP acquire the coveted status of a National NGO.

We still don't know what personnel changes the political situation will cause longer-term, but partners continue to monitor the situation closely. Many officials were, and still are, part of the ousted regime and some have been removed from office. Initially, the Minister of Forestry was replaced by his permanent secretary who was highly supportive of H.El.P. activities and authorized the fencing and education activities. Currently, all agreements obtained before the coup remain valid and field permits are issued by local officials as/when needed, so those relationships are being effectively maintained.

3. Project progress

As a reminder, due to challenges relating to the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020, when the project was to start, and then the coup in Myanmar in February 2021, we requested a 1-year extension, splitting Yr2 into two years. We notified Darwin of the initial delay and requested a no-cost extension to project activities, making some slight adjustments to the logframe, which was approved by Darwin.

The project is making good progress in spite of the challenges wrought by covid and the coup. Anti-government protests in the project's northern target regions continue to constrain field activities. Internet connections were disrupted by the junta and are still limited and sporadic. Local implementing partner GBP's Project Leader Aung Myo Chit (AMC) caught Covid and was dangerously ill for a number of months. Nonetheless, the project team has continued to deliver the project activities, undertaking field trips to Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyarwady (areas 1,2,3 on map), although not to Magway, Mandalay or Rakhine (areas 5,5,7) where there is active resistance to the junta. By January 2022, the field teams could again visit Magway to undertake educational and fence training.

The source for all the figures cited in this report is the project database, which is kept and constantly updated by GBP's M&E manager and checked by AMC followed by Klaus Reisinger (KR) Project Manager for CF and Belinda Stewart-Cox (BSC), our Project Lead. Some information, sample worksheets and feedback forms are included in GBP's Evaluation Report (Annex 4). The database contains worksheets that are linked to numbered output activities. Other details were checked with AMC and KR via whatsapp in response to queries from BSC, the lead writer of this report.

3.3 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities of Output 1: Saving lives by improving awareness about elephants & HEC

Sets of education kits (n=10,000) were produced in Yr1 for distribution to schools and villagers, and another 10,000 were produced this year. The supply is monitored so that more can be ordered in good time. In Yr1, new GBP recruits were trained to help deliver education workshops and others were trained along with EERU staff at the start of the fence training programme.

HEC education workshops provided exclusively for school heads/teachers have not been possible this year as schools were shut down after the coup, either by the junta or because teachers refused to work for it. Instead, they join education sessions held in villages as members of the community.

HEC education workshops have not been possible in Mandalay/Sagaing, but from Jan 2022, they resumed in Magwe (or Magway) and continued in new areas of Ayeyarwady, Bago and Yangon regions. Education events of varying sizes were held in 61 villages, reaching a total of 9,910 community members. These included students (676), adult villagers (8,260), teachers (70), local MTE (787), FD (55), GAD (42), Forest Police (11) and monks (9).

Over 500 survey forms were filled in for the education survey to assess before and after changes in knowledge acquisition and attitude change. Analysis of this data will be done during the monsoon season, when field activities are less frequent and more time is available.

Elephant encounter/injury data from participant communities is being logged as/when it is collected. In June 2021, one person was killed by elephants in Phonemaungkyine, a new target village. No other human deaths were reported this year other than historic deaths which are building up the cumulative baseline.

The GBP team, with CF, has reviewed the content of the HEC educational kits and would like to produce more video material, similar to what CF has created for the H.EL.P programme in Sri Lanka, but it has not been possible to visit Myanmar to get footage.

Activities of Output 2: Protecting Livelihoods using seasonal electric fencing

Travel between Sri Lanka and Myanmar (activities 1 + 2) was not possible in Yr 1. With Darwin approval, the budget for these activities were re-allocated. The CCR seasonal electric fencing protocols were modified for Myanmar, initially involving all project leaders working in English, but in Yr2 the draft manual was translated into Burmese to be field-trialled during this year's fencing courses. It will be modified for clarity and the English draft will then be updated to reflect those changes (drafts in Annex 4).

Training on the installation, maintenance, monitoring and removal of seasonal electric fences has continued apace, but the original schedule had to be modified to comply with coup and covid restrictions (some target areas politically inaccessible, fewer numbers per course). Eighty-one villages in ten townships of three regions (Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Magwe) were visited once to learn about HEC there and assess whether fencing is required. HEC in 18 of those villages was considered serious enough to warrant fencing, so the GBP team returned 2-4 times to each site to train local fencers (five 3-4 day courses from 10-Oct-21 and 20-Mar-22) and then supervise fence installation. As well as local farmers, trainees included members of the local Elephant Emergency Rescue Unit (EERU) so they could help monitor the nearby fences thereafter. GBP had assumed only 30-40% of village trainees would qualify for certification, but the pass rate for trainees has been 100% on most courses. As a result, although only five courses were held this year, 60 people were certified.

GBP's fencing team, aided by trained members of the EERU have returned to every village at least once to monitor fence maintenance and monitoring. In new target areas, it proved difficult to conduct the pre-fencing surveys, which include information about income and attitude towards elephants because, in the currently political climate, villagers were worried the GBP team might be government spies. Once fence training was agreed and villagers got to know GBP during the preparatory process, they were happy to fill in the forms. Data has been logged and will be analysed during the less busy monsoon season. However, it is already clear that villagers are diligent at maintaining and monitoring their fences, perhaps because they have invested their own time and money in being trained and buying fencing materials.

