Darwin Initiative Main: Final Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	28-026
Project title	Himalayan plants for people: sustainable trade for biodiversity and development
Country(ies)	Nepal
Lead Organisation	TRAFFIC
Project partner(s)	ANSAB, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), ProFound - Advisers in Development, University of Oxford, University of Copenhagen, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA), FairWild Foundation, China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Darwin Initiative grant value	£498,129
Start/end dates of project	1st July 2021 to 30th June 2024
Project Leader name	Anastasia Timoshyna
Project website/blog/social media	Himalayan Plants for People Project Website - TRAFFIC Story for International Women's Day March 8th 2024 The Jadibuti Declaration Matchmaking companies with ethical and sustainable wild-harvest producers in Nepal. ; World Wildlife Day 2023: partnering to support CITES for almost 50 years; World Health Day 2022: Celebrating the Himalayan plants supporting local livelihoods, health, and biodiversity ; ANSAB: HIMALAYAN PLANTS FOR PEOPLE: SUSTAINABLE TRADE FOR BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT; CITES and Livelihoods case-study Spotlight on wild harvesting: Sustainability pain points and potential for action Can wildlife trade ever be beneficial? A look at its positive side https://ansab.org.np/news/ansabs-experience-and-knowledge-featured-at-isdrs-conference-in-kathmandu/
Report author(s) and date	[redacted],

1 Project Summary

Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFOP	Community Forest Operation Plan
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CITES MA	CITES, Management Authority
CITES SA	CITES, Scientific Authority
DFO	Divisional Forest Office
DPR	Department of Plant Resources
EU	European Union
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal
FWS	FairWild Standards
FWF	FairWild Foundation
LRP	Local Resource Person
NDF	Non-detriment Finding
NEHHPA	Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
TCM	Traditional Chinese Medicine
ToT	Training of Trainers

Background

Nepal's alpine Himalayan forests and rangelands are exceptional biodiversity hotspots, home to keystone species including snow leopard. They are a source of >40 key NTFPs harvested and traded internationally, providing critical contributions to the incomes of rural poor. These NTFPs, and associated high-altitude landscapes, face multiple threats of overharvesting, fire and uncontrolled grazing. Overharvesting is driven by increasing and diversifying international trade: to India, increasingly to China for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and elsewhere. Strengthened sustainable harvesting practices are urgently needed. Challenges include inadequate information on sustainable harvest volumes, lack of simple procedures for high-altitude decentralised resource management, and an inadequate centralised approach to resource monitoring and trade regulation, leaving species vulnerable to excessive commercial harvesting and threatening rural household incomes and government revenues.

These challenges are particularly relevant for high-value non-timber forest products (NTFPs) with established trade-driven conservation concerns, including Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix-II listed/IUCN CR Jatamansi/Spikenard (*Nardostachys Jatamansi)*, Banlasun/Kakoli/Himalayan Fritillary (*Fritillaria cirrhosa*)[1], and Kutki (*Neopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora*). These species are among the top six most vulnerable commercial medicinal species traded in/from Nepal. Whenever market demand increases, risks of premature/over-harvesting grow. Local income potential is held back by low rates of value addition and a lack of direct access to international markets. It is also undercut by large-scale illegal export of lower quality, unmanaged products to India and increasing trade with China for TCM (including COVID-19 treatments). Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) lack simple and transparent guidelines for decentralised alpine NTFP management. Nepal lacks a framework to facilitate and support a transition to sustainable management of commercial medicinal plant species.

The five targeted project districts (population c.575,000) are in the remote mountains or adjacent to the furthest north-west Nepal-China border in Karnali (Humla, Jumla and Mugu) and Sudur Paschhim provinces (Darchula and Bajhang). Over half the population of Karnali and one third of Sudur Paschhim live below the poverty line. Despite efforts of government and development agencies, poverty is not declining as expected. These provinces rank lowest for development indices on per-capita income, life expectancy, and basic infrastructure (roads, schools, and banks/financial institutions). (Human Development report 2020, Economic Survey 2019/20 -MoF 2020). Figure 1. Map of the project area in Nepal shows

[1] Banlasun commonly refers to selectd allium species in grey literature. However, the project team inform us that this applies both to these *and* Himalayan fritillary as evidenced by Pyakurela, D et. Al (2018) *Patterns of change: The dynamics of medicinal plant trade in far-western Nepal*

the project districts and the Table 1 presents the name of the selected municipalities and number of CFUGs. The detail of the selected 37 CFUGs is presented in SD 1 Details of CFUGs.

Figure 1: Map of the project area in Nepal

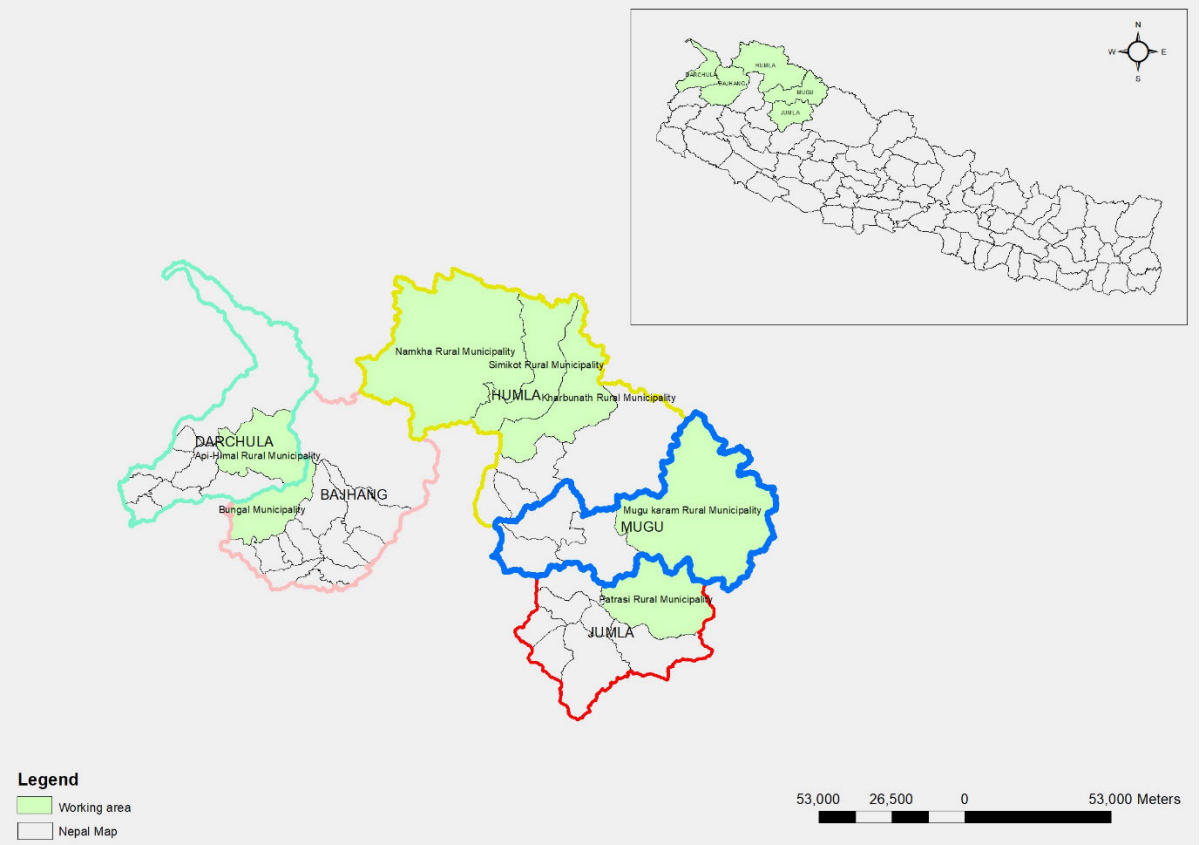

Table 1: List of project districts and municipalities

SN	Name of District	Name of Municipality	No of selected CFUGs
1	Jumla	Patarashi Rural Municipality	8
2	Mugu	Mugum Karmarong Rural Municipality	9
3	Humla	Namkha Rural Municipality, Simkot Rural Municipality, Kharpunath Rural Municipality	9
4	Bajhang	Bungal Municipality	6
5	Darchula	Api Himal Rural Municipality	5

In the project districts, 928 CFUGs manage 117,307 ha of forests and meadows, and represent over 80% of the total population; the project focus was with 37 CFUGs within 33,443 ha of forests and meadows including a local population of approximately 18,000 people. The combination of a lack of viable livelihood options beyond seasonal labour, out-migration, socio-economic constraint and limited infrastructure, creates a strong reliance on local biodiversity, particularly wild NTFPs from common-property forests and meadows. This is the only accessible and local source of livelihood for the most disadvantaged, including dalit, indigenous, and poor households, and key for economic development in the region. A previous Darwin Initiative project (completed in 2021) piloted combined market-based and regulatory approaches to improve conservation and livelihood outcomes for the Jatamansi trade. This identified key opportunities to scale-up to achieve long-lasting change; for example, the need for a national framework to tackle policy issues such as quota-setting for CITES-listed species, and to tailor Community Forestry guidance to Himalayan forests and meadows (currently all forests are treated equally). The current project has built on these opportunities, evolving the policy and practice environment for conservation and trade of NTFPs in Nepal.

2. Project Partnerships

The project has a strong partnership bringing together organizations with a range of expertise in conservation, botany, trade in wild resources, community and value-chain development, and market access. These organizations are located both in Nepal and outside (working globally), combining the necessary footing to deliver field-level activities, access international best practices, and disseminate project progress in policy, industry and research arenas. The project contract was issued to TRAFFIC International with sub-contract agreements arranged with the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB), TRAFFIC International, University of Copenhagen, and University of Oxford. A consultancy contract was set-up with ProFound - Advisers In Development. Collaboration was also ongoing with the FairWild Foundation. During the course of the project, the existing organisational partnership agreement between TRAFFIC and FairWild Foundation was revised, and a fourth phase of the agreement was finalised providing a framework for ongoing and future collaboration. The agreement reflects the institutional separation between TRAFFIC and FairWild. FairWild Foundation has now transitioned into a fully independent entity. Hence a project sub-contract agreement was arranged with FairWild Foundation for Years 3 and 4 of the project. During the course of the project, a range of staff provided project support. The initial project manager (Caitlin Schindler) left in February 2023 and a new project manager started in March 2023 (Cara Flowers). TRAFFIC's role has included coordinating financial and reporting elements, communications, and the monthly (virtual) project meetings along with more regular meetings prior to key events and activities. At monthly meetings, all partners contribute to monitoring and evaluating progress, as well as decision-making to achieve project outcomes. This has proved to be a useful forum for updating each other and highlighting any challenges or opportunities. ANSAB Nepal was the implementing partner, leading on the implementation of all activities within Nepal. It also engaged directly with the project partner Ministry of Forests and Environment. Three ANSAB project staff left during the project period. In 2023, two new enterprise facilitators based in Darchula and Humla were recruited. In 2023, a new Finance Manager was recruited based in Kathmandu. Within the Ministry, the Department of Plant Resources and Department of Forests and Soil Conservation have been supportive and engaged during the project. The Ministry of Forests and Environment was also an active project partner primarily involved in policy and development including the CITES and CBD focal point for Nepal. There have been changes to the government representatives during the project period. Private sector institutions such as Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA), Jadibuti Association of Nepal (JABAN), Herbal Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal (HEAN), have been involved in policy and trade related discussions organized by the project. The Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) both centrally and via local chaptes has been actively engaged and involved in delivery of project activities.

Business engagement and FairWild certification support was initially led by Emily King, a TRAFFIC staff member assigned to the FairWild Foundation Secretariat who worked on the project until December 2023. In-kind support was also given by other staff of the FairWild Foundation on technical matters, including the review of audit reports for high-risk species and liaising with Control Bodies regarding auditor training needs. Emily went on maternity leave at the end of 2023 with her role being replaced by a new FairWild staff member France Villeneuve. The University of Oxford and the University of Copenhagen remained committed and involved project partners through dedicated staff members. Project deliverables have been advanced and close engagement with the overall project delivery was on track. Within the ProFound team, a staff change occurred in 2022 with Stefano Miele replacing Jolanda van Haal. Subsequently Stefano Miele left Profound at the end of 2023. The focus of Profound's work was promoting the project and the products to international buyers at trade fairs such as In-Cosmetics, BIOFACH, and Natural Organics, as well as support to the preparation of the June 2023 Kathmandu workshop.

3. Project Achievements

The project has achieved the majority of outputs and indicator targets set.

3.1 Outputs

Output 1: Sustainable management of at least three species of high-value NTFPs.

The baseline condition for this output was a lack of data and outdated or non-existent resource inventories as well as minimal training for management of high value NTFPs particularly for communities whose livelihoods depend on them. There have been improvements against baseline for each indicator within this output. Most of the activities under Output 1 were completed by 2023. Some of the follow-up activities such as revision of and sign-off of operational plans continued into 2024.

Indicator 1.1 Resource inventories, focused on three principle target high-value/conservation priority NTFPs (and covering other associated species harvested in the area) are complete for five target districts (at least 30 CFUGs

community forests) with total area of approximately 25,000 ha, and distribution modelling approximates sustainable harvesting quantities per district in Nepal, by March 2023.

The baseline for this indicator was eight resource inventories prepared with CFUGs. A resource inventory was conducted for Jatamansi in the previous project. The project exceeded the indicator target. During this project, ANSAB has provided technical management support to 37 Community Forests and support to revise inventories where existing or create new NTFP inventories where there were none (SD_1) Target CFUGs were from all five project districts. This output indicator was achieved with resource inventories for at least five key species completed; Jatamansi (*Nardostachys jatamansi)*; Setochini (*Polygonatum spp*.); Kutki (N*eopicrorhiza scrophulariiflora;* Banlasun/Himalayan fritillary (*Fritillaria cirrhosa*); and Atis (*Delphinium himalayae*) within 29 CFUGs during the project period. For previously involved CFUGs these inventories were updated or reviewed during this project. Evidence is provided in the form of the resource inventory report for five key species (SD_2). The baseline area of coverage at project start was 17,297 ha. The current area of coverage represents 33,443 hectares of conservation land that has been supported to improve inventory, harvest estimations and sustainable management practices. The evidence for this is to be found in resource inventory reports for the target districts. A key assumption was that existing resource inventories for eight CFUGs in Jumla and Mugu districts would provide replicable methodology. This assumption held to be true.

Indicator 1.2 Sustainable management, including community monitoring, of three target NTFPs (and other associated harvested species), is integrated into 30 CFUGs operational management plans in five target districts, recognised and approved by Divisional Forest Offices and CFUGs by June 2023.