Nine of the fences erected in the last year in the main target districts (Yangon and Ayeyarwady) are community fences; three were installed at the behest of Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) around captive elephant facilities (an orphanage, hospital and white elephant sanctuary) to keep captive elephants in and wild elephants out; five surround household clusters that are often damaged by elephants (ranging from 6-150 households and covering 20-80 acres); three surround community orchards of 4-100 acres. The other six are seasonal fences that protect the paddy fields of a few families (see maps in GBP's evaluation report: pg15-18). All six were taken down once the crop was harvested. While in place (3-4 months of the growing season), they were maintained and monitored by the trained fencers under the supervision of GBP and its EERU partners.

Activities of Output 3: Building Capacity

Because we have not been able to visit Myanmar for 2-years, we could not hold an inception/M&E workshop. Instead, an M&E system was developed online with AMC (GBP), KR (CF), BSC (BAT) and Keith Lindsey, the project's M&E advisor, and then shared for comment with the rest of the GBP team. We hope to visit Myanmar in Nov-Dec this year and will hold whatever M&E training session is thought useful by then.

Since April 2021, while travel hasn't been possible, the project leaders from GBP, CF and BAT have held numerous and frequent virtual meetings to discuss and monitor project progress. Because we have not yet been able to convene an M&E training workshop, most of these calls involved capacity building of one kind or another. While the Project Manager (AMC) was critically ill, they also covered his well-being (with his wife when he was too ill to speak) and ways he could be helped.

GBP is collating historical data on human HEC data and attitudes in target areas from village leaders. This is a constant process, as different villagers come forward to report past incidents. GBP asks people every time the team visits a village and may later get a phone call providing information, or will be given it on a subsequent visit.

Last year, Covid regulations forbade questionnaires, but this year 570 feedback forms have been completed by attendees at the HEC awareness events and the data is logged month by month. Analysis will be done once the new database has been fine-tuned.

Progress of the project in this area has been evident. Elephant sightings and encounters (harmful and harmless) are being recorded and reported by villagers themselves, as a result of the project activities. In Yr1, only seven reports of sightings/signs were reported, but now villagers are fully engaged and have adopted a more positive attitude. This is partly due to the relationship that has been built by the project team with the communities over the project period and because the electric fences are, so far, reducing crop-raiding quite markedly. The database records two kinds of sightings – elephants seen in the countryside around the village and those seen near the fences. Full analysis of this data nearer project end will tell us whether the fences deter elephants for longer than one season.

Fences installed by certified trainees are being monitored for their maintenance and for the impact they are having on elephants and thus HEC, but the system has changed slightly and GBP no longer erects fences purely for training. All fences are installed to be used by farmers or communities, or to protect vulnerable elephant facilities. This data is logged month by month and will be analysed by project end. Currently, it is clear that elephants are deterred by the fences even though some raiding still occurs, but they may yet learn that these fences are not dangerous and can be broken. Analysis of the data over three agricultural seasons will reveal the before and after impact of the fences.

Community fences are being monitored for effective installation, maintenance and impact. In Yangon division, fences are monitored by the local EERU teams. Elsewhere, this is done by villagers trained by GBP and recruited as associate team members, but GBP still supervises the work. Incidents/sightings of elephants are recorded and logged but will not be mapped until the data is sufficiently comprehensive. These maps will illustrate patterns of movement through or around the target areas as well as the impact of fences on elephants over time.

GBP's M&E team is logging data from Outputs 1+2 but this is delayed by the business of creating a spreadsheet and database to store the data, and checking the quality of it and of the data entries. It is time-consuming since discussions can only be held on whatsapp, at present with intermittent internet.

Activities of Output 4: Sharing Knowledge

Activities 4.1-4.3 have not been possible since the coup because people have stopped using government-monitored social media. It is also prudent for GBP to keep a low profile at national level. However, project findings/lessons learned are shared constantly with participant communities. Initial feedback is based on experience and observation, so any success or failure at one site is passed on to participants at other sites. Once data is analysed, that too will be shared. This is an iterative process of constant interaction with villagers and other project participants.

Two senior GBP staff (the education and fence programme leaders) explained the project to the local division officer of the Forest Department at his office in Magwe on 1 Nov 2021, and on 22 Mar 2022, and AMC briefed the Ayeyarwady division district manager U Kyaw Myo Htet and the district veterinarian Lin Lin Tun. At present, GBP is limiting its official contact to district level.

As AMC is now a member of IUCN's Asian Elephant Specialist Group, we hope he will be able to give a presentation at the next regional AsESG gathering scheduled for late 2022 and perhaps at other relevant gatherings, depending on permission to travel.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Saving lives - *Awareness about HEC is improved for at least 30,000 villagers in 180 villages in three regions and the rates of injury or death are reduced through the application of improved awareness.*

Delivery of this information-sharing activity was disrupted last year, first by covid, then by the coup, and continues to be influenced by coup restrictions. This year, despite the limitations, GBP managed to visit 61 villages to hold elephant/HEC education events, exceeding proposed targets. The number of villagers who participated in these events this year was 8,233 (3,949 men and 4,284 women), as well as another 876 men from the local government organisations that support the project (EERU/MTE, FD, GAD and monks), reaching a total of 9,109 people.

The number of villages reached in the 8-months of Yr1 was 34, so the total number of villages reached to date is 95. This is comfortably on track to reach the target number of 180. The field team is confident it can reach at least 85 more villages in the next two years. As it is now safe to access some HEC areas northern target areas, the project aims to extend into five of the regions originally planned (Bago, Ayeyarwady, Yangon, Magwe, Mandalay). At present, Rakhine state is still inaccessible.

As noted above, Covid restrictions prevented GBP from conducting feedback surveys. This year, they were able to, and the logged data will be analysed as soon as possible. Only one person was killed by an elephant in the target areas this year and, if the regularity of calls from villagers reporting elephant sightings is anything to go by, participants are engaging more actively in the project, which suggests a pervasive feeling of confidence, optimism, and well-being. We expect to achieve this output in its entirety.