The baseline for this was the sustainable management and community monitoring of one target NTFP – Jatamansi and eight updated Community Forest management plans from the prior project period. This project has focused on three key species but achieved sustainable management of at least five - Jatamansi, Kutki, Banlasun, Atis and Setochini - plus more depending on which are harvested by CFUGS thus exceeding the target. For example, many communities also harvest Yarshagumba (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*) and Soapnut (*Sapindus mukorossi)*. Commonly harvested and traded species can be found in SD_3. The evidence for attainment of this indicator is found in the 29 updated CFUG operational management plans completed during this project period. At the start of the project each target CFUG had a Community Forest management plan. However, their validity periods had expired and plans did not include details of NTFP stocks or annual allowable harvests; the updated CFUGs management plans now provide templates that can be replicated. To achieve these results, situation analyses were undertaken to review the status of resource governance in target areas and forest management plans were analysed against FairWild and Organic standards. The identified gaps in the CFUG operations of each district were compiled and shared with district stakeholders during the sharing and validation workshops in each of the project districts, seeking stakeholder opinions and their contributions (SD_4). While there was strong stakeholder engagement the project encountered staff changes within DFOs and thus delays with endorsement of new CFUG management plans and resource inventories. At present 21 plans have been approved and 8 await approval from DFOs. An example management plan can be found in SD_5.

Indicator 1.3 Training programme in NTFPs sustainable harvesting, resource management and monitoring approaches rolled-out to 5,000 harvesters in 30 CFUGs by December 2023.

This indicator was combined with indicator 2.1 as these activities were implemented in tandem. The baseline for training figure was zero members of CFUGs. This target was therefore exceeded with training being provided to a total of 5,520 harvesters. Harvesters in 37 CFUGs were reached as evidenced by training participants' lists and pre-and post-training knowledge evaluations through the endline survey which showed that 75% of participants had improved knowledge after training (SD_6). It was hypothesised that existing skills, understanding and culture for sustainable resource management would be strengthened through the community forestry model helping communities maintain harvests at sustainable levels. Training was provided by 65 LRPs of whom 10 were women and 55 men. Manuals were prepared such as the manual on account and record keeping SD_7.

Indicator 1.4 The sustainability (time, methods, quantity) of three target NTFPs harvesting has improved, compared to 2021 baselines, in target areas by June 2024.

The initial baseline was for Jatamansi. This indicator has been met. The endline project report states that the project has had a positive impact on reducing early and premature harvesting of plant species, in particular Jatamansi, Kutki and Banlasun/Himalayan fritillary through various awareness raising and training programs. This is evidenced by focus group discussions. DFO and CFUG monitoring reports show a change in harvesting practices which have been observed by ANSAB field staff and the independent evaluator. The project baseline study showed that the main harvesting tools used for NTFP harvesting were hoes, sickles, and shovels of different sizes while during the endline evaluation participants stated they are using small tools that cause minimal disturbance to the habitat. The endline study showed that participants consulted

had a solid understanding of sustainable harvesting practices which the evaluator attributed to awareness campaigns and sustainable harvesting initiatives conducted by ANSAB (SD_6). Participants expressed that they had changed their harvesting practices due to training. Traditional practices of early harvesting may still occur in some areas. This change is reflected in the final project video SD_8. For areas involved in FairWild certification of Jatamansi and Kutki, there are audit reports available which include review of harvesting management (SD_9). During the project period, FairWild certification was achieved for two species sourced from CFUGs in Jumla, providing independent verification that sustainable harvesting was taking place.

Output 2. At least 5,000 harvesters and their communities in five target districts have clear benefits from long-term sustainable, equitable, traceable trade in NTFPs

This output was achieved and exceeded with 5,520 harvesters and community members across the five target districts undertaking training, contributing to the development of harvesting systems and creating community benefit sharing mechanisms. There are indications of improvements to incomes, harvesting practice and improved management as a result. Incomes are discussed in the outcome section and contribution to multi-dimensional poverty reduction sections (SD_6).

Indicator 2.1 5,000 CFUG harvesters and processing workers, (at least 40% women) from at least 20 producer enterprises, are trained in FairWild and organic standards and certification, by December 2023.

The baseline for this indicator was zero CFUG harvesters and processing workers and zero producer enterprises. This indicator was achieved. During the project, 65 LRPs were trained (10 women, 55 men). Participatory resources mapping training was also given to 413 CFUG executives and harvesters during the course of the project to assist in defining harvest areas with community members – a key activity required for certification processes (312 men, 101 women). A participatory resource mapping guide was developed with the Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (SD_10). 76 harvesters participated in a sharing workshop on the gaps on CFOP in relation to FW and organic standards. LRPs then rolled out training in their localities. As a result, 5,520 harvesters and processing workers have been trained in FairWild and organic standards to enable them to successfully develop and pilot FairWild practices within 37 CFUGs. Of the total, 41% were female participants. During the project period, training was provided to HBTL and 10 producer companies on the FairWild standard and management plan to enable sustainable and resilient harvesting processes, with a new training on the revised management plan template, harvesting protocol and revised FairWild standard (version 3.0) given in 2024. An example of the harvesting protocol is in SD_11. 20 producer enterprises participated in a variety of different events and training including on FairWild and organic standards and certification. Enterprises who participated are listed in SD_12.

Indicator 2.2 Target CFUGs and harvesters' registration system updated to provide a basis for transparent trade and cost-calculation, to include harvesters' details, harvesting/sale quantities and locations, prices, trainings/ capacity-building, disaggregated by gender, by June 2022.

The Harvester registration systems were updated and now include harvest amounts, cost-calculations and harvester details along with location and price. This is evidenced by harvester registration participant lists. This activity was completed by December 2023 as evidenced by participant lists (SD_13) and technical reports from ANSAB. The project updated the harvester registration system for 37 CFUGs to ensure transparency in record keeping and facilitate traceability for trade. This approach was new to the community forests in Nepal. As stated in the endline report, in Jumla the harvester registration system now provides comprehensive information including gender, age, days spent harvesting, quantity harvested by species SD_14.

Indicator 2.3 Fair trading and benefit sharing protocol developed and piloted with NTFP harvesters' and workers' sub-committees in one CFUG by June 2022, and subsequently rolled-out to all target groups, by June 2023.

FairWild premium fund operational guidelines were developed and established in all five districts. HBTL allocated 5% as per premium fund guidelines to harvesters of Baghjale and Lamteli CFUGs as a result of the trade of 700 kg of Kutki rhizomes (dried) and 18kg of Jatamansi oil. Samples of Jatamansi were also sent and approved by the buyer for France, Germany and Belgium but due to EU import restrictions trade was not possible. Sub-groups (sub-committees) of NTFP harvesters and processing workers were also established in 37 CFUGs and their training included guidance on establishment and management of the premium fund as well as fair trading requirements and negotiation skills. The FairWild premium fund operational guideline (SD_15) was piloted in two CFUGs in Jumla district prior to roll-out. Sub-committee reports and policies demonstrate this.

Output 3. Sustainable supply chains are in place, led by producers/exporters in Nepal, and 'matched' to manufacturers in consumer markets, based on sustainable production systems following FairWild Standard

This output was generally met, with the exception of the target in indicator 3.4. Nonetheless, CFUGs have greater ability and skills to negotiate improved trade conditions and increased awareness of prices that their products can obtain. As stated in the log frame assumptions, steps to certify for traceability for species other than Jatamansi and Kutki was not possible within the project timeframe. However, as positive development, HBTL is planning to certify three additional ingredients in 2024/25. The project also seen cost-sharing towards the certification with company, which is positive for the sustainability of action. There is confirmed interest from buyers in Himalayan products (SD_16). This is evidenced by interest from a European buyer for purchase of FairWild certified Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*). Certification will be undertaken in October 2024 with selected source CFUGs after this project completion date.

Indicator 3.1 Supply chains for at least three NTFPs from Nepal to consumer markets are identified and documented by June 2022.

The baseline for this indicator was analysis of Jatamansi supply chains from the preceding project. This indicator was met with five species supply chains identified and documented for market analyses and value chain mapping by ProFound between 2021 and 2022. These examined the following priority species Kutki, Himalayan Fritillary/Banlasun, Jatamansi, Atis and Setochini. Markets for these species were investigated and found to be primarily in the US, Europe, China and India. Full findings of the exercise can be seen in SD_17.

Indicator 3.2 Traceability system for essential oils and other plant-based products is developed, based on FairWild Standard, and implemented by June 2023.

The baseline for the traceability system was for Jatamansi oil. This indicator was met with a two-pronged approach that focussed on continuing certification and at the same time strengthening CFUG capacity to provide the documentation and processes that traceability of ingredients requires. Himalayan Bio-trade Limited (HBTL) was a subject of a third party FairWild certification audit in three CFUGs of Jumla namely Baghjale, Lamteli and Bhaleni CFUGs in 2022. As a result, HBTL became FairWild certified for Jatamansi oil and Kutki. A remote audit was conducted in 2024 to re-certify these products, focused on the Baghjale and Lamteli CFUGs only. There are some clarifications outstanding which require attention but certification is expected to be approved at the end of July 2024. HBTL plans to certify for Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia*) in Humla, Dhatelo (*Prinsepia utilis*) in Jumla and Timur Pepper (*Zanthoxylum armatum*) in Bajhang in 2024 after project close because of buyer interest, thus expanding work with the existing certified CFUGs in Jumla, and adding two new collection sites and supplier relationships. Two additional companies have confirmed commitment to FairWild certification. These are Annapurna Aroma and Satya Herbs. Natural Resource Industries Pvt. Ltd also expressed an interest in certification. These companies are at the early stages of interest and need to fill in FairWild assessment documentation to progress. This work highlighted traceability areas to improve. Traceability systems were developed, based on the FairWild standard at CFUG level. CFUGs, local processing enterprises and producer companies were oriented using a manual which translated guidelines on traceability, social responsibility and fairtrade and FairWild combining them with key guidance on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures (SD_18) and account and record keeping (SD_7) in the Nepali language. 2,551 harvesters and processers of which 1469 were men and 1082 women from 37 CFUGS were trained on traceability according to the FairWild standard as part of the training of trainers roll-out programme. The FairWild standard revision in 2023 offered an opportunity to garner feedback on traceability for those certifying to FairWild standard. Market access tools were developed by Profound in years 1 and 2 and distributed to 14 producer companies by ANSAB to support business development. A positive response to the tools was received by the producers who received these tools (SD_19)

Indicator 3.3 At least one industry meeting, involving consumer markets' buyers, Nepalese producers and herbal products associations lead to buy-in and the development of trade agreements in line with sustainability requirements, by June 2024.

The baseline for this indicator that no recent market access meetings has been held for NTFPs in Nepal. This indicator was met as a Market Access Industry Workshop was held in Kathmandu between the 8-9 June 2023. Potential commercial partners from Europe, North America, China, Bhutan and India were invited to the buyer-producer matchmaking event held which connected buyers with producers. This aimed to give buyers an understanding of the harvesting and processing realities for local communities that undertake this work and the processors involved 'on the ground'. It involved a field visit to producer operations and a distilling operation for CFUG products. It also provided an opportunity for Nepali processors and suppliers to interact with buyers with specific ethical and/or product demands. This also presented an opportunity to encourage investment in in-country value addition such as drying facilities and distillation. A species ingredients brochure was prepared for this event (SD_3) along with a workshop flyer to promote it (SD_20) as well as a buyer profile to help refine the list of buyer invitees SD_21 and SD_22. Meetings were also facilitated with Nepalese producers and potential buyers. In 2022, ANSAB supported Nepali producers by organising a "Pre- BioFach meeting". Representatives from HBTL, Annapurna Aroma and NEHHPA/Alternative Herbal Products (AHP) participated. ANSAB

signed an MoU with NEHHPA prior to the Market Access workshop to secure their participation and active engagement. ANSAB also supported Annapurna Aroma to prepare presentation slides of industry to present in International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades (IFEAT) 2022 conference, Vancouver, Canada. FairWild and TRAFFIC staff participated in the BioFach organic trade fair in Germany in 2024, 2023 and 2022. One-to-one industry engagement at trade fairs led to a trade connection being brokered between FairWild-certified company HBTL and a potential new buyer in 2024. Two additional species will be added to HBTL's FairWild certificate as a result. A round of outreach to potential US buyers identified a herbal product company interested in purchasing FairWild-certified Jatamansi. The company requested support on understanding CITES permitting processes and facilitation of contact with HBTL.

3.4 Trading agreements between at least 15 CFUGs and companies (identified in Output 3 activities) established, including the clear indication of the price premiums, by June 2024.

The baseline for this indicator was no formal trading agreements. Trading agreements were established between two CFUGs in Jumla district for Jatamansi and Kutki with a third included in certification assessments but not used for sourcing of product. This is lower than anticipated. However, CFUGs have continued to trade non-certified products and there are indications of increased prices being achieved. The project team discovered that it can be challenging to obtain written evidence of trading agreements as these may be undertaken under verbal agreement. The log frame assumptions stated that markets for NTFPs would continue to grow and increasingly would look for the evidence of product origin and environmental and social impacts of production. This was viewed to be a concern for European and US markets that have established requirements for sustainability, and increasingly for markets in China and India which are key destinations for many Nepalese NTFPs. Despite this assumption holding, some barriers accessing the market remain for species targeted by the project. Jatamansi is still forbidden from being imported into Europe. Outreach to US buyers has revealed that companies remain cautious about purchasing CITES-listed species. In addition, it is important to have potential buyers that request the high social and environmental standards that FairWild requests.

3.5 Traceability pilot, linked to the FairWild certification implementation in close relation with the buyers and retailers, showcases the environmental, social and economic benefits of eco-friendly plant-based products, by June 2024.

Prior to the project, there were no clear links for traceability and transparency linking businesses with CFUGs through internationally recognised certification mechanisms for wild plant harvesting. The project has investigated whether the CFUG system could guarantee the necessary controls that traceability requirements for certification require. The adoption of FairWild by Himalayan Bio-trade Limited (HBTL) represented a traceability pilot through testing out how effectively CFUGs could be brought into certification processes and engaged in long-term supply relationships. The pilot involving three CFUGs in Baghjale, Lamteli and Bhaleni within Jumla district has been successful in that systems have been put in place and trade of Kutki and Jatamansi facilitated through two of these CFUGs. CFUGs can collect the required documentation and develop sufficient management systems and now maintain sufficient traceability processes for certification. In future it will be important to find new buyers and markets for CFUG products where the highest sale price for ethical and sustainable products can be achieved. As FairWild continues to expand its impact, ongoing plans include enhancing market access through strategic partnerships with ethical brands, traders, certification bodies, and other key stakeholders.

Output 4. Policies, legislation and strategies at federal, provincial and local levels incentivise and enable a long-term shift towards sustainable use and trade in NTFPs in Nepal

The project has successfully engaged policy makers both globally, regionally and nationally in support of sustainable use and trade of NTFPs. This is evidenced by the strong and consistent support for this project from Nepali government stakeholders including the Ministry for Forests and Environment and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies. They have attended key meetings, provided feedback and met with delegates from the NTFP industry from China (SD_22). These meetings have led to the Nepali and Chinese government agreeing key NTFP products for export and import.

Indicator 4.1 By December 2022, Nepalese NTFPs that are in high use/trade demand, are evaluated against the designed systematic framework which considers sustainability of, and risks from, commercial harvest to assess the long-term suitability for international trade.

The baseline for this indicator was no systematic framework considering sustainability of trade in Nepalese NTFPs. This indicator was met. The University of Oxford has finalised the systematic framework structure and started to add in expert conditional probability estimates to the Bayesian network model. This was presented at a conference, and probabilities have been obtained from trader groups and harvesters in Nepal, with the support of a researcher in Nepal. This work was presented at the International Conference on Revitalising Community Forestry in the era of socio-environmental crisis - Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security from Agroforestry and Community Forestry in Nepal which was held in March 2024 (SD_23). A project member from the University of Copenhagen and project associate from ANSAB presented on the

project and issues of sustainability in NTFP harvesting as well (SD_24, SD_25). An academic article was co-written by project partners and published in a peer reviewed journal on the topic of sustainability of Jatamansi (SD_26). Another paper on the theme of a generalised approach to sustainable medicinal plant management in the Himalayas has been developed and is expected to be finalised in August 2024. This research informed discussions with government ministries and local DFOs to build sustainability into natural resource management policy and practice.

Indicator 4.2 By June 2024, practical policy guidance on including NTFPs harvesting and management (including monitoring responsibilities and practices) in CFUG management plans and a model for decentralized alpine natural resources management, based on best practices, is disseminated by FECOFUN to CFUGs across Nepal.

ANSAB carried out an assessment of different policies related to NTFPs and the Forestry sector of Nepal, with a particular focus on the Community Forest Development Program Guidelines. This assessment led to the formulation of policy recommendations aimed at creating a comprehensive and practical guideline that covers all relevant aspects, including sustainable NTFP harvesting and management practices. Based on this assessment and previous gap analysis of the CFOPs in all five districts, ANSAB revised and developed the CFOPs. These plans prioritise the inclusion of provisions for scientific resource inventories, sustainable NTFP harvesting methods, and practices, while addressing the mean growing stock and Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH). The amended CFOPs incorporate provisions related to FairWild and Organic certification standards. ANSAB & FECOFUN jointly organized knowledge sharing workshops at Provincial, District and Municipality levels including outside the project area to increase national impact. 78 individuals of whom 51 were men and 27 women attended. Participants learnt about the model management plans and shared learning which included guidance on sustainable harvesting of NTFPs. The findings from gap analyses and management plan templates were shared both in the project area and outside of it to expand impact. ANSAB received positive feedback on their work giving a presentation at the ISDRS conference in Kathmandu in 2024 (SD_27).

Indicator 4.3 By June 2023, stakeholder consultations review the findings of the assessment and agree the ways forward and recommendations for policy-makers, industry (Nepalese and international), and CFUGs.

In August 2023, the Jadibuti declaration was developed with participation from government, NGO and industry stakeholders at an event held in Kathmandu *Building a roadmap for sustainable management of commercial medicinal plants in Nepal* (SD_28). The University of Copenhagen, ANSAB and TRAFFIC finalised a sustainability roadmap which informed the Jadibuti declaration. It is comprised of 5 elements: 1. Increase cultivation, 2. Strengthen local management, 3. Support domestic businesses, 4. Improve sector governance and 5. Increase international collaboration. This framework was presented at the International Conference on R*evitalising Community Forestry in the era of socio-environmental crisis - Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Security from Agroforestry and Community Forestry in Nepal* in March 2024 (SD24).

Indicator 4.4 Sustainability considerations based on 4.1, and piloting experiences, are embedded in at least one Nepal trade policy or agreement concerning NTFPs (e.g. supporting Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) traditional medicine agreements), by June 2024

This indicator was met in regard to conservation policy. While there is no formal integration of guidance produced, relationships have now been built to influence further in the future. The development of the Jadibuti declaration opens the door for further work in this domain with Nepali government counterparts. The project provided technical inputs to DPR through supporting development of the Jatamansi Conservation Action Plan (SD_29). This received substantial technical input from the ANSAB team. One notable addition to the document is a new strategy related to Fair, Responsible, and Ethical Trade. ANSAB suggested incorporating provisions for sustainable harvesting methods and management practices for Jatamansi in the documents. In June 2023, the Director General of the Department of Plant Resources (DPR) invited ANSAB to offer feedback and assistance on three critical agendas: (i) NTFPs Inventory Method (Nepali to English Translation); (ii) Technical Support for the National Development Framework (NDF) of Jatamansi-2024 in Nepal, and (iii) Support for the Preparation of the Jatamansi Conservation Action Plan. As an outcome of this collaborative effort, ANSAB has completed the translation of the Nepali NTFP inventory guideline into English and returned it to the DPR. The DPR is currently finalizing this translated document (SD_30).

Indicator 4.5 Nepal CITES Authorities develop NDFs following existing good practice guidance, based on up-to-date information (including resource management data, traditional CFUG knowledge, and distribution modelling) leading to Jatamansi removal from the CITES Review of Significant Trade process, and no additional CITES App-II listed species included in RST or the EU 'negative opinion'

ANSAB has provided technical support for the preparation of the Jatamansi NDF 2024 for Nepal. In 2022, ANSAB organised a review workshop on *Policy opportunities and challenges in relation to sustainable harvesting and trade of CITES listed species* with the DPR to provide a forum to raise and address issues relating to CITES trade in NTFPs (SD_31). In 2023, Nepal CITES authority responded to EU questions on NDFs for Jatamansi. The negative opinion of the EU Scientific Review

Group (SRG) still stands but work is underway to enable trade of Jatamansi with EU countries, and project enabled contributions into the dialogue. The seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee, Panama City (Panama), on 13 November 2022 recommended removing Jatamansi from the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process as Nepal had complied with all recommendations (SD_32). The CITES plants committee meeting in July 2024 provided an opportunity for TRAFFIC to garner further information on the barrier to allowing trade of Jatamansi. TRAFFIC has produced a variety of different materials to demonstrate the importance of NTFPs in Nepal in support of CITES and sustainable trade such as SD_33.

3.2 Outcome

The project outcome was that ***High-value/conservation priority NTFPs in five districts of Nepal's Himalayas are effectively conserved through sustainable management and traceable, equitable trade, based on clear legal frameworks and sustainable use and trade approaches***.

The project outcome was met to a high degree, as demonstrated by the indicators and discussed in below. High value and conservation priority NTFPs in five districts of Nepal (Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Bajhang and Darchula) have been effectively conserved. Key indicators for this outcome were as follows:

0.1 At least three species of high-value NTFPs (Jatamansi, Kutki and Himalayan Fritillary) in five priority production districts of Nepal's Himalayas are sustainably managed (i.e. in line with the updated CFUGs operational management plans), by June 2024.

At least three priority species have been included in CFUG plans – these were Jatamansi, Kutki and Banlasun. However, dependent on those identified during participatory resource mapping more will be covered in management plan guidance. 5,520 harvesters, processing staff and CFUG members were trained, 41% of these were women. 29 CFUG operational management plans have been updated and majority approved by District Forestry Offices by the project end, remaining in progress.

0.2 At least 5,000 (at least 40% women) harvesters, processing staff and the CFUGs they are part of, benefit from at least 5% increase in income from the sustainable trade in target NTFPs, by June 2024. There is evidence from the focus group discussions for the project endline survey that there was an increase in income from NTFP harvest, of above 5%. For example, in Darchula an increase in income of 74% over figures in the baseline report over two years for Jatamansi harvest. This is discussed further in the contribution to multi-dimensional poverty section (SD_6).

0.3 A traceability pilot for Nepalese high-value NTFPs, driven by the market interest is complete, with final FairWild-certified products on sale at a consumer market, by June 2024. 0.3 Companies' reports, images of products on sale, traceability pilot documented

The project assessed the feasibility of implementing a traceability system. Systems were developed, based upon the FairWild standard at CFUG level. CFUGs, local processing enterprises and producer companies were oriented using a manual which translated guidelines on traceability. 37 CFUGS were trained on traceability according to the FairWild standard. The FairWild standard was used by HBTL to certify for Jatamansi and Kutki creating a traceability pilot proof of concept with HBTL sourcing from local CFUGs (SD_34, SD_35). During the project period, 700 kg of Kutki rhizomes and 18kg of Jatamansi oil were traded to Switzerland and the USA. Samples of Jatamansi were also sent and approved by buyers for France, Germany and Belgium but were unable to be traded so far, given the EU SRG conclusions. While FairWild labelling of finished products in consumer markets was not achieved during the project period, the achievement of FairWild certification and initiation of trade in certified ingredients represents a major advance, and engagement with potential buyers (including existing FairWild licensees) in US and Europe is promising for the future.

0.4 Nepal's government policies, sectoral multi-stakeholder strategies, trade agreements explicitly include provisions for sustainable trade in CITES Appendix-II and other NTFPs of commercial importance by June 2024.

As demonstrated in output 4, the project has successfully engaged policy makers both globally, regionally and nationally in support of sustainable use and trade of NTFPs. This is evidenced by the strong and consistent support for this project from Nepali government stakeholders including the Ministry for Forests and Environment and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies. They have attended key meetings, provided feedback and met with delegates from the NTFP industry from China. Support for the Jadibuti declaration by representatives for relevant Nepali ministries further demonstrates commitment to ensuring sustainability and ethical trading of NTFPs in the future. In 2024, there are plans for further engagement with relevant government authorities and EU representatives to facilitate trade in CITES Appendix-II species and other NTFPs of commercial important. The new EU Due Diligence legislation may strengthen work in this area through encouraging the private sector to engage in more ethical behaviour to access the EU market. Activities to

encourage the EU to enable trade of Jatamansi that is ethically sourced continue. ANSAB successfully encouraged the DPR to include fair and ethical trade as strategy point 7 in the Jatamansi Conservation Action Plan (SD_29).

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Critical conditions were monitored regularly throughout the project as evidenced by the risk register and continual updating of this document. One key risk identified in the risk register was that ***NTFP markets expand or recede unexpectedly and there is a lack of interest in environmental and social impacts of trade.*** While markets for NTFPs appear stable, there has been limited interest in improving social and environmental impacts of trade within the private sector in Nepal. This is due to a lack of pressure from external market forces such as European and US companies. Many companies have environmental and social policies expressing a desire to ensure high standards throughout their supply chains. However, this is not always borne out by company behaviour. We also know that wild plant supply chains are long and opaque and many companies do not focus on sufficient supply chain tiers to address inequalities at the root. This will change but will take time and involve a variety of different drivers both nationally, regionally and internationally.

The following assumptions were outlined in the project logframe:

Assumption: Long-term impacts of COVID-19 do not significantly disrupt Nepal's national and international trade. This concerns transport/harvesting lockdown restrictions and the growing demand for herbal products as treatment/prevention.

Comments: Important assumption, while the impacts of COVID-19 declined, some constraints, e.g. around travel to neighbouring countries (China for instance) remained for a part of the project period. These may have contributed to trade challenges between these countries.

Assumption: Selected NTFPs are already a main source of income for communities in Himalayan districts. Changing trade dynamics and the diversification of market interest will enable this income to grow if the necessary safeguards and resource management measures are put in place and implemented through Nepal's existing Community Forestry system and a model approach for decentralised alpine natural resources management.

Comments: Important assumption and remained a key foundation for the success of the project impacts and theory of change as well as prioritised interventions. Without improvements to local management systems and the structural challenges locally, it is not possible to develop a sustainable trade in NTFPs.

Assumption: The existing resource inventories for eight CFUGs in Jumla and Mugu districts provided a replicable methodology.

Comments: The methodology used for resource inventories in eight CFUGs has been successfully replicated in the project period. It proved successful and as a result there is now a model for engaging CFUGs in further resource inventory activity.

Assumption: Each target CFUG has a Community Forest management plan/Community Forest Operation Plan; however, their validity periods have mostly expired. These do not include details of NTFPs stock or annual allowable harvest. The updated CFUG management plans will provide templates/approaches for replication.

Comments: Work was advanced to complete resource inventories and update the management plans for all target CFUGs. Guidelines for harvesting and resource inventories were updated for replication with other CFUGs in Nepal through FECOFUN. There were challenges in attaining approval for 8 CFUG management and Operation plans during the project period. This was due to changes of staff in Divisional Forest Offices (DFOs) and Conservation Area Office.

Assumption: The existing skills, understanding and culture for sustainable resource management, through Community Forestry, will help communities maintain harvests at sustainable levels.

Comments: An important assumption was that under the current CFUG management practices in Nepal sustainable forest management and sustainable harvest of NTFPs could be included. There is a functioning structure for community forestry but differing skills and capacity to enable sustainable resource management locally. Integration of awareness raising activities in collaboration with Division Forest Offices & FECOFUN district chapters helped to ensure that CFUG members gained a stronger understanding of sustainable management practices.

Assumption: The three ''principal'' species are sufficiently well-understood and locally identifiable, enabling reliable resource inventories and traceability systems of Output 3. We will be able to do valuable surveys of *Polygonatum sp.*, *Delphinium sp.*, and others and provide training, bringing both conservation and economic benefits. However, we assume that taxonomic and practical challenges of identification and nomenclature (currently under active research) will mean that later certification steps for traceability will not be possible within the project timeframe.

Comments: This continued to be an important assumption. Samples of target species were collected at the resource inventory stage in the project and contributed to ensuring better identification of species in future. These samples were stored with CFUGs and in a central repository with ANSAB.

Assumption: The harvesters' registration system will play an important role in both the traceability of products and creating the basis for equitable benefit-sharing arrangements.

Comments: This assumption held, and project deliverables contributed to this. However, registration systems could be improved further and will require ongoing management

Assumption: The benefit-sharing protocol will clarify the intended arrangements and processes and mitigate the potential conflicts between harvester and non-harvester members of each CFUG.

Comments: This remained an important assumption and project deliverables led to creation of benefit sharing protocols. The harvesters' register became instrumental to mitigate conflicts between harvester and non-harvester members of each CFUG.

Assumption: NTFP markets will continue to grow and increasingly look for evidence of product origin and environmental and social impacts of production. This likely development concerns both the European and US markets, with more established requirements for sustainability, and increasingly markets in China and India, which are fast-growing and key destinations for many Nepalese NTFPs.

Comments:This remained an important assumption. With additional regulatory and policy frameworks now secured via the European Union (EU) Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence regulations, deforestation free supply chains legislation and the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, the attention of markets to the product origin and impacts of production is likely to continue to increase in the future. It remains challenging to build the ethical/sustainable market for NTFPs. One factor affecting this is a thriving trade between India and Nepal in particular which is largely unregulated. Engagement from TCM representatives has been greater than anticipated.

Assumption: Nepal's government will not decide to suspend trade of certain wild-sourced products, which could impede access to and/or reduce markets for exports from Nepal.