Output 2: Protecting Livelihoods - *A seasonal system of crop protection is established in 10 villages in three regions wherein FD trainers, supported by GBP, train and certify villagers in the fencing method who then install at least 15 community-based seasonal electric fences, co-funded by GAD partner banks, which are maintained by villagers and allow elephants seasonal access to habitual areas.*

This output is well on track to achieve its aims. In Yr1 of the project, 138 villagers from seven villages were trained (three women) along with 17 supervisory officials from MTE, FD and GAD. Of the village trainees, 58 qualified for certification. This year, GBP surveyed 81 sites where villagers had asked for electric fences but, working with farmers, community leaders, local government representatives and other key personnel to review each area's HEC situation versus the cost of installing a fence, less than a quarter (n=15) of those surveyed were thought financially viable.

Five fencing courses were held in this project year with 60 participants from 21 villages – two in Ayeyarwady region (10-Oct-21 and 20-Mar-22) and three in Yangon region (20-Dec-21, 21-Jan-22, 20-Feb-22, 20-Mar-22). All 60 villagers qualified for certification (six of them women) and 15 solar-powered fences were installed in or near 9 villages (6 of them seasonal and 3 permanent).

Data is collected when elephants are seen near fields with/without fences, whether those elephants are deterred by the fences and associated guarding efforts, or whether they break the fence (so far, they are mostly deterred), as well as the value of any crops/property damaged or saved. To date, 192 sightings have been recorded, 127 of them at night, 12 during the day, and 45 were during the day and night. A new born elephant calf was found dead on 22-Mar-2022. Detailed analysis of this data at the end of Yr3 will reveal whether the fences have been effective over time or whether elephants learn to break them.

This year, AMC was able to import energizers from New Zealand (same price but better quality than Chinese ones) by setting up an independent trading company. The energizers – the most expensive component of all the fencing equipment - are sold to farmers at cost, so they can afford to finance their fences without seeking funds from government sources.

Output 3: Building Capacity - *The capacity of key partners to implement effective project monitoring and evaluation is strengthened.*

This output is certainly being achieved, though not quite as intended. The Covid pandemic and the coup meant we could not hold an M&E training workshop at project outset. However, the activity workplan was adapted to deliver against this output, with effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks established and implemented. This remote process is not as effective or efficient as face-to-face meetings and field trips, but the M&E protocols, including feedback surveys from the HEC education and fence training events as well as the data recording system, are proving effective. The spreadsheet that was first designed for storing data has been revised to make it easier and clearer to use, and has now been turned into an online database by the GBP team (led by the M&E manager) so that data, financial as well as field data, can be logged directly from any site that has internet. GBP and its project associates are rigorous in monitoring fence installations and maintenance, the incidents of HEC, and the collection of feedback data. They are also working to compile the historical baseline data needed to report against the project outcome. It is a cumulative process over the project lifetime.

Output 4: Sharing Knowledge - *skills and lessons learned in this project are shared locally, nationally, and internationally via print, broadcast and social media.*

Apart from sharing HEC awareness materials with villagers and project associates at every education event, this output has been significantly disrupted. After the coup, social media platforms are so closely monitored that most people, including GBP, think it wiser to stay offline. Instead, GBP keeps its website up to date with photos, activity reports and articles of interest. If/when the political situation improves, GBP will revive its social media presence.

In the meantime, information about the project, its progress and findings, is shared with all project participants, and with the local officials with whom GBP collaborates comfortably. In November 2021 and March 2022, presentations were given to local officials in Magwe and Ayeyarwady divisions.

3.4 Progress towards the project Outcome

Project Outcome: *In six regions of high biodiversity and human-elephant conflict, a programme of co-existence education plus skills training in seasonal electric fence management provides an effective model for nationwide application.*

In spite of the restrictions, this project is making good progress against three of its four outputs and, with the extension of the timeframe, we believe it will achieve all outcomes. The indicators to be reached by project end are the efficacy of the HEC education workshops and the seasonal electric fencing, so that human losses are reduced by 50% and crop losses by 70% at fenced sites.

Historical data on human/elephant deaths and HEC in the target areas needed as baseline for this indicator is being collected cumulatively as/when GBP engages new target areas. A final comparison will be possible at project end. Happily, empowering villagers by teaching them about elephants and how to

avoid conflict will, in itself, have a beneficial impact. Knowledge and confidence are key to human-elephant coexistence. The indicators agreed are adequate for measuring the intended outcome.

Even though the Covid situation in Myanmar is easing, the political crisis will likely define the operational context over the remaining project period (2 years 4 months), ensuring an element of uncertainty. The partners have adapted well so far, making notable progress despite the immense challenges of the last two years. We are confident that, with the extended timeline, this project will achieve its outcomes although it may do so in five rather than six regions, if Rakhine remains too risky to visit.

4. Monitoring Assumptions

Assumption 1: *Villagers confirm their interest in using the seasonal fencing crop-protection method to village leaders or the GBP team.*

Comment: This assumption is certainly holding true. Villagers are clearly keen to join this programme. Eighty-one communities requested fences but, after doing a cost-benefit analysis with GBP, only a quarter of those were financially viable.

Assumption 2: *Forest Dept. honours its promise to assign 12 staff (4/year) to become trainers in seasonal electric fencing and covers operational costs.*

Comment: This assumption is also holding true. The Forest Dept. has sent representatives to be trained as well as assigning the Elephant Emergency Response Unit (EERU) of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (which is responsible for elephants and HEC) to work with the project. Members of all EERU teams in target areas are now trained electric fencers and are helping to train villagers and monitor their fences.