Comments: This was an important assumption. Nepal did not suspend trade. However, the project did identify some trade barriers including lack of communication between Nepal and Chinese counterparts.

Assumption: The Nepali government's MoU with China focused on boosting traditional medicine trade remains operational under the Belt and Road Initiative's Traditional Chinese Medicine strategy.

Comments: COVID-19 and economic downturn, as well as the socio-political changes modified the relationships at the political/policy level. At the project level, we secured the participation of the China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM) at the June 2023 industry workshop alongside other TCM businesses. We held related meetings with the government agencies of Nepal.

Assumption: The methodology for the update of the CFUG operational management plans, piloted in 25-018, and the political transition in Nepal to decentralised governance, provides an important opportunity for the change in policy and practice (for CFUGs to introduce a provision for NTFPs in their management plans with proper inventory and sustainable management practices).

Comments: This was an important assumption. The experience from project 25-018 and others implemented by ANSAB in Nepal are well regarded by key stakeholders, namely the Division Forest Offices, FECOFUN and CF representatives. This was possible during the project period.

Assumption added at AR1: There will be continuing interest and willingness to participate in the project by the CFUGs and other stakeholders.

Comments: This was an important assumption and instrumental in ensuring the success of project activities. As previously noted changes of government staff led to delays in approvals for CFUG management plans. Nonetheless engagement has been consistent and supportive from most stakeholders.

3.4 Impact

The impact stated in the original application form was: **Nepal's Himalayan wild medicinal and aromatic plants are sustainably managed, and landscapes where they grow conserved, with community harvesters benefitting from sustainable management and traceable, equitable trade**. There has been excellent progress towards this higher-level impact as activities undertaken have led to improved biodiversity conservation management as anticipated. For example, 37 CFUGs natural resource inventories were completed during the project period encompassing a total area of 33,443 hectares, exceeding the planned target. Eight of these inventories were initiated prior to the current project commencing. There is now a greater area of land under sustainable management practice. It is not always possible to observe impacts in the overall management of natural resources during the duration of a project as these can take a longer time to materialise. However, there are positive indicators of sustainable management such as the reach for training activities which exceeded targets, 5,520 individuals of which 41% were women. Feedback from participants who attended post project focus group discussions demonstrated a greater understanding of sustainable harvesting techniques. For example, across all districts the following elements were highlighted by participants as methods to ensure improved species conservation: Avoiding premature harvest to ensure plant maturity; Focusing on mature plants for harvesting; Using sunlight to dry harvested products; Ensuring immature plants remain for future harvests; Using manual hand-harvesting small tools instead of large tools such as 'hoes, sickles, shovels, *kodalo*[2]' to minimize damage to the plants (SD_6). These changes help to contribute towards wider behaviour change in local communities and greater awareness of sustainability practices for harvesting. As the country profile for the Convention on Biological Diversity for Nepal states, the primary threats the country faces include inappropriate management of natural resources[3]. This project has contributed to addressing this threat. The conditions for sustainable trade were improved with two formal trading agreements facilitated and others pending. A face to face and digital market access workshop created improved connections between potential sustainable buyers and Nepali herb producers and suppliers. The distributed market access tools were deemed useful by participating companies. This was reinforced by attendance by the Project manager and FairWild team at trade fairs, Biofach in Germany and Natural and Organic Products Europe (NOPE) in the UK where contacts were collected and the project presented to individuals approached. As a result, a new connection was made with a buyer for Biofach, the largest organic supermarket in Europe who plan to source FairWild timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*) from the project area in 2024. Progress was made towards changing key areas of national and international policy that would allow for increased sustainable and ethical trade in NTFPs from Nepal. In 2022, The Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) under Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, a CITES Management Authority (MA) requested ANSAB present and share their learning on the CITES-listed plants, particularly on efforts to regulate harvesting and trade of Jatamansi from Nepal as part of the "Orientation on CITES Laws" programme. This led to collaboration and support to DPR particularly on the NDF development for 2024 and scientific inventory of CITES listed NTFPs species in Nepal. Project staff contributed to ensuring the current status of Jatamansi was included in Decisions of CITES CoP19, including on Trade in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, CITES and Livelihoods, as well as the Decisions of the CITES Standing Committee. ANSAB contributed to development of a presentation on "Decentralized resource management and monitoring: community-based forestry approaches with Jatamansi in Nepal" for the Department of Forest and Soil Conservation which was presented during a side event, organised by TRAFFIC at CITES CoP 19 in Panama in November 2022. In 2023, Government representatives from trade and forest ministries participated in and endorsed a plan of action for ensuring sustainability of NTFPs in Nepal as documented in the Jadibuti declaration. This project has provided useful support to Nepali government counterparts to enable them to fulfil their obligations under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and contribute to the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP) targets. In addition to the Jatamansi Conservation Action plan, ANSAB has supported translation of NTFP inventory guidelines into English, which have been submitted to the CITES

[2] A pick/shovel- like agricultural tool

[3] Convention on Biological Diversity Website. Access 12.07.24. [redacted]

Secretariat. ; Orientation to government officers in Bagmati Province on CITES; Resource inventory training to government officials. The future NBSAP is likely to include explicit targets on sustainable use and trade in wild species. ANSAB has been contributing to the draft NBSAP 2024-30. The results from this work will contribute to defining national targets for key species surveyed and demonstrate new management approaches.

4. Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project has maintained close contact with the Nepal government focal points for CITES for fauna – Dr. Sindhu Prasad Dhungana - Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and flora - Mr. Shiva Kumar Wagle - Director General Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, which is an official project partner. Information and support have been provided to CITES teams in Nepal including technical assistance and support to data collection, verification and submissions to relevant CITES committees. CITES CoP19 occurred in year two and TRAFFIC led on engagement with the CITES and CBD focal point, as well as the CITES delegation from Nepal to achieve desirable outcomes for the implementation of CITES requirements for Jatamansi trade from Nepal (see section 3.3 for detail). ANSAB have a close relationship with the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, the CITES flora focal point; and Department of Plant Resources (DPR) flora Scientific Authority (SA) Project events in Kathmandu have been attended by representatives from the CITES team to maintain a strong working link. For example, the CITES Management Authority (MA) for flora and CITES Scientific Authority (SA) for flora attended the Market Access workshop held in 2023 and the Jadibuti Roadmap meeting held in August 2023. The project team has maintained a close relationship with EU and FCDO delegations within Nepal and they have attended all events held as well as been regularly briefed by the ANSAB team on project work. Several elements of the project provide support to reducing Nepal's greatest threats to natural resource sustainability. As detailed in section 3.3, the primary threats Nepal faces include inappropriate management of natural resources; poverty, ecological fragility and environmental instability, along with inappropriate management of natural resources and faulty farming practices. This project has contributed to addressing some of these threats through raising awareness of sustainable natural resource management techniques, revising current natural resource management plans so that they align with good practice and training of communities, forest users and local government in sustainable harvesting and management. The potential for improved biodiversity-based incomes through harvesting has also been demonstrated with indications that incomes have improved for some community members. The Government of Nepal's recently released Jatamansi Conservation Action Plan 2024 – 2034 draws upon the experience and data collected as a result of this project with ANSAB providing extensive support to the publication.

4.2 Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project has advanced knowledge, evidence and impact in regard to sustainable harvesting and natural resource management in the high himalayas, an area at risk of losing biodiversity. This work has contributed to the global public good though trialling a model of community involvement through community forest user groups engaging with local communities, harvesters and district and national government authorities to encourage a coordinated and sustainable approach to NTFP harvesting and natural resource management. The model has been successful and is now in a position to scale up work. Target communities were selected based on the overlap between indicators of poverty and the target NTFP species prevalence/reliance. The most recent human development report with district-level analysis (2014) ranks the project districts thus: Mugu (75th among 75 districts), Jumla (70th), Humla (68th), Bajhang (72th), and Darchula (52th). Nepal's multi-dimensional poverty index (2021[4]) showed that in Karnali province where Mugu, Jumla and Humla are located and Sudurpaschim province, where Baijhang and Darchula are located, the greatest indicators contributing to poverty are nutrition followed by schooling years. These provinces rank lowest for development indices on per-capita income, life expectancy, and basic infrastructure (roads, schools, and banks/financial institutions). (Human Development report 2020, Economic Survey 2019/20 -MoF 2020). Both districts have seen some improvement, for example reductions in child mortality. For most communities in these districts, NTFPs are the primary source of cash income without engaging in seasonal out-migration which is a very common livelihood strategy. Securing the resource base and increasing income from managed, sustainable access to NTFPs will reduce poverty. While Nepal has made great progress in reducing its incidence of poverty from 30.1% in 2014 to 17.4% in 2019, there remain large inequalities particularly between those living

[4] [redacted]

in mountainous areas and those with greater access to economic and educational opportunities. Data on poverty is not available post COVID-19. It is likely that COVID-19 also had a significant negative effect on poverty with the poorest least likely to have healthy immune systems able to fight infection, nor access to information due to reduced internet access. During COVID-19 there was a decrease in NTFP supply. However, this may have been somewhat mitigated in our study area due to the fact that post COVID-19 there is a reported increase in demand for NTFPs particularly for medicinal use (see table below which is Table 9 from SD_6).

Districts	Demand and Supply
Darchula	Demand: There was an increase in demand for NTFPs, driven by higher prices. Supply: The supply of NTFPs was impacted during the pandemic but increased afterwards. Price: NTFP prices record an increase due to sharp increase in demand.
Jumla	Demand: The demand for NTFPs increased post-COVID, similar to Darchula. Supply: The supply of NTFPs was decreased during the pandemic, but increased afterwards, similar to Darchula. Price: Prices for NTFPs increased, reflecting higher demand in the market.
Humla	Demand: The demand for NTFPs increased after COVID-19 due to higher prices. It is similar to Darchula and Jumla. Supply: The supply of NTFPs was decreased during the pandemic but increased afterwards. Price: Higher demand led to increased prices for NTFPs.

Some direct impacts were achieved as a result of the project that link to indirect poverty alleviation impacts. The endline evaluation conducted by an independent evaluator on behalf of the project interviewed 35 participants collecting annual income from NTFP data for 2022 and 2023. This was collected from 11 participants from Darchula, 14 participants from Jumla, and 10 participants from Humla. This data showed an increase in income from NTFP harvest. For example, in Darchula there was an increase of 74% over figures in the baseline report over two years for Jatamansi harvest or income of NPR 28,900 per household. In the same location income from Kutki had a moderate increase (17%) having income of NPR 24,111 per household while income from Banlasun declined by 13% with having income of NPR 15,500 per household. Notably, income from other NTFPs saw an exponential surge (118%) having income of NPR 117,000 per household. In Jumla district, income from the sale of Kutki and Banlasun increased by 161% (NPR 46,956) and 94% respectively (NPR 32,750). The largest increase was observed from selling other NTFPs (for example, Yarshagumba, Setochini, Atis) having NPR 178,563 income per household. This increase in income is vital for rural populations as it provides essential economic support, especially for communities whose livelihoods solely depend on forest environmental services (SD_6). During the project, a long-term agreement was finalised between HBTL and three CFUGs for fair and premium prices in line with the FairWild certification standard that will cover two major NTFPs namely Jatamansi and Kutki involving 2,115 harvesters. The final sales were between two of these CFUGs and HBTL. Training and capacity building activities were delivered in FairWild principles, as well as the access and benefit sharing and fair trade, and the harvester's registers development was initiated, alongside the update of CFUG management plans, enabling harvesters and other members of CFUGs to be in a stronger position to secure premium prices in the future. These improvements to governance and knowledge of sustainable trading will help communities to gain increased value from NTFP supply chains. Good governance arrangements will provide a framework for improved ecosystem service management maintaining natural resources upon which the community depends for their livelihoods. Two community-based producer companies in Jumla and Bajhang were supported to improve their efficiencies for essential oil production and storage of certified raw materials like Jatamansi. This was through provision of two raw material drying sheds in Jumla and Bajhang respectively. The project also supported the repair and maintenance of 2 Jatamansi distillation enterprises each in Jumla and Bajhang. It is hoped this will improve processing capacity in the region and thus contribute to poverty alleviation for those who utilise these facilities.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[5].	ANSAB Nepal (3 = 3 M), ProFound - Advisers in Development (1 = M), University of Oxford (1 = F), University of Copenhagen (1 = M), Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (1 = M), FairWild Foundation (3 = F), TRAFFIC (3 = F). Proportion: 53.8%

[5] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[6].	ANSAB Nepal (M), University of Oxford (F), University of Copenhagen (F), FairWild Foundation (F), TRAFFIC (M), ProFound (M), NEHHPA (F). Proportion: 57.1%

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

This project took into account gender considerations but did not utilise GESI methodology as this was introduced by DEFRA during the project period. The team looks forward to applying this methodology in the next project. ANSAB has a GESI Policy which they use to inform staff and programme management SD_36. The project prioritised women's experience and stories seeking out feedback from female participants. The project had direct and indirect impacts on reducing inequality between persons of different gender in wild plant-harvesting communities of Nepal's Himalayas. The project targeted 5,000 wild-harvesters of high-priority plant species in 30 CFUGs, and their households. It was anticipated that at least 40% of beneficiaries benefitting from the project activities will be women. The total number of people trained by the end of year three was 5,643 (5,520 harvesters and 123 others – LRPs and resource inventory technicians) with the percentage of women who participated in training 40.5%. The project aimed to improve women's position within the value chain and their participation in capacity-building events for sustainable management. The project paid attention to training times and venue so that women had the opportunity to participate. The focus on a wide range of plant species of conservation and commercial importance, enabled significant involvement of women in harvesting activities. Project 25-018 demonstrated that while women frequently harvest NTFPs including Himalayan Fritillary in the target area, Jatamansi and Kutki harvesters are often male, due to long/overnight harvesting expeditions, and precipitous rocky habitats, respectively. Women can benefit from participation in certification schemes that directly increase sales prices and stabilise income-generation. The project tracked its contribution to gender equality, by including a gender assessment as part of the baseline and included consideration of gender in the final evaluation study. For example, five women in a focus group in Darchula earned 44.9% more from Jatamansi and 87.5% more from Kutki than their male counterparts. Women earned 51.4% more for Banlasun, and 131.4% more for other NTFPs harvested (SD_6).

The 35 participants in focus groups identified the following factors as influencing the price they obtained. Answers were not disaggregated by gender: Timely harvest of NTFP products; Sustainable harvesting, proper processing, and grading of NTFP products; Group collection and sale of harvested products; Members share information on the market price of NTFP products; Mobile phones and social media (Facebook) provide access to information on NTFPs and the market for them; Proper storage of harvested products; Appropriate selection of collectors within the group to sell NTFP products
At the institutional level, all partners have safeguarding policies and TRAFFIC provided a briefing on safeguarding and reporting at the project start. In relation to Nepal, ANSAB has an organisational standard code of conduct, defining safeguarding and zero-tolerance to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). Organisational Gender Policy provides an institutional setup for complaints and grievance on SEAH. ANSAB also provides information on safeguarding principles to its partners and the communities it works with.

[6] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

The project has communicated information regarding the project on TRAFFIC, ANSAB and the University of Copenhagen websites to international and national audiences. Work from this project has also informed other projects such as WildCheck with the Jatamansi profile featuring on the WildCheck Platform and TRAFFIC 2017-2022 End of Programme story-map. The project has also featured on the website of the American Botanical Council and DEFRA, as well as CITES Secretariat. Further to this, it has generated new knowledge through developing new guidance materials on a variety of key thematic areas the project has worked on. These included a model management plans for alpine regions and new guidance on management of Jatamansi. Information has been synthesised for use by CITES authorities such as the CITES and Livelihoods Case Study: Jatamansi and through ongoing communication with CITES authorities. The project team members presented at academic conferences and knowledge sharing platforms including: The 30th Annual International Conference of the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) at which ANSAB presented, 2024; The International Conference on Revitalising Community Forestry in the era of socio-environmental crisis, 2024; The International Society of Ethnobiology congress, 2024.

Several academic papers which use data from this project are in draft or have been published in high impact academic journals. They include: Hinsley et.al Bayesian Belief Network model to assess sustainability of medicinal plants in Nepal (2024-25). In preparation; Smith-Hall, et.al. A roadmap to sustainable management of commercial medicinal and aromatic plants, fungi, and lichen in Nepal. In preparation; Smith-Hall, C et. al (2023) The Sustainability of trade in wild plants – A data integration approach tested on critically endangered Nardostachys Jatamansi.

National policy platforms in Nepal have been utilised to communicate policy documents such as: A new framework for understanding wild harvesting (presentation); The Jadibuti Declaration to 2030 (policy declaration)

4.5 Capacity building

Project partners had the opportunity to increase their knowlege and visibiity through this work. Mr. Puspa L Ghimire and Mr. Sudarshan C Khanal contributed to development of methodology for resource assessment of wild herbs. They also contributed to the Workshop on methodological framework for inventory methods for use with wild growing CITES appendix II plants. October 21-22, 2021, Island of Vilm, Germany (Virtual). Mr. Puspa L Ghimire was a panellist in an international conference "*Enabling Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya"*, organized by ICIMOD on Dec 6, 2023. Mr. Puspa L Ghimire and Mr. Sudarshan C Khanal, jointly presented a paper entitled *"Biodiversity and Beyond: Experience and Lessons on Community-based Forest Management"* during the 30th Annual International Conference of the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) from June 10-14, 2024. Dr. Nabin R Joshi has participated in the two international conferences: i) Society for Economic Botany and Society of Ethnobiology from June 4 to 9, 2023 at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, USA where, he had shared the ecology, production and conservation measures of Jatamansi in Nepal; ii) he has participated on the 26th IUFRO World Congress under the theme Forests & Society towards 2050, held from 23 to 29 June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. Sudarshan C Khanal, presented a paper entitled *Entrepreneurship, the private sector, and the role of the MAPs in the economic development of Nepal* in the workshop "Sustainable use and economic potential of medicinal and aromatic plants in Nepal" on 10th March 2024 at Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Khumaltar. Dr. Dipesh Pyakurel has been providing inputs on the Nepal's new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)-2024-2030. Dr. Dipesh Pyakurel also presented a paper entitled "Medicinal Plants of Nepal: Linking Research and Economy" at a seminar organised by the Faculty of Science, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology on February 24, 2024. Dr. Dipesh Pyakurel presented a paper entitled "Sustainable management and trade of environmental products: A district-level roadmap to revive community forestry in Nepal" on March 4, 2024 at a conference organised by Forest Action Nepal. Ms. Aakriti Poudel was promoted to Manager, Operation & Outreach previously Program Officer. Ms. Laxmi Rana Magar is now a Senior Assistant - Finance & Administration. Previously Assistant, Finance & Administration.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

There were no major changes in the project design nor changes to the logframe. Two activities and associated indicators were combined as the activities were carried out in tandem. The project M&E framework supported adaptive management using six-monthly progress reviews. It also linked to the partner organisations' existing structures for reporting. Project partners met regularly during the reporting period (monthly, via MS Teams conference calls) to ensure communications flow and that planning was on track, risks managed, and progress is reviewed. The project tracking system (M&E plan) was developed at the project inception meeting, and matrix updates were entered into the workplan at monthly project calls (coordinated by TRAFFIC). All project documentation was made available to the project team via a sharepoint site. Certain elements were highlighted by the project manager when off-track or to celebrate progress. Weekly or bi-weekly

project progress meetings were conducted within ANSAB to track and inform field-level activities in harvesting areas and plan key events and communications with relevant national and international authorities such as national ministries and CITES. The Field Coordinator made regular monitoring visits to the field teams, and Kathmandu-based staff provided technical backstopping. Social, economic and environmental impacts were listed in ANSAB's Impact Tracking System (ITS). This project was reviewed by senior staff through TRAFFIC's regular project review system. Projects are reviewed on timeliness of deliverables, effectiveness of external relationships, impact on conservation, expected outcomes, project legacy/sustainability, and budget efficiency. TRAFFIC also has a bi-annual reporting process that projects provide information to in order to monitor progress against organisational objects. This project reported accordingly using these internal systems. Adaptive management enabled the project to pivot towards investing in key infrastructure to improve supply chains. For example, through investment in collection shelters to assist local value addition for NTFPs which has supported harvesters and producers to improve quality of their product and collection conditions. There has been an external evaluation of partner activities in Nepal as evidenced by the endline evaluation report. This has been very useful in assessing progress made. The endline survey conducted interviews through focus groups with a selection of 35 participants in the project from 5 districts. Further detail can be read in SD_6_Final Endline Report_ANSAB Nepal.

6. Lessons learnt

Regular meetings to track progress and a problem solving approach to barriers or difficulties worked well to ensure that the project team were able to move ahead with work and reflect on how best to change approach where required. Despite staff changes the team was able to deliver most of the outputs and ensure a high standard of work. Engaging the private sector through creating useful information documents such as ingredient lists and developing a contact roster of key companies purchasing medicinal and aromatic plants from Nepal was effective. Regarding policy work, having delegations from the Chinese TCM community involved in the market access workshop and side meetings with government helped to elucidate trade barriers and highlight areas for future cooperation and engagement such as work with the customs and trade department in Nepal. It also allowed for an open conversation with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies regarding the work they do and where additional information on NTFP trade would assist. Regular reports from sub-grantees such as Profound was helpful in ascertaining progress and contribution to outcomes. Focusing on the local context and reality of complex and opaque supply chains through building relationships with relevant local organisations who have the expertise to engage is vital. ANSAB have a huge amount of experience in this work. Bringing FECOFUN and NEHHPA into this work was particularly useful.

Changes in staff within TRAFFIC, ANSAB, Profound and FWF meant challenges to delivery in terms of consistency of output and deliverables. This also necessitated a learning period for new members of staff as they engaged with the project. Trade information is privileged, and many operators are reluctant to disclose this information. Similarly, buyers are unlikely to openly share the terms of their trade negotiations. This is an ongoing challenge. The EU trade restriction on the import of Jatamansi presents a barrier to sustainable trade and encourages the illegal trade in this product further. It can also lead to confusion with actors in other governments such as neighbouring Bhutan and China who may also consider their products subject to additional scrutiny and therefore not focus on EU markets as a result. This can undermine efforts to improve sustainable trade practices.

The new Standard Indicators metrics introduced by Niras would have been useful to have at the start of the project. A briefing on gender, equality and social inclusion and the areas we should assess ourselves on would have also been useful at the start of the project to ensure this is embedded further in design and delivery. Bringing business development and market analysis together with one organisation providing this technical support is the most impactful arrangement. This would facilitate easier communication and sharing of contacts and approaches. It may be helpful to explore the possibility of partnering with an ingredient supply platform in future to broaden the market for available products and increase sales.

Ensuring that risk assessment and project design accounts for the transport challenges and regular landslides in the High Himalaya region. Even where good internet connections exist, it can be challenging for project partners in Nepal to connect so ensuring flexibility and offering a variety of communications approaches (e.gwhatsapp) is useful.

A few of the key lessons learnt have been that: Engaging relevant companies involves an investment of time to build strong relationships upon which ethical trade can advance; Well trained local resource persons (LRPs) can play a significant role in capacity building at CFUG level; Support to the Government of Nepal in implementing the delivery of commitments under CITES, from an impartial conservation NGO, appeared to be useful, in bridging discussions with CITES Parties on the importing end, leading to improved communication and flows of information; Experimenting with a partial online and partial in-person event was successful and led to greater participation and an in-person alone event would have allowed; Online sharing tools can be an effective way to ensure transparency and openness in information sharing and in provision of project updates for the team.

7. Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

All feedback from annual reports has been shared and discussed with the project team as well as shared internally with senior staff at TRAFFIC who have project oversight.
Feedback from DEFRA to address was as follows:

1. Review the current exit strategy document and summarise the exit strategy (finance and institutional elements) options and next steps.

The exit strategy for this project locally involved exit workshops held in the communities that received training across all districts. 5 district level workshops were held which 153 harvesters & other stakeholders attended of which 104 were men and 49 women. ANSAB's work training trainers means that there is a cohort of LRPs who are able to act as leaders and provide information to CFUGs. Some of those trained now work in government service or within the forestry sector and as such this training has the possibility of being embedded further in official practice. As stated earlier there has been an observed improvement in local harvesting and natural resource management practices. The combination of practical training along with revising management plans and harvesting practices should ensure that policy and guidance is reflective of practical learning and contribute to the longevity of outcomes. Market development and business engagement was transferred to FairWild in the final months of the project as Profound's contract ended. ANSAB is now trained in updated FairWild requirements and is able to provide technical assistance to businesses interested in attaining certification in Nepal. FairWild certification of HBTL provides a mechanism for the ongoing assurance of sustainability of trade in the ingredients covered; the company and two other applicants are included in FairWild Foundation's ongoing matchmaking work and support to connect with potential buyers of FairWild certified ingredients. TRAFFIC sought additional grant funding to scale up this project work. This work can now be scaled up over the next five years.

2. Prepare business models for NTFP marketing incorporating secondary processing, branding, packaging options, FairWild certification strategy and market analysis
A market analysis was developed (SD_11)
3. Please include photos in reports (a picture tells a story)
We have included a selection of photos to accompany this report.
4. ProFound developed a toolkit which includes: an export marketing strategy guide, a finding buyers and buyer profiling guide, and a trade fair participation guide. It would be great to include this guide in the next report
These guidance materials have been included in the supporting documents (SD_37, SD_38, SD_39)
5. It seems that Indicator 2.1 is measuring the same number of harvesters as Indicator 1.3. This needs to be clarified.
The activities associated with these indicators were combined.
6. It is unclear how the implementation of the traceability system will be measured and what is the actual progress (Output 3). Could you please add some additional information in the next report
We have provided further information under indicator 3.2 and outcome 3.5
7. It is unclear what exactly Indicator 4.3 will measure: "agree the ways forward and recommendations" This could be probably clarified in the next report.
We have provided further information on the below in the discussion of indicator 4.3

8. Sustainability and Legacy

Some of the achievements most likely to endure in this project include training of trainers from local community groups creating a pool of Local Resource Persons who will serve as a long-term resource for local CFUG members and DFOs. ANSAB's work training trainers means that there is a cohort of LRPs who are able to act as leaders and provide information to CFUGs. Some of those trained now work in government service or within the forestry sector and so training has the possibility of being embedded further in official practice. Capacity has been built with CFUGs who now have updated management plans as well as harvester registration systems, inventories of NTFPs in their area and natural resource management plans. DFOs have been sensitised and involved in training and updating of resources. The training of local community members helps to ensure sustainability particularly given the training of trainer model which allows for a wider reach. The resources produced in Nepali will be available after project completion and are available at a local level. Infrastructure to support harvesting will have a lasting impact on product quality and harvesting conditions for those who work in the sector. The development of business relationships will be invaluable for the future. The development of relationships to influence policy on NTFP harvesting and trade will create sustainability in beginning to develop an ethical trading environment in Nepal for these products in the future and the creation of the necessary political and policy infrastructure to support it. Most project staff were employed on fixed-term or permanent contracts. These will be renewed where possible or staff assigned to other project activities. Additional funding has been found to continue this project work and so this will be used to continue relevant work. Policy influence has been detailed under outputs 3 and 4 particularly indicator 4.5 on CITES authority engagement.

9. Darwin Initiative identity

The project has ensured that the contribution of the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative is recognised in every publication (press releases, articles, flyers, booklets), and logos are properly displayed during every training and workshop organized by the project (e.g. SD_40, SD_20). All communication materials disseminated at the field level are checked by the ANSAB Monitoring and Evaluation focal point to ensure that the UK Government and Darwin Initiative are recognised. The Darwin Initiative is known in Nepal for funding previous and ongoing projects, particularly among the development and conservation organization community. Section 4.4 on transfer of knowledge and the list of publications annex provides further information on how project information has been communicated. Project partners have promoted the work of the project. A few examples of these are blogs on the University of Copenhagen website, attendance and promotion of this work at conferences and events. Social medias accounts are as follows: Twitter: @TRAFFIC_WLTRADE @CCI_Cambridge; Facebook: @trafficnetwork @cambridgeconservationinitiative; LinkedIn: @TRAFFIC @cambridge-conservation-initiative; Instagram: @TRAFFIC_WLTRADE; YouTube: TRAFFIC International

10. Risk Management

Risk management for the project was determined at the start in the development phase. Key risks and assumptions were transferred into the Defra risk register framework template as provided and recommended for this award which were shared with the HYR 2023. Risks are assessed and mitigated routinely by TRAFFIC through its internal monitoring process. Risks which have arisen have not been new. These include, exchange rate fluctuations which have been significant. Earthquakes in the project area and staff turnover led to some delays in certain delivery areas. No significant changes were made to the project design but some activities were delayed or coverage roll-out adjusted in response to natural disasters and the usual difficulties of access in some of the remote areas of the high Himalayas in which ANSAB operates. The project team reviewed the risk register regularly at project meetings and were invited to contribute. TRAFFIC and ANSAB worked to ensure that a review of risks was undertaken at the time of transferring to the new risk format in 2023. Partner capacities in relation to risk management were reviewed during face-to-face meetings.