Assumption 3: *GAD honours its promise to help villagers get private-sector loans for community-based crop-protection fences from Yr 2.*

Comment: We cannot know whether this assumption would hold true if villagers wanted to arrange loans via government because, since the coup, farmers who want to erect fences have opted to do so at their own expense. We have no reason to think GAD would not honour its promise unless it turns out that political and financial disruption of the coup means it cannot help.

Assumption 4: *It is possible to clearly establish a link between the level of HEC and project mitigation efforts. The HEC level will be determined through a 3-factor measure (crop/property damage/elephant deaths) and human deaths.*

Comment: This assumption is still valid although we may find there were/are fewer human deaths and injuries that we expected in the target areas. But comparative data on crop loss and property damage will be revealing. The HEC data already collected includes estimates of historical property damage and crop loss but current data on yields before and after erecting electric fences will be more accurate.

After last year's annual report, the Darwin reviewer suggested we could add two assumptions, one for covid and its possible impact on activities, and one for the military coup and its impact on outputs, particularly in terms of access to key government counterparts and GBP's ability to share knowledge widely through Myanmar. We have added the following:

For outputs 1, 2, 3, we have added:

Assumption 5: *Covid outbreaks do not stop GBP from carrying out an effective work programme.*

Comment: we expect this to hold true because, even in 2020-21 when covid at its worst, GBP was confined to Yangon for limited periods only and, by modifying its work programme, it has been able to keep going such that, now, it achieved most of the targets set.

For outputs 1 & 2 we have added:

Assumption 6: *The military coup does not prevent field activities throughout the target HEC areas or the involvement of key government staff at local level.*

Comment: To date the coup has not prevented field activities in all the target HEC areas and we do not expect it to do so, even if opposition continues to make remoter areas unsafe to visit. Nor has it stopped the MTE's EERU teams from participating in the project. Their involvement is key because the

EERU teams operate at local level and are welcome in villages even though MTE is part of the Forest Department and its director reports, as necessary, to government higher-ups to share project progress which means GBP does not have to. It is highly unlikely that outlying conflicts caused by the coup would stop GBP doing any fieldwork at all. It is not in anybody's interest for the country to seize up completely.

5. Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Intended impact: *Human-elephant co-existence is achieved in Myanmar by institutionalising an HEC mitigation programme that safeguards the lives and livelihoods of rural communities and elephants as well as their habitations nationwide.*

This project is having an impact on biodiversity conservation in the following ways:

- **HEC education:** these awareness-raising events use audience-educator interactions and audio-visual aids/games to share knowledge about elephants (behaviour, ecology, needs) and some of the anthropogenic causes of HEC. Education kits, comprising a DVD, info-game and booklet, are shared with households and feedback tells us that these are used repeatedly by individuals/groups. Past feedback also tells us that participants become more sympathetic, or at any rate less antagonistic, towards elephants. The beneficial impact of these workshops appears to be lasting as participant villagers continue to report suspicious poaching activity in their area (see below). Raised awareness about elephants and HEC is also motivating villagers to want to take on the extra cost in time and money of fencing their properties so this is a progressive evolution of interest, engagement and coexistence. We will know more once the feedback data of this year and next has been analysed.
- **Fence training:** Every village that requests an electric fence hosts an HEC education event before the GBP fence team works with farmers and community leaders to do a fencing cost-benefit analysis. If it becomes clear that an electric fence is financially worthwhile, fence trainees are given a manual that includes information about elephants (behaviour, ecology, needs) so that they are reminded when, why and which elephants are likely to raid crops. Because they understand elephants better, we expect these participants to become less antagonistic towards elephants, particularly if their crops are successfully protected. We will learn more once feedback data has been analysed. So far, no elephant has been killed by electrocution indicating that the certified farmers who have erected fences are doing so correctly, and no elephants were killed this year by other means in target areas.
- **Reduced poaching:** During the last Darwin project (2017-20), GBP received an increasing number of telephone calls from villagers who had attended an HEC education workshop reporting suspicious activity in or near their community which they thought might be poachers. GBP shared the report with the Forest Dept and urged villagers to report such incidents to them or, if they felt comfortable doing so, directly to FD. As a result of this growing 'neighbourhood watch' by project participants, no elephants were reported killed in target areas once an HEC education workshop had been held. Even during the covid crisis, villagers continued to call GBP when suspected poachers were seen in or near their village with the result that, in the last two years, although poaching has increased, no elephant has been reported killed in areas where GBP already has an established relationship whereas there are reports of poaching elephants in areas outside our project zone. This is encouraging as it suggests that the HEC education workshops do have a lasting impact in changing attitudes in favour of elephants. GBP is keeping a record of the telephone calls they receive and of the reports of poaching elsewhere.
- **Sharing knowledge more widely:** The project plan to produce film clips and videos for national TV broadcast, live streaming via social media and videos on demand has been halted by the coup, but we will implement these activities as soon as it is possible to do so.
- **Impact on human development and well-being (poverty alleviation):** Although it is too soon to judge, evidence so far suggests that this project is having a positive impact on human development and wellbeing. It is teaching farmers and other rural people how to install and manage solar-powered electric fences to protect their crops and, if need be, their houses and is thereby developing skills which are empowering. The fences do appear to be deterring elephants, and even after breaking a fence, elephants do not always enter a protected field because they are also guarded by farmers who make their presence known with shouting and other noise. So, as well as preventing

the diminution of livelihoods that crop losses represent, positive project impacts so far are boosting villagers' confidence which is itself an element of wellbeing. By project end, we will be able to calculate whether the fences have effectively reduced crop damage over time, bearing in mind the elephants often stop being afraid of deterrents, and how much income has been saved by the fences, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation.

6. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project directly supports the implementation of the CBD, in particular Myanmar's national implementation through the Myanmar National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This action plan links directly to the Aichi Targets, and lists Action 12.1.1 "Pilot and scale up conservation and research initiatives for priority species." By embedding it into the government system, the electric fence training is providing a mechanism to scale up an initiative that, over time, will reduce further fragmentation of elephant landscapes and through-routes while also averting conflicts between people and elephants.

Indirectly, this project is also contributing to CITES by educating villagers on the illegality of elephant poaching during the HEC education workshops and the fence training while also encouraging them to report poachers and elephant deaths. Elephants are being poached in Myanmar and their products are transported illegally across the border to China and elsewhere. In rural communities, villagers do not normally report poaching out of fear that they will be blamed. By building trust with communities, GBP acts as an intermediary between villagers and authorities, leading to more reporting of activities that contravene CITES, thus ensuring more effective enforcement. This had already started to happen under the previous Darwin project (24-024) and is continuing now, by telephone, in spite of covid and the coup.

AMC, the GBP director, did have regular contact with the CBD and CITES focal points (and their successors) on his trips to Naypyidaw, the administrative capital, but his visits have stopped since the Coup. Instead, contact is maintained by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise whose director is a strong supporter of this project.

7. Project support to poverty reduction

Outputs 1 and 2 are directly helping to reduce poverty. The HEC education workshops teach villagers how to stay safe in the vicinity of wild elephants so that no one in the family, particularly no 'bread-winner', is killed or injured so badly they cannot farm or generate their usual income. The fence training component is helping participant farmers protect their crops from elephants, and their houses and grain stores, all of which tend to be raided at night. Loss of crops to elephants represents a double loss; food and income. Most crops cultivated by farmers, particular the staple crop rice, is a family's food supply, and any surplus is sold to provide money.

By reducing the elephant's theft of crops, in the field and in storage, this project will have a notably beneficial impact on poverty reduction in target villages. Although most crops this year have not yet been harvested, it is clear electric fences are deterring elephants from the protected fields. In fields that have been harvested, they have reduced the amount of crop lost. At least one village (Sint Oo Gwe) has been able to harvest enough rice to feed the farmers' family for the first time in many years (see the photograph in GBP's evaluation report).

The project will also contribute to poverty reduction indirectly by raising awareness of the value of elephants to the ecosystem during the HEC educations workshops and the fence training courses. And by requiring up to 12 villagers/households to work together to manage and guard community electric fences, it may also be fostering more collaborative community management.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

The project management team has had several discussions on how to involve women as well as men in all areas of project work and to ensure, at the very least, that women do get the opportunity to engage with this project along with men. Every project partner has a gender equality policy in place and this is translating into project practice in two ways:

- **Local team members:** Under GBP's policy of gender equality, women and men can apply for all positions available under this and other projects i.e. the HEC education teams, the fencing teams, the M&E team and the communications role. To date, however, GBP has found it difficult to recruit women to its field teams, probably because the job entails travelling to remote areas, spending many days away from home living alongside male colleagues. Women did apply for the communications and M&E teams because they are office-based with only brief field visits to familiarise themselves with project activities, and the communications role is fulfilled by a woman. Now that the TV and social media work has dried up thanks to the coup, she spends her time updating GBP's website, posting stories and activities of note. GBP's local partners, including MTE and the Forest Dept, are aware of its gender equality policy and hopes that female representatives of those organisations will join its training teams, but it cannot insist. Government employees up-country tend to be men if the job involves travel away from the office.
- **Project participants:** The gender of participants at every HEC education event is recorded and there is always a notable number of women (usually over 50% if the workshop is held during the day). Of the 8,233 adult villagers who attended this year's HEC education events, 4,284 (52%) were women. Another 876 men, all from the local government organisations that support the project (EERU/MTE, FD, GAD, monks) also joined. As usual, most villagers who asked to join the electric fencing courses were men, but this year, six women (four from Yangon division and two from Ayeyarwady) became certified fencers (10% of trainees). Last year it was three. All figures are stored on the database.
- **Increasing the number of professionally qualified women fencers:** Next year, GBP aims to increase the number of certified female fencers by holding a women-only fencing course using the nine qualified women as trainers. If this succeeds, more women will be able to install and maintain fences around their homesteads during the agricultural off-season when crops are stored in houses. When elephants break into kitchens or granaries to steal foodstuffs, women and children are most at risk.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

With the help of Dr Keith Lindsay, the independent M&E specialist who evaluated EF's 2017-20 Darwin project (24-024), the project partners used the logframe to highlight data that was needed (as noted in the measurable indicators and means of verification) and then designed forms for the field teams and villagers to use for recording the data needed to assess this project's impacts. These forms are:

1. An HEC education feedback questionnaire to assess participant knowledge of and attitudes towards elephants as well as their corresponding empowerment and confidence before and after the workshop.
2. A form to profile farmers, their land, crops, income, experience of crop raiding, wild elephants and HEC, their attitude towards elephants, their financial and practical willingness or ability to help manage an electric fence.
3. A form for farmers to monitor their electric fence while it is in place, recording elephant sightings, elephant responses, whether the fence was touched or broken, and management actions.

Together we also designed a spreadsheet, which is now a database, into which the GBP team logs the data from these forms along with other data (e.g. number and gender of participants) so that it can then share that record with BAT/EF and CF at regular intervals for monitoring and reporting purposes. Because the master worksheet is unwieldy to review, the spreadsheet has separate worksheets for the activities associated with each output. This makes reviewing data more manageable and it ensures that the data we need for M&E is collected and recorded.