11. Safeguarding

TRAFFIC as a lead partner have established policies and procedures relevant to safeguarding issues. TRAFFIC is currently developing a new sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) policy as well as bullying and harassment policies. Current policies include the following: Safeguarding statement: Our Policies - TRAFFIC - The Wildlife Trade monitoring network; Guidelines for the Operation of the TRAFFIC Network (2006) – includes reference to working values, equal opportunity, grievance procedures, and obligations of consultants; Conditions of Service in the UK (2016) – includes policies and procedures on harassment and/or intimidation, whistle-blowing, grievance and disciplinary procedures and gross misconduct; Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics (2013) – Includes references to standards of conduct, including integrity, accountability, harassment, and protection against retaliation; TRAFFIC Anti-Bribery Policy (2016) – Includes several references to whistle-blowing procedures; TRAFFIC Sensitive Activity Management Policy and Manual (2019) – sets out procedures for higher risk project activities.

ANSAB, as the lead implementing partner in Nepal, has an organizational standard code of conduct and abides by the environmental and socio-economic benchmark set by the government and international treaties/convention to which Nepal is a party in all its activities. The code of conducts presents the organizational values, ethics and employee ethics, and commits to safeguarding including zero-tolerance on sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH). Staff are given training during their induction period. The organizational gender policy, also provides an institutional framework for complaints and grievance, including on SEAH, through provision of a designated officer. ANSAB encourages safeguarding principles for its partners and the communities it works with. In this specific project, with the adoption of FairWild Standard and promotion of good governance and equity, environmental and socio-economic safeguards are integral to implementation. The project engages stakeholders and beneficiaries many of whom are indigenous communities from the outset without raising false expectation. Project plans and activities are shared and planned with the target stakeholders and beneficiaries ensuring that safeguarding principles are adhered to.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Cara [redacted] Project Manager

Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes online WWF safeguarding and conservation course
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 20% [4] Planned: no increase
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. No	
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the lifetime of the project; include topics covered and number of participants. None	
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your staff over the lifetime of the project? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No	

12 Finance and administration

12.1 Project expenditure

The actual claim will be sent at a later date as agreed.

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 April 23 – June 24 Grant (£)	2023/24 April 23 - March 24 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£) Draft	2023/24 April 24 - June 24 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£) Draft	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (s below)	[redacted]					
Consultancy cos						
Overhead Costs						
Travel and subsistence						
Operating Costs						
Capital items (s below)						
Others (see below)						
TOTAL	**240,033.70**	**200,157.93**	**38,145.50**	**238,303.43**		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Anastasiya Timoshyna, Project Leader	[redacted]
Cara Flowers, Project Manager	
France Villeneuve, Business engagement	
Rebecca Holmes, Project administration	

Abbie Pearce, Project communications	[redacted]
Xu Ling, Linkages to TCM industry in China	
Bhishma Subedi, project advisor	
Puspa Ghimire, project coordinator	
Sudarshan Khanal, knowledge management, M&E	
Nabin Joshi, Sustainable harvesting expert	
Basu Neupane, Financial Manager	
Laxmi Lagar, Finance Assistant	
Vinod Chapagain, Field coordinator	
Sushila Bhatta, Forestry Officer	
Chhuyung Dorje Lama, Foresty Officer	
Amy Hinsley, Research and prioritization NTFPs	
Carsten Smith-Hall, Design TOC for sustainable management	
TOTAL	**140,875.72**

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
Processing and warehousing equipment (upgrade where possible)	3,000.00
TOTAL	**3,000.00**

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Consumables	[redacted]
Bank fees	
TOTAL	**2,509.50**

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
Partners from the University of Copenhagen provided matching funds from staff time.	2,500.00
TOTAL	**2,500.00**

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
0	0
TOTAL	**0**

12.3 Value for Money

Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

13. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

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

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
See SD_8	SD_8_Link to end of project video			Yes

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2021-June 2024
Impact • Nepal's Himalayan wild medicinal and aromatic plants are sustainably managed, and landscapes where they grow conserved, with community harvesters benefitting from sustainable management and traceable, equitable trade		• The project has one outcome and four Outputs, which saw solid progress. Most indicators were met during the course of the project.
Outcome **High-value/conservation priority NTFPs in five districts of Nepal's Himalayas are effectively conserved through sustainable management and traceable, equitable trade, based on clear legal frameworks and sustainable use and trade approaches.**	0.1 At least three species of high-value NTFPs (Jatamansi, Kutki and Himalayan Fritillary) in five priority production districts of Nepal's Himalayas are sustainably managed (i.e. in line with the updated CFUGs operational management plans), by June 2024. 0.2 At least 5,000 (at least 40% women) harvesters, processing staff and the CFUGs they are part of, benefit from at least 5% increase in income from the sustainable trade in target NTFPs, by June 2024. 0.3 A traceability pilot for Nepalese high-value NTFPs, driven by the market interest is complete, with final FairWild-certified products on sale at a consumer market, by June 2024. 0.4 Nepal's government policies, sectoral multi-stakeholder strategies, trade agreements explicitly include provisions for sustainable trade in CITES Appendix-II and other NTFPs of commercial importance by June 2024.	0.1 Resource inventories for 29 CFs were completed. Through mapping, potential harvesting sites within the CFUGs were identified, along with the species of NTFPs present and in what density. Detailed resource inventories of three prioritized species (Jatamansi, Kutki, and Himalayan Fritillary) and other associated NTFPs (e.g. Atis and Setochini) were carried out in each CFUG. 0.2 A baseline survey was finalised in Yr 1. An endline survey was completed in year 3. The endline survey suggests income increases of at least 5% for target NTFPs Kutki, Jatamansi, Banlasun and other NTFPs. 0.3 Onsite FairWild audits of Himalayan BioTrade Limited (HBTL) for Jatamansi and Kutki were carried out in December 2022. This built on progress towards certification which had been made under the previous Darwin project for Jatamansi (25-018), which had resulted in a pre-certificate being issued in 2021 based on a documentary review and interviews, but without authorisation to trade as no physical audit had been possible during COVID restrictions. Following the onsite audit in December 2022, the restriction was lifted and HBTL became fully FairWild certified. A remote audit for these products was also carried out in January 2024, for the certification renewal. An audit for Seabuckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia*), Dhatelo (*Prinsepia utilis*) and Timur Pepper (*Zanthoxylum armatum*) is planned for September 2024. These products are expected to be on the market by the end of 2024. 0.3 Engagement of buyers and producers of essential oils and crude herbs took place with buyers and producers attending a matchmaking event in June 8-9, 2023 in Kathmandu. As a result, there are interested buyers for these products. FairWild and TRAFFIC staff attended Biofach and Natural Expo organic and natural product trade fairs to promote the project and

		contact relevant industry organisations. Training was provided by Profound to support buyer engagement, export strategy development and marketing. 0.4 Nepal CITES authority responded to the EU questions on NDFs for Jatamansi. Work continues to enable trade of Jatamansi with EU countries despite negative perception of this. ANSAB has been working closely with Nepal's CITES authorities to enable sustainable trade of CITES-listed species. The Nepal government recently published an updated conservation and management guide for Jatamansi. 0.4 The seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee, Panama City (Panama), on 13 November 2022 recommended to remove Jatamansi (*Nardostachys grandiflora*) from the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process as Nepal has complied with all recommendations (SD_32). TRAFFIC and ANSAB continue to support the Nepali authorities to present the case of Jatamansi and sustainable trade of NTFPs in international fora.
Output 1. At least three species of high-value NTFPs are sustainably managed by communities in Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Darchula, and Bajhang districts of Western Nepal.	1.1 Resource inventories, focused on three principle target high-value/conservation priority NTFPs (and covering other associated species harvested in the area) are complete for five target districts (at least 30 CFUGs community forests) with total area or approximately 25,000 ha, and distribution modelling approximates sustainable harvesting quantities per district in Nepal, by March 2023. 1.2 Sustainable management, including community monitoring, of three target NTFPs (and other associated harvested species), is integrated into 30 CFUGs operational management plans in five target districts, recognised and approved by Divisional Forest Offices and CFUGs by June 2023. 1.3 Training programme in NTFPs sustainable harvesting, resource management and monitoring	1.1 Detailed resource inventories of three prioritized species (Jatamansi, Kutki, and Himalayan Fritillary) and other associated NTFPs were carried out in 29 CFUGs. Detailed resource inventories were completed in a total of 37 CFUGs, out of which 29 were new and 8 from the previous Darwin Initiative project implemented in Jumla and Mugu. For previously involved CFUGs, these inventories were updated or reviewed in this project (9 in Humla, 9 in Mugu, 8 in Jumla, 6 in Bajhang and 5 in Darchula districts). (SD_1). The total forest area of these 37 CFUGs is 33,443 ha and with 3,751 households managing them. The population of the area is about 18,000 people. 1.2. A total of 29 CFOPs have been drafted in line with FairWild Standards and Performance Standards. These were sent for review by the District Forest Offices (DFO) of 5 districts and Conservation Area Office in case of Darchula. 21 of these have been approved by the DFOs. Others are in process. 1.3. Building on the documents of previous Darwin funded projects, training packages including training strategy, curriculum and materials for NTFPs resource assessment, and Fairwild and organic standards have been developed. Harvesters in 37 CFUGs as evidenced by training participants' lists; pre-and post-training knowledge evaluations which demonstrated by feedback which showed that 75% participants had improved knowledge

	approaches rolled-out to 5,000 harvesters in 30 CFUGs by December 2023. 1.4 The sustainability (time, methods, quantity) of three target NTFPs harvesting has improved, compared to 2021 baselines, in target areas by June 2024.	after training. A total of 5,520 harvesters were trained in sustainable forest management, participatory NTFP resource management, sustainable harvesting techniques, and FairWild and organic standards.
Activity 1.1. Carry out detailed resource inventories of three high value NTFPs (Jatamansi, Kutki, and Himalayan Fritillary) and other associated harvested species in 30 community forests (ANSAB)		ANSAB has provided technical management support to 37 Community Forests. This output indicator was achieved with resource inventories for five key species completed (Jatamansi, Kutki, Banlasun, Atis and Setochini) within 29 CFUGs during the project period. For previously involved CFUGs, these inventories were updated or reviewed in this project. 8 CFUGs from the previous project were engaged (resource inventories for these accomplished in the previous project). Provision of sustainable forest management, trade, FairWild and organic production training was covered for these CFUGs. The total forest area of these 37 CFUGs is 33,443 ha with the number households managing the forests area is 3,751 with an approximate population of 18,000. During the field inventories, previously trained forest technicians, LRPs and community forest members (harvesters) were mobilized. The sampling of NTFPs was carried out in dense and sparse forest strata where the total number of regenerated and total number of mature plants of the targeted and associated species were counted. The fresh weight of the targeted NTFPs was measured through harvesting the rhizomes, bulbs, roots and samples of the harvested parts. These were collected in the sample bags to calculate the dry weight of the respective species.

Activity 1.2. Conduct situation analysis to understand resource governance in target areas and status of forest management plans (ANSAB)		ANSAB organized a total of 5 district-level gap-sharing and validation workshops, 1 workshop in each district. The key findings of the gaps in the community forest management plans in line with FairWild Standards and Performance Standards were shared in these workshops for seeking stakeholder opinions and their contributions (SD_4). A total of 76 participants with 41 male and 35 females have participated the workshops. The key participants were from Community Forest executive members, DFOs, the Chief Conservation Officer (Api Nampa Conservation Area in case of Darchula), district level FECOFUNs, and NTFPs harvesters. The participants of the workshop agreed on the gaps identified and the potential for their address to incorporate into the management plan. The concerned DFOs and Conservation Officer committed to support the community forest operational plan (CFOP, also known as community forest management plan) approval process to comply with the FairWild, Organic standards and detailed sustainable NTFPs harvesting provisions, methods and practices. ANSAB coordinated with stakeholders (DFO, local government, CFUG chairpersons)
Activity 1.3. Support to revise CFUG management plans including the provision of sustainable management of high value NTFPs (ANSAB, FECOFUN)		29 CFUG management plans were revised with 21 approved and the remaining in process of approval with relevant authorities. This was a result of training provided to CFUGs, DFOs and other relevant stakeholders. High value NTFPs were documented, mapped and sustainability plans developed as part of the CFUG management plan revisions.
Activity 1.4. Develop a training package (Training materials, training curriculum and training strategy) for the harvesters and relevant stakeholders (ANSAB)		Training materials were developed and refined at relevant workshops during the curse of the project. These training materials were used to deliver further group level trainings (SD_42, SD_43, SD_44).
Activity 1.5. Deliver capacity-building to trainers and to target CFUGs with the focus on participatory plant resource management, sustainable harvesting techniques, and monitoring (ANSAB)		Trainers were mobilized for the roll-out training at the community level. A total of 37 CFUG level trainings (9 in Humla, 8-in Jumla, 9-Mugu, 6- in Bajhang, and 5 in Darchula) were organized. Also, a total of 37 refresher trainings took place, one each of 1 CFUGs (9-Humla, 8-Jumla, 9-Mugu, 6-Bajhang and 5-Darchula has been provided to the NTFPs harvesters, processing workers, CF executive members and local forest users. A total of 5,520 participants 3,273 male and 2,247 female have participated in these refresher trainings.
Activity 1.6. Undertake the participatory monitoring of the target areas, in collaboration with key stakeholders (including the Ministry of Forests and Environment (agencies at district and municipal levels) and FECOFUN) (ANSAB)		This was a regular and ongoing activity monitored by ANSAB's field technical staff, DFO staff and district FECOFUN chapters in the project sites. ANSAB facilitated CFUGs to conduct regular meetings, and encouraged meaningful participation of women and other marginalized groups. ANSAB has also provided orientation to harvesters before harvesting seasons, and in maintaining accounts and record keeping at CFUG level. ANSAB provided a

		manual on accounts and record-keeping to the CFUGs. These participatory monitoring of the target areas were jointly organised by ANSAB, DFO staff, and the FECOFUN district chapters at project sites. ANSAB supported CFUGs to conduct regular meetings with harvesters, including women and marginalized forest-dependent communities, orientation for harvesters before harvesting seasons, maintenance of accounts and record keeping at CFUG level. A total of 5 joint monitoring visits were carried out in Darchula, 6 in Bajhang, 4 in Jumla, 5 in Mugu and 9 in Humla in this reporting period. A total of 208 participants with 103 male and 105 female had participated in the events. Technical gaps in the CFOPs and practical difficulty in the implementation were identified, discussed and incorporated into revised CFOPs. These monitoring visits, focused on assessing the status of planned activities versus their implementation by the CF. The monitoring team found satisfactory results in the case of Bajhang, Darchula and Humla and provided feedback for future improvements. While in case of Mugu and Jumla, the team identified excellent and well maintained accounts, record keeping, a harvester registry and a traceability system.
Output 2. At least 5,000 harvesters and their communities in five target districts have clear benefits from long-term sustainable, equitable, traceable trade in NTFPs	2.1 5,000 CFUG harvesters and processing workers, (at least 40% women) from at least 20 producer enterprises, are trained in FairWild and organic standards and certification, by December 2023. 2.2 Target CFUGs and harvesters' registration system updated to provide a basis for transparent trade and cost-calculation, to include harvesters' details, harvesting/sale quantities and locations, prices, trainings/ capacity-building, disaggregated by gender, by June 2022. 2.3 Fair trading and benefit sharing protocol developed and piloted with NTFP harvesters' and workers' sub-committees in one CFUG by June 2022, and subsequently rolled-out to all target groups, by June 2023.	2.1. A training package was developed under indicator 1.3 in FairWild and organic standards and certification. This was rolled out via a training of trainers approach to over 5,520 harvesters and processing workers. 2.2. A harvester registration system has been established in each of the 37 CFUGs. Each CFUG has a register to maintain the list of harvesters within CFUG, which includes detailed information such as age and sex of harvesters, NTFPs collected with types, average collection volume, the season of collection, and average price sold to the aggregator, etc. 2.3. Building on the FairWild premium fund operational guidelines protocol developed in the previous Darwin Initiative project, FairWild premium fund operation guidelines has been developed and established in all five districts.
Activity 2.1. Establish harvesters and producer enterprise levels baselines and final evaluation in the target districts (ANSAB)		A final evaluation took place by recruiting an external consultant (SD_5).
Activity 2.2. Train harvesters and processing workers on FairWild and organic standards and certification (ANSAB, TRAFFIC, FWF)		This activity was combined with Activity 1.5. The detail of the activity is presented in Activity 1.5 above.
Activity 2.3. Develop and update the harvester's registration system in community managed forests in the project sites (ANSAB)		A Harvester registration system was established in 37 CFUGs across the whole of the project. Each CFUG has a register to maintain the list of harvesters within CFUG, which includes detailed information such

		as age and sex of harvesters, NTFPs collected with types, average collection volume, the season of collection, and average price sold to the aggregator, etc. The register was developed by the project team that complies with FairWild and Organic Certification Standards. ANSAB organized orientation trainings in all CFUGs, involving participation of CF executive members, NTFPs harvesters and LRPs. The aim of this orientation training was to make aware and update the CF executive members, NTFPs harvesters and LRPs on the harvester's registration system. After completing the orientation training on harvester's registration system, LRPs in each district were mobilized to develop, maintain and update the NTFPs harvester's lists. During this project, a total of 3,229 NTFPs harvesters were registered. With this there are a total of 6,884people (4,338 Male and 2,546 female) in the project sites.
Activity 2.4. Support the set-up of the CFUGs-level harvesters and workers sub-committee for regulating the fair trade and equitable benefit sharing (ANSAB)		During the project, a total of 29 harvester's sub-committee in 5 project districts have been formed. CFUG level orientation trainings, 37 in total (one for each CFUG) were organized to orient the CFUG and the harvester's sub-committee on the process, method, and roles of sub-committees. During the orientation training, the sub-committee was also oriented on sub-committee policy to regulate fair trade and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms to the harvesters and workers groups in the project sites. The 37 CFUG level harvesters and workers sub-committees include 225 executive members (121 male and 104 female).
Activity 2.5. Develop FairWild premium fund operation guideline in each of the project districts (ANSAB)		In the project period, the project team facilitated a revision of the premium fund with inclusion of new members in the committee and the opening of a bank account in the name of the premium fund management committee. Orientations were carried out by the ANSAB technical team for field staff. In Jumla, a new committee for operationalizing the FairWild premium fund was formed, and orientation on the FairWild premium fund was provided during refresher trainings in Baghjale, Lamteli and Bhaleni CFUGs. A FairWild premium fund has been established in all 5 project districts, during its establishment a total of 294 harvesters, CF executive members (176 male and 118 female) were oriented and trained on the objectives, use and benefits of the FairWild premium fund.
Output 3. Sustainable supply chains are in place, led by producers/exporters in Nepal, and 'matched' to manufacturers in consumer markets, based on sustainable production	3.1 Supply chains for at least three NTFPs from Nepal to consumer markets are identified and documented by June 2022. 3.2 Traceability system for essential oils and other plant-based products is developed, based on FairWild Standard, and implemented by June 2023. 3.3 At least one industry meeting, involving consumer markets' buyers, Nepalese producers and herbal products associations lead to buy-in and the development of trade agreements in line with sustainability requirements, by June 2024.	3.1. Project partners are in conversation with at least 5 Nepalese producers who have expressed an interest in becoming FairWild certified and increasing trade with international markets across the US, EU, China and India. Two supply chains have been certified with products exported and entering consumer markets. 3.2. A guideline in Nepali on the Social responsibility, and Fairtrade for FairWild Certification was provided to all CFUGs, DFOs in five districts and Api Nampa Conservation Area office in Darchula. This guideline was also used during the roll out training to the CFUGs and NTFPs harvesters. 3.3. An Industry meeting was held from 8-9 June 2023, bringing together producers and buyers of sustainably harvested Nepalese wild plant products.

systems following FairWild Standard	3.4 Trading agreements between at least 15 CFUGs and companies (identified in Output 3 activities) established, including the clear indication of the price premiums, by June 2024. 3.5 Traceability pilot, linked to the FairWild certification implementation in close relation with the buyers and retailers, showcases the environmental, social and economic benefits of eco-friendly plant-based products, by June 2024.	3.4. Based on the agreement made between HBTL and CFUGs in Jumla for trading of Kutki and Jatamansi, HBTL bought 700 kg of Kutki from 2 CFUGs – Baghjale and Lamteli along with 18kg of Jatamansi.
Activity 3.1. Conduct value chain and market analysis of three target NTFPs species to identify priority markets and commercial partners to maximise their export potential (FWF, TRAFFIC)		The market analysis report was finalised in May 2022 and shared with project partners and stakeholders. The report focused on seven valuable wild-harvest species with international demand: Jatamansi, Kutki, Himalayan fritillary, Atis, Setochini, Aconitum spp. and Juniper. Following this and discussions with partners, buyers in China, US and EU will be targeted for the upcoming event in June 2023, along with a select number from India who are interested in ethical trade. A buyer profile was created by ProFound in Dec 2022 to describe the buyers we would like to target for the 2023 event.
Activity 3.2: Support the development of local capacities in Nepal to implement FairWild and enable market access (ANSAB, FWF, TRAFFIC)		20 producer companies (SD_12) working in the essential oil and crude herbs sectors getting involved in the international trade of essential oil (incl. Jatamansi) and other crude herbs and spices were participated various capacity building events organized by the project. ANSAB has been in regular contact with producer companies. ANSAB distributed hard copies of relevant document incl. the Nepali-translated FairWild standards and performance indicators, Manual on Good Collection Practices of Jatamansi, Occupational Health and Safety measures, and Social Responsibility and FairTrade to these companies. ANSAB shared four market access tools developed by Profound to the relevant 14-Nepalese producers companies and received positive responses on their use.
Activity 3.3: Facilitate the engagement and development of trade agreements with potential identified buyers interested in sustainable NTFPs from target areas (FWF, TRAFFIC, ANSAB, NEHHPA, CWPCA, CATCM)		ANSAB supported major producers enterprises through organizing a meeting called **"Pre- BioFach meeting"** at ANSAB where the representatives from HBTL, Annapurna Aroma and NEHHPA/Alternative Herbal Products (AHP) participated. Likewise, ANSAB organized a meeting with NEHHPA to plan a face to face industry meeting focusing international buyers. ANSAB also supported Annapurna Aroma to prepare presentation slides of industry to present in International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades (IFEAT) 2022 conference, Vancouver, Canada. ANSAB organized a "**Market Access Industry Workshop" in Kathmandu** from 8-9 June 2023 with NEPHA with whom an MoU was signed to enable long-term engagement. ANSAB, TRAFFIC, FWF and ProFound supported NEHHPA to deliver the workshop. In 2022-2023, ANSAB carried out and organized meetings with local processors/traders and identified and assessed support needed for upgrading local processing enterprises. 27 participants (18 male and 9 females) have participated and identified areas of support to the local processing enterprises. Based on the assessment, ANSAB supported the Malika Essential Oil Processing Enterprise through repair and maintenance of their boiler, net and chimney pipe for Jatamansi processing (SD_45). Similarly in Bajhang, ANSAB provided support to the New Srijana Sristi

		Oil Production and Processing Enterprise, where the Jatamansi processing enterprise was supported with the construction of the shade house/ warehouse. (SD_46). ANSAB also supported Baghjale CFUG to construct a herbs post-harvest handling (cleaning and initial wilting) shed inside the community forest.
Activity 3.4: Support the implementation of FairWild requirements, including the traceability system (ANSAB, TRAFFIC, FWF)		At CFUG level, Nepali translated guidelines on traceability, Social responsibility and FairTrade measures and account and record keeping manual have been shared to LRPs, CFUGs and local processing companies during the roll-out trainings in the project sites.
Activity 3.5: Support the FairWild audit of at least five supply chains (ANSAB, FWF)		During the reporting period, ANSAB facilitated to organize the third party FairWild certification audit for Himalayan Bio-trade Limited (HBTL) in three CFUGs of Jumla namely Baghjale, Lamteli and Bhaleni CFUGs from December 5-12, 2022. The onsite third-party FairWild audit in Jumla in Baghjale, Lamteli and Bhaleni CFUGs include: Field visit to observe the Jatamansi and Kutki harvesting in harvesting sites; Group and individual interviews with the Jatamansi and Kutki harvesters; Harvesters household level visit to observe the places of drying, cleaning and storage of NTFPs; Meeting with the CFUGs executive members; Meeting with the local and district level traders and Visit to observe the local processing unit and interview with the processing unit manager and workers. At the field level, ANSAB carried out the preparatory works for the FW audit in Jumla (focusing Lamteli, Baghjhale and Bhaleni CF), particularly assisting in updating the harvester's registration system, developing FairWild premium fund operational guidelines, and meeting other documentation requirements. After the FW certification audit in Jumla a debriefing meeting was organized at ANSAB to discuss the ground based activities and progress of the FW audit. Likewise, Eco-cert and HBTL also organized a 2-day meeting on 29-30 January 2023. HBTL were able to receive Fairwild certification for Kutki and Jatamansi.
Output 4: Policies, legislation and strategies at federal, provincial and local levels incentivize and enable a long-term shift towards sustainable use and trade in NTFPs in Nepal	4.1 By December 2022, Nepalese NTFPs that are in high use/trade demand, are evaluated against the designed systematic framework which considers sustainability of, and risks from, commercial harvest to assess the long-term suitability for international trade. 4.2 By June 2024, practical policy guidance on including NTFPs harvesting and management (including monitoring responsibilities and practices) in CFUG management plans and a model for decentralized alpine natural resources management, based on best practices, is disseminated by FECOFUN to CFUGs across Nepal.	4.1. A draft paper is available and was presented at the International Conference on Revitalising Community Forestry in the era of socio-environmental crisis conference in 2024. 4.2. Meetings with policymakers will took place in April 2023 in order to build guidance. 4.3. i) A model for assessing the sustainability of wild-harvested plants is being developed. A manuscript currently titled "*The sustainability of trade in wild plants – a data-integration approach tested on critically endangered Nardostachys Jatamansi*" has been published in an international peer-reviewed journal. Another paper on the theme of a generalised approach to sustainable medicinal plant management in the Himalayas has been developed and is expected to be finalised in August 2024. 4.4. Sustainabilty considerations were embedded into the October 2023 Jadibuti declaration drafted on behalf of a variety of stakeholders (NGOs, government, private sector involved in the NTFP trade in Nepal). Side meetings during the market access workshop in August 2023 were held with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and delegates from the NTFP industry from China. These meetings have led to the Nepali and Chinese government agreeing key NTFP products for export and import. See activity 4.6 for information on engagement with CITES authorities in Nepal.

	4.3 By June 2023, stakeholder consultations review the findings of the assessment and agree the ways forward and recommendations for policy-makers, industry (Nepalese and international), and CFUGs. 4.4 Sustainability considerations based on 4.1, and piloting experiences, are embedded in at least one Nepal trade policy or agreement concerning NTFPs (e.g. supporting Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) traditional medicine agreements), by June 2024 4.5 Nepal CITES Authorities develop NDFs following existing good practice guidance, based on up-to-date information (including resource management data, traditional CFUG knowledge, and distribution modelling) leading to Jatamansi removal from the CITES Review of Significant Trade process, and no additional CITES App-II listed species included in RST or the EU 'negative opinion'	
Activity 4.1: Develop an evaluation framework for assessing the long-term suitability for international trade of high-value/volume NTFPs (UOXF, ANSAB, TRAFFIC, UOC)		The University of Oxford finalised a Bayesian network model. The University of Copenhagen, ANSAB and TRAFFIC finalised a sustainability roadmap comprised of 5 elements: 1. Increase cultivation 2. Strengthen local management 3. Support domestic businesses 4. Improve sector governance 5. Increase international collaboration
Activity 4.2: Develop and disseminate a practical guideline on including NTFPs harvesting and management (including monitoring responsibilities and practices) in CFUG management plans (ANSAB, FECOFUN)		A study on "Policy related opportunities and challenges for the sustainable harvesting and trade of CITES-listed species in Nepal" was completed (SD_47) The findings of the study were validated through the stakeholder workshop in Kathmandu. A detailed terms of reference (ToR) was developed for this study which analysed gaps in the current community forestry guidelines and drew recommendations for their improvement. Building on the policy analysis report and practical issues faced in the field, ANSAB and FECOFUN jointly organized Mountain community forests' issues and lessons sharing workshops in various parts of Nepal at Provincial, District and Municipality. In those

	workshops, management plans developed by the project, as model, shared to the participated stakeholders.
Activity 4.3: Develop a model plan for decentralized alpine natural resources management (ANSAB, UCPH)	Policy analysis was undertaken. Based on this, a model decentralised alpine natural resources plan was developed.
Activity 4.4: Provide orientation and hands-on training to local and national FECOFUN to facilitate the dissemination of guideline including NTFP harvesting and management along with the model plan across Nepal (ANSAB, FECOFUN)	ANSAB and FECOFUN carried out consultations on how to move forward to provide orientation and hands-on training to local and national FECOFUN to facilitate the dissemination of guidelines including NTFP harvesting and management with plan developed for activities in Nov 2023-March 2024. After consultation several tailored events were held to disseminate guidelines and communicate the management plans developed.
Activity 4.5: Consultation meetings and dialogue to embed sustainability considerations in Nepal's trade policy and agreement concerning NTFPs (ANSAB, MOFE, FECOFUN, NEHHPA, TRAFFIC, UOXF, UCPH)	Built on a systematic review of proposed interventions in the literature, including an annotated bibliography of all literature and annual dialogue meetings with key stakeholders, five foundational pathways were identified, upon which to build future interventions: (i) increase cultivation, (ii) strengthen local management, (iii) support domestic industries, (iv) improve sector governance, and (v) establish regional collaboration. Workshop also agreed The Jadibuti Declaration to 2030 was agreed. Detailed information is provided on the workshop report (SD_47)
Activity 4.6: Support and facilitate the CBD and CITES Government authorities to comply with international conventions and targets (ANSAB, MOFE, TRAFFIC)	During the course of the project ANSAB and TRAFFIC have supported CITES authority activities in Nepal. In April 2022, ANSAB gave a presentation at The Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) under Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, a management authority of the CITES (Flora) in Nepal to share learning on the CITES listed plants, particularly efforts to regulate harvesting and trade of Jatamansi as part of the **"Orientation on CITES Laws"** programme. 30 high level government officials mostly from Divisional Forest officials (DFOs) of Bagmati Province participated. In June 2022, The Director General of the Department of the Plant Resources (DPR)- CITES scientific authority (Flora) invited ANSAB team to share project activities and discuss collaboration at the DPR to support the development of an NDF in 2023 as well as a scientific inventory of CITES listed NTFPs species in Nepal. In November 2022, ANSAB gave a presentation on "Decentralized resource management and monitoring: community-based forestry approaches with Jatamansi in Nepal" for the DPR. This was presented at a side event of the CITES CoP 19 in Panama held from 14-25 November 2022. TRAFFIC supported the delegation while there and co-organised this side event. In 2023 ANSAB supported NDF development. TRAFFIC has provided guidance to ANSAB and support to CITES delegations through provision of updated materials and assistance in replying to questions and queries to CITES authorities. TRAFFIC has also assisted in providing pro-bono support to companies interested in understanding CITES regulations and their requirements in support of facilitating sustainable trade practices.