When GBP adds data to the master worksheet, the other worksheets are automatically updated with the information relevant to them. This system is a work in progress and is being improved as issues arise, but it has allowed us to collaborate remotely on this report, even though we were handicapped by the lack of reliable internet. It also helps the GBP team better understand the requirements of a good M&E process and the data needed to evaluate the impacts of project interventions. All this would have been addressed during an M&E training workshop at project outset, had we been able to have one, but our remote collaboration has also been an instructive process.

Apart from the adaptations required by covid and the coup, no other changes have been made to the M&E plan. The process described has been entirely collaborative which is remarkable given the constraints we are dealing with, not least the intermittent internet in Myanmar making it slower to communicate – hence the delay in producing this report. Other qualitative indicators of achievement include the fact that district and regional officials as well as villagers are continuing to support and/or work with GBP to implement this project as best they can. This, as much as anything, demonstrates the strength of the relationship GBP has established with its local partners.

10. Lessons learnt

- **Lesson 1:** Virtual meetings and exchanges are not a satisfactory substitute for meeting in person and going on field visits where project activities and M&E requirements can be revisited as/when queries or issues arise. The virtual collaboration made necessary by covid and the coup has only been possible, and effective, because key partners spent time together on previous project evaluation trips and have established strong and comfortable relationships. Without those, the last two years would have been much more difficult.
- **Lesson 2:** Although we were able to respond swiftly to the financial audit sprung on us by Darwin this year, it made us realise that we could improve the accounting system in Myanmar by incorporating it into the project database. Now all costs and associated receipts can be uploaded into the system by GBP staff from any site, provided there is internet. This saves a lot of time and makes year-end accounting easier. The lesson here is ‘develop an accounting system that is easy to keep up to date’.
- **Lesson 3:** In spite of the difficulties experienced over the last two years, GBP kept the project by adapting to the changing situation. However, this was possible thanks to the strong and effective relationships it had established with local and regional government officials and members of the target villages over the last 3-4 years. Without the trust and commitment that is a characteristic of those relationships, this project would have been in trouble. As it is, GBP has done remarkably well, not only in keeping the project going more-or-less as planned but also in meeting most of the target figures. The lesson here is ‘be sure to develop robust relationships with the local communities and up-country government representatives with whom you engage’.
- **Lesson 4:** Since the coup, GBP has steadfastly stayed out of politics by engaging at local level only, i.e. with community or township leaders rather than officials higher up. This paid off as the three main parties - democratic rebels, coup authorities and villagers – all see that GBP is neutral and continue to support the project. It was difficult to collect historic HEC data from new target areas because villagers feared that GBP might be spying, but once they got to know them, they cooperated fully.
- **Lesson 5:** The mindset of project implementors and project managers is different. Implementors work on the ground, in the field, face-to-face. They know if things are going well or not, and their reason are often qualitative. Project managers are one or two steps removed from this practical involvement and may not have first-hand experience of the project area or its equivalent. It can be hard, especially remotely, to explain the data needs of an M&E programme, including the need to evaluate the impact of the main project interventions which are not the same as the activities that help achieve those interventions. It takes time to understand each other’s perspective, especially when there are also language differences and communication is not face-to-face. It helps to have one or two people on the management team with relevant field experience to liaise between project administrators who understand procedures, and implementors, who understand field needs. Our team is nicely balanced which is a bonus.
- **Lesson 6:** BAT/EF’s M&E/reporting need for clarity, consistency and comprehensiveness is difficult for GBP to fulfil but this has been addressed by creating a database which is designed to match the logframe activity points. This reminds project partners what information is needed for each activity, output etc. However, it is a challenge to use this database effectively when there is limited internet, especially if there have not yet been any actual meetings to go through it.
- **Lesson 7:** log-frames need to be sufficiently detailed and comprehensive, but they also need to be simple enough to make data recording easy. When designing and filling the spreadsheet that has now

become a database, GBP and CF realised that some of the data from different activities and measurements overlap, meaning that some entries are either duplicates or redundant. The lesson here is 'keep log-frames clear and simple to streamline data recording'.

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

The Darwin Review sent after Yr1's annual report was shared with all project partners and was appreciated for its clear and sympathetic understanding of the constraints imposed on the project by the global pandemic and by the coup in Myanmar, as well as for the issues raised. There were seven:

- The project introduction appeared to suggest that the government would be a project co-funder, but this was a failure of clarity. The government sends local staff members of relevant departments to be trained, some of whom (e.g. EERU teams of MTE which is under the Forest Department) work with the project, helping to deliver HEC education and fence training, but the project is not paying the salaries of those employees so this is 'in kind' co-funding. The government, specifically FD and GAD, endorses the project's certification scheme which allows villagers to arrange official bank loans if they want to. However, Myanmar's banking sector has been so disrupted by the coup that it is currently unclear if any bank could loan money to villagers. In fact this does not matter as, since the coup, villagers do not want to engage with government in this way and are using their own resources to buy fence equipment, including energizers (the most expensive bit of kit) at cost price from the trading company set up by Aung Myo Chit to import them from New Zealand on the villagers' behalf.
- We expected to collect baseline data in the early part of the project but because of the disruption caused by covid and the coup, the need to streamline project activities so that the Yr2 budget will stretch over 24 months, and the wariness exhibited by new target communities if asked a lot of personal questions before they have learned to trust GBP, we are now collecting baseline data on a rolling basis. In our response to the Darwin reviewer, we suggested re-wording the baselines from TBC to 'cumulative baseline over project period'. This way we will be able to establish baseline figures at project end (July 2024) by which time we will also have analysed all the data and can compare before and after.
- In the last annual report, we failed to comment on how likely it is that our outputs, outcome and impact will be sustained. This has been addressed in the Sustainability and Legacy section below.
- We were asked to use the last half-year report to address any Yr1 indicators that had not been met. We explained that it is impossible, at present, to fulfil the social media sections of Output 4.
- We were asked to refer to annex documents in reports to increase the strength of evidence. We hope we have done this more efficiently in this report, referring to: GBP's evaluation report to project donors including sample pages of the project database; working drafts of the fencing manual in Burmese and English; and the project database that is maintained by GBP and shared piecemeal, when needed, with project partners via google drive when the internet allows.
- GBP adapted its workplan to accommodate the impacts of covid and the coup, delivering activities proposed in outputs 1-3 in four of the planned target regions where it is safe to go. In the coming year, GBP expects to return to Mandalay/Sagaing but not to Rakhine. Although the geographic scope of the activities is slightly reduced, other target figures have been met. There is no safe alternative to the only activities that have been significantly constrained by the coup - social media reporting - but followers of the project are keeping themselves informed via the GBP website, and as soon as the political situation improves, GBP will again post activities on social media and TV. It should be possible to share information via the Asian Elephant Specialist Group later this year if another meeting is convened as planned. Happily, the coup has not prevented GBP from implementing the main project activities - HEC education and fence training - or from helping Myanmar's elephants.
- It was suggested that we add two new assumptions covering covid and the coup. We have done so, and have noted this in the 'Monitoring Assumptions' section along with associated comments.

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

- Aung Myo Chit, the founding director of GBP, caught covid very badly in June 2021 and was extremely ill for many weeks. He is better now but it took months for him to recover fully.
- International travel to and from Myanmar is still suspended which is why it has been impossible for Klaus Reisinger to update the HEC education film footage and for BAT/EF members of the project team to join him and the GBP team for actual M&E visits to the project.
- It was difficult to prepare this report in an inclusive, participatory way because Myanmar's coup government is disrupting the internet, restricting it to 8-12 hours per day, often late at night, and limiting the band-width. This made it difficult to access the project database, so information had to be shared via intermittent calls on whatsapp.
- GBP's M&E Director, Kyaw San Oo, studied in Japan for his PhD. As a result, AMC has been asked by the Institute of Industrial Science of the University of Tokyo to discuss a possible collaboration to work on the H.EL.P fencing and education teams to establish an easy, useful system for NGOs like GBP, working in under-resourced countries, to process data. If this goes ahead, they would jointly write an academic article for publication on this topic.
- Political risk continues because of opposition to the coup, the bank sector is stumbling over transferring funds, the permissions required to travel out of the city are time-consuming, and there is a prevailing climate of uncertainty. GBP is the only conservation NGO still operating on a significant scale, largely because it is a national, not international.

13. Sustainability and legacy

Our stated exit strategy was as follows: *This project will reach a stable and sustainable end-point because key components will be embedded in the government system before project end. Forest Dept staff will be trained to implement HEC safety education training as well as seasonal electric fence training, thus allowing the department to take ownership of both processes. And GAD will institutionalise loans for villagers to buy the equipment necessary to erect temporary fences. This mainstreaming of HEC mitigation ensures long-term sustainability and a clear exit strategy. The practical safety steps imparted to villagers by the HEC education workshops will not be lost, once learned, because elephants pose a constant threat to them and their children. This safety-promoting knowledge is reinforced by discussions and information sharing within and between households and communities, as well as by villagers reviewing the educational kits + DVDs they are given. Similarly, training in seasonal electric fence installation, coupled with the means to buy the equipment needed, will soon become standard practice in areas shared with elephants. If fences are installed and managed properly, farmers will be able to keep their crops. Training manuals and videos on demand will be available post project. GBP staff will develop skills in communication and M&E; the challenge is retaining them in-house.*

As far as we can tell at present, this exit strategy and legacy is still valid and will continue to be valid so long as it is possible to implement project activities. Villagers and local government officials are as keen on this project as the GBP team and will, it seems, do what they can to help ensure that it keeps going whatever the conditions.

In response to last year's annual report, the Darwin reviewer noted that we had not commented on how likely it is that our outputs, outcome and impacts will be sustained such that they become a lasting project legacy. We have no doubt that the project outputs will be sustained because they all involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that, once learned, will not be unlearned because they are valuable enough to be practiced by all those who acquired them, whether to protect themselves, their livelihoods, or the efficacy of their work. So far, all the signs are that the outcome (nationwide application of the H.EL.P coexistence programme of HEC education and seasonal electric fencing) will also be sustained, partly because it is proving effective and is favoured by villagers, and partly because the government partner responsible for HEC mitigation (the EERU teams of MTE) is incorporating this training into their own work programme. For that reason, we expect this project to further the impact it is trying to achieve.

14. Darwin identity

Darwin's name and logo are already well known in Myanmar because they were so widely seen on thousands of project products (presentations, TV films, media reports, posters, booklets, DVDs, board games, t-shirts, notebooks, uniforms, publications) distributed at every level of engagement from local to national during our previous Darwin project. Many of these items are still out there, and are still being used. The same materials are being used in this project and are also distributed to village and project associates during project activities.

Because the coup created so much political tension in Myanmar, GBP has stopped visiting senior officials in regional capitals and in Naypyidaw, the national capital, but it does still give presentations to local officials in the target regions, all of whom know who the donors are as that is of interest to them.

- **Websites + newsletters:** BAT notes the support of Darwin and the UK Government online and in e-news sent to 16,000+ supporters worldwide. Darwin and UK Aid are also credited in EF's 'What We Do' on the website/social media (<https://elephant-family.org/our-work/conservation/human-wildlife-coexistence/on-the-fence-in-myanmar/>). The DI logo is also displayed on GBP's website and project vehicles. GBP has a dedicated H.EL.P Facebook page, the most common social media platform in Myanmar, although this is currently dormant. A part-time GBP staff member updates project activity reports in Burmese with the continuous presence of Darwin logos on all visual and textual publications. A link to Darwin UK is also provided on GBP's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Human-Elephant-Peace-769921153111397/>.
- **NGO & field team recognition:** As this project builds on previous GBP and Elephant Family work in Myanmar also supported by the Darwin Initiative, there is already clear recognition across the field teams of the Darwin Initiative and UK Government support. This continues to be emphasised at all outreach events and on project materials.
- **National recognition/awareness:** MONREC, the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation, the Forest Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) and Forest Police are all aware of Darwin UK funding for GBP.
- **T-Shirts & teaching materials:** The Darwin Initiative logo is highly visible on tens of thousands of educational materials (board games, information booklets, DVDs, notebooks, TV broadcasts) and banners used at education and training events as well as on vehicles, uniforms and t-shirts used by GBP field teams.

15. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Covid-19 restrictions in Myanmar, France and UK prevented us from holding planned partner meetings in Myanmar, both in Yr1 (inception/M&E training workshop) and in Yr2 (M&E review). Moreover, repeated lockdowns in Myanmar and armed opposition to the coup disrupted the field programme of GBP's education and fencing teams, either by stopping all travel, or by limiting the numbers of people that could join anyone meeting, or by putting some proposed target areas off limits. For this reason, we asked to stretch Yr2 activities over 24 months as that would allow us to make up for lost time and achieve our targets. In the meantime, the GBP team kept in touch with community leaders and various villagers to 'keep faith', encourage them to report elephant sightings and incidents, and remind them how to avoid conflict with elephants.

In 2021-22, the team adapted its programme so that both teams travelled together (a safety as well as a cost cutting measure) to deliver HEC education sessions in the same area as fence training courses, ensuring that fence trainees also learned about elephants and HEC. So, in spite of the constraints, GBP achieved almost double its target of HEC awareness recipients and certified fencers. International travel is now the greatest difficulty as foreign tourists are still banned, but we hope to visit on business visas later this year.

Project leader, U Aung Myo Chit, was extremely ill with covid in 2021 for several weeks but happily survived, although he has taken months to recover fully. As soon as vaccines became available, he and other staff members were double vaccinated – and now had at least one booster - and no other team

member has caught the virus. The GBP team followed all government covid measures including wearing masks, limiting the number of people, and spacing seats at every meeting, as well as being socially distant at other times, where appropriate. The severity of AMC’s illness was so alarming to everyone involved in the project that complacency was no one’s option.

As well as setting an example in every village it visits, GBP also explains the reasons for adopting its strict safety measures against covid. Otherwise, most villagers, especially in remote areas, would not think it necessary to be cautious. GBP’s field activities have thus acquired an additional dimension which is also educational and empowering.

Prompted by the pandemic, virtual staff meetings have become a daily occurrence for the GBP team, interacting with the CF and BAT/EF teams as needed. Because of the limited band-width in Myanmar, these exchanges are verbal, not visual. Video calls are impossible. This habit ensures regular exchange of information and feedback and will be continued, but it only works well enough because the front-line management team already know each other. Even then, it would be counter-productive to stop all actual visits because those of us who are not regular field-workers need exposure to the current situation and its changing realities in order to oversee project delivery and give useful advice. It is reassuring for GBP to know that the CF and BAT/EF partners really understand what they are dealing with.

If the situation remains the same, with no covid variants creating new problems, and no escalation in the current political climate, we will be fully on target by the end of the next project year and, provided we can manage the stretched budget effectively, may well exceed the proposed targets.

16. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year. If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

The coup created a safety issue for the GBP field team because military and police units targeted 20-25 year olds. As a result, the two team members GBP recruited in 2021 are older, former government officials, who always travel with younger members of the team to keep them safe. This collective commitment to the project and to the villagers and elephants they aim to help, in spite of the dangers entailed, is both admirable and humbling.

17. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2021/22 Grant (£)	2021/22 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	██████	██████	██	A small variance has resulted from work interruptions due to Covid and the Coup.
Consultancy costs	██	██	██	
Overhead Costs	██████	██████	██	
Travel and subsistence	██████	██████	██████	Planned project visit by UK and France teams were once again prevented due to Covid travel restrictions and because of the Coup

				in Myanmar. We will send a formal request to carry forward these funds to the next year.
Operating Costs	■	■	■	
Capital items (see below)	■	■	■	
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)	■	■	■	
TOTAL	■	■		

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

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

In spite of the constraints imposed by covid, the military coup and its armed opposition in Myanmar, plus the near fatal illness of its project leader, GBP adapted its way of working to stay safe, keep in touch with project participants by phone, develop a more effective data storage system and, once able to travel, engage new communities in politically uncontentious HEC areas. Thus, it reached three out of four of its output destinations via a modified route. The fourth destination – a visible presence on government-controlled TV and social media – would undermine the project at present. Equally notable is the fact that even when covid prevented all travel and poaching soared nationwide as impoverished citizens sought free food, project participants continued to protect elephants in their area and called GBP to report any poaching by non-locals. As a result, no elephants have been killed in the project's target areas in the last two years and only one person was killed by elephants.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	
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.	