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

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Nepal's Himalayan wild medicinal and aromatic plants are sustainably managed, and landscapes where they grow conserved, with community harvesters benefitting from sustainable management and traceable, equitable trade			
Outcome: High-value/conservation priority NTFPs in five districts of Nepal's Himalayas are effectively conserved through sustainable management and traceable, equitable trade, based on clear legal frameworks and sustainable use and trade approaches.	0.1 At least three species of high-value NTFPs (Jatamansi, Kutki and Himalayan Fritillary) in five priority production districts of Nepal's Himalayas are sustainably managed (i.e. in line with the updated CFUGs operational management plans), by June 2024. 0.2 At least 5,000 (at least 40% women) harvesters, processing staff and the CFUGs they are part of, benefit from at least 5% increase in income from the sustainable trade in target NTFPs, by June 2024. 0.3 A traceability pilot for Nepalese high-value NTFPs, driven by the market interest is complete, with final FairWild-certified products on sale at a consumer market, by June 2024. 0.4 Nepal's government policies, sectoral multi-stakeholder strategies, trade agreements explicitly include provisions for sustainable trade in CITES Appendix-II and other NTFPs of commercial importance by June 2024.	1. Management is assessed in Divisional Forest Offices reports, and compared with CFUG management plans 2. Baseline and project end household income surveys 3. Companies' reports, images of products on sale, traceability pilot documented 4. Policy, regulation, trade agreement text, peer-review article	Long-term impacts of COVID-19 do not significantly disrupt Nepal's national and international trade. This concerns transport/harvesting lockdown restrictions and the growing demand for herbal products as treatment/prevention. Selected NTFPs are already a main source of income for communities in Himalayan districts; changing trade dynamics and the diversification of market interest will enable this income to grow, if the necessary safeguards and resource management measures are put in place and implemented through Nepal's existing Community Forestry system and a model approach for decentralised alpine natural resources management. We assume the project will be able to achieve policy changes on the basis of our ongoing work with key policy stakeholders (government, civil society and private sector) and the changes that have resulted from that; also the project partners have the credibility of producing evidence-based information and facilitation of the policy process

Outputs: **1**. At least three species of high-value NTFPs are sustainably managed by communities in Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Darchula, and Bajhang districts of Western Nepal.	1.1 Resource inventories, focused on three principle target high-value/conservation priority NTFPs (and covering other associated species harvested in the area) are complete for five target districts (at least 30 CFUGs community forests) with total area or approximately 25,000 ha, and distribution modelling approximates sustainable harvesting quantities per district in Nepal, by March 2023. 1.2 Sustainable management, including community monitoring, of three target NTFPs (and other associated harvested species), is integrated into 30 CFUGs operational management plans in five target districts, recognised and approved by Divisional Forest Offices and CFUGs by June 2023. 1.3 Training programme in NTFPs sustainable harvesting, resource management and monitoring approaches rolled-out to 5,000 harvesters in 30 CFUGs by December 2023. 1.4 The sustainability (time, methods, quantity) of three target NTFPs harvesting has improved, compared to 2021 baselines, in target areas by June 2024.	1. Resource inventory reports for all target districts, published papers with distribution modelling 2. 30 updated CFUG operational management plans 3. Training participants' lists; pre-and post-training knowledge evaluation 4. Divisional Forest Offices and CFUG monitoring reports; FairWild certification reports/communication	The existing resource inventories for eight CFUGs in Jumla and Mugu districts will provide replicable methodology Each target CFUG has Community Forest management plans however their validity period mostly expired and these do not include details of NTFPs stock or annual allowable harvest; the updated CFUGs management plans will provide templates/approaches for replication. The existing skills, understanding and culture for sustainable resource management, through Community Forestry, will help communities maintain harvests at sustainable levels. The three 'principle' species are sufficiently well-understood and locally identifiable to enable reliable resource inventories and the traceability systems of Output 3. We will be able to do worthwhile surveys of Polygonatum, Delfinium, and other species and provide valuable training, which will bring conservation and economic benefits, but assume that taxonomic and practical challenges of identification and nomenclature (currently under active research) will mean that later steps of certification for traceability will not be possible within the project timeframe.
2. At least 5,000 harvesters and their communities in five target districts have clear benefits from long-term sustainable, equitable, traceable trade in NTFPs	2.1 5,000 CFUG harvesters and processing workers, (at least 40% women) from at least 20 producer enterprises, are trained in FairWild and organic standards and certification, by December 2023. 2.2 Target CFUGs and harvesters' registration system updated to provide a basis for transparent trade and	2.1 Training participants' lists; pre- and post-training knowledge evaluation 2.2 Harvesters' registers at CFUG level, project technical reports	Harvesters' registration system will provide an important element of both traceability of products, and create the basis for equitable benefit sharing arrangements. Clarification of benefit sharing protocol will clarify the intended arrangements and

	cost-calculation, to include harvesters' details, harvesting/sale quantities and locations, prices, trainings/ capacity-building, disaggregated by gender, by June 2022. 2.3 Fair trading and benefit sharing protocol developed and piloted with NTFP harvesters' and workers' sub-committees in one CFUG by June 2022, and subsequently rolled-out to all target groups, by June 2023.	2.3 Sub-committee policy and reports	processes, and mitigate the potential conflicts between harvester and non-harvester members of CFUG and among harvesters
3. Sustainable supply chains are in place, led by producers/exporters in Nepal, and 'matched' to manufacturers in consumer markets, based on sustainable production systems following FairWild Standard	3.1 Supply chains for at least three NTFPs from Nepal to consumer markets are identified and documented by June 2022. 3.2 Traceability system for essential oils and other plant-based products is developed, based on FairWild Standard, and implemented by June 2023. 3.3 At least one industry meeting, involving consumer markets' buyers, Nepalese producers and herbal products associations lead to buy-in and the development of trade agreements in line with sustainability requirements, by June 2024. 3.4 Trading agreements between at least 15 CFUGs and companies (identified in Output 3 activities) established, including the clear indication of the price premiums, by June 2024. 3.5 Traceability pilot, linked to the FairWild certification implementation in close relation with the buyers and retailers, showcases the environmental, social and economic benefits of eco-friendly plant-based products, by June 2024.	3.1 Market report 3.2 Traceability system design report 3.3 Meetings agenda, summary, list of participants, trade agreements and industry statements 3.4 Trading agreements, meetings' records 3.5 Communications on companies, FairWild, TRAFFIC websites	Markets for NTFPs will continue to grow and will be increasingly looking for the evidence of products origin and environmental and social impacts of production. This concerns both the European and US markets with more established requirements for sustainability, and, increasingly markets in China and India, which are fast-growing and are key destinations for many Nepalese NTFPs.
4. Policies, legislation and strategies at federal, provincial and local levels incentivise and enable a long-term shift towards sustainable use and trade in NTFPs in Nepal	4.1 By December 2022, Nepalese NTFPs that are in high use/trade demand, are evaluated against the designed systematic framework which considers sustainability of, and risks from, commercial harvest to assess the long-term suitability for international trade.	4.1 Draft report as an input to the project stakeholder consultations 4.2 Policy concerning the content of the CFUG operational management plans, and the model approach to	Nepal's government do not decide to suspend trade of certain wild-sourced products, which could impede access to and/or reduce markets for exports from Nepal.

	4.2 By June 2024, practical policy guidance on including NTFPs harvesting and management (including monitoring responsibilities and practices) in CFUG management plans and a model for decentralized alpine natural resources management, based on best practices, is disseminated by FECOFUN to CFUGs across Nepal. 4.3 By June 2023, stakeholder consultations review the findings of the assessment and agree the ways forward and recommendations for policy-makers, industry (Nepalese and international), and CFUGs. 4.4 Sustainability considerations based on 4.1, and piloting experiences, are embedded in at least one Nepal trade policy or agreement concerning NTFPs (e.g. supporting Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) traditional medicine agreements), by June 2024 4.5 Nepal CITES Authorities develop NDFs following existing good practice guidance, based on up-to-date information (including resource management data, traditional CFUG knowledge, and distribution modelling) leading to Jatamansi removal from the CITES Review of Significant Trade process, and no additional CITES App-II listed species included in RST or the EU 'negative opinion'	decentralized alpine resources management 4.3 Record/report from stakeholder consultation; peer-reviewed article summarizing the assessment and recommendation, sharing replicable methods 4.4 Industry/trade associations policy; Nepal government trade policy statements (including in the context of BRI TCM) 4.5 Record of government decisions, meetings records	Nepal's government MoU with China focused on boosting traditional medicine trade remains operational under the Belt and Road Initiative Traditional Chinese Medicine strategy Methodology for the update of CFUGs' operational management plans, piloted in 25-018, and the political change in Nepal to decentralised governance, provides an important opportunity for the change in policy and practice (for CFUGs to introduce provision for NTFPs in their management plan with proper inventory and sustainable management practices)

Output 1: At least three species of high-value NTFPs are sustainably managed by communities in Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Darchula, and Bajhang districts of Western Nepal.

Activity 1.1: Carry out detailed resource inventories of three high value NTFPs (Jatamansi, Kutki, and Himalayan Fritillary) and other associated harvested species in 30 community forests (ANSAB)

- *Confirm the target community forest user groups in Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Darchula, and Bajhang districts, based on the initial discussions in project preparation including through district FECOFUN chapters;*
- *Conduct district-level consultation meetings with the key stakeholders;*
- *Conduct participatory resource mapping for all NTFPs in all five districts/ potential sites*
- *Adapt and utilize inventory protocol for NTFPs at community forest level*
- *Carry out detailed field inventory of target species*
- *Compile, analyze, interpret data and complete modelling (species, area, annual allowable harvest), summarized in resource inventory report(s)*

Activity 1.2: Conduct situation analysis to understand resource governance in target areas and status of forest management plans (ANSAB)

- *Review the existing management plans of beneficiary CFUGs to identify the gaps*
- *Organise gap analysis workshops in five target districts (Humla, Mugu, Jumla, Bajhang and Darchula) with key stakeholders (DFO, FECOFUN, CFUGs, NGOs)*
- *Develop a gap analysis report with action plan*

Activity 1.3: Support to revise CFUG management plans including the provision of sustainable management of high value NTFPs (ANSAB, FECOFUN)

- *Collect the socio-economic data and information of the targeted CFUGs*
- *Facilitate to organize general assembly of the selected CFUGs to include the provision in their management plans*
- *Write-up of the forest management plans*
- *Facilitate CFUGs to take approval from the respective Divisional Forest Offices*

Activity 1.4: Develop a training packages (Training materials, training curriculum and training strategy) for the harvesters and relevant stakeholders (ANSAB)

- *Adapt and revise existing materials to confirm the training curricula and training strategy for sustainable forest management focusing on high value NTFPs*
- *Update the training materials for the roll-out of training of trainers and the capacity-building of harvesters*

Activity 1.5: Deliver capacity-building to trainers and to target CFUGs with the focus on participatory plant resource management, sustainable harvesting techniques, and monitoring (ANSAB)

- *Organise a ToT for the development of 40 local resource persons (LRPs)*
- *Mobilise LRPs for to deliver at least 30 sessions (one in each of the 30 CFUGs) (reaching 5,000 harvesting households)*

Activity 1.6: Undertake the participatory monitoring of the target areas, in collaboration with key stakeholders (including the Ministry of Forests and Environment (agencies at district and municipal levels) and FECOFUN) (ANSAB)

- *Conduct harvesting areas monitoring based on establishing methodology and against the management plans*
- *Integrate information collected into CFUG management plans implementations and into the government-managed data system*

Output 2: At least 5,000 harvesters and their communities in five target districts have clear benefits from long-term sustainable, equitable, traceable trade in NTFPs

Activity 2.1 Establish harvesters and producer enterprise levels baselines and final evaluation in the target districts (ANSAB)

- *Develop survey methodology, based on household income surveys*
- *Administer the survey across the target CFUGs (reaching ~10% of 5,000 target households) and develop baseline report*
- *Undertake end of the project evaluation*

Activity 2.2: Train harvesters and processing workers on FairWild and organic standards and certification (ANSAB, TRAFFIC, FWF)

- *Update the available training on FairWild and organic standards, including on FairWild requirements of fair trade, social responsibility, traceability*
- *Review and adapt the training curricula, strategy and materials*
- *Organise a training of trainers (ToT) for at least 40 people with the focus on FairWild and organic standards implementation and certification*
- *Deliver 30 training sessions (one in each of the 30 CFUGs) and 3 training for processing workers.*

Activity 2.3: Develop and update the harvester's registration system in community managed forests in the project sites (ANSAB)

- *Organise CFUGs level meetings to identify and update a list of harvesters in the targeted sites;*

- *Build capacity of CFUG executive committees for harvesters' registration system (delivery of training and support throughout the project)*
- *Mobilize LRPs to monitor and provide necessary technical support in maintaining the harvesters registration system*

Activity 2.4: Support the set-up of the CFUGs-level harvesters and workers sub-committee for regulating the fair trade and equitable benefit sharing (ANSAB)

- *Organise CFUGs level meetings to discuss, update and develop the CFUGs level harvesters/workers sub-committee in the targeted sites;*
- *Develop a guideline on sub-committee formation and mobilization covering issues of fair trading practices and benefit sharing*
- *Conduct an orientation training for the sub-committee on implementing the guideline*

Activity 2.5: Develop FairWild premium fund operation guideline in each of the project districts (ANSAB)

- *Organise CFUGs level meetings to discuss on the FairWild premium fund operational guideline*
- *Establish the FairWild premium fund in the representation of each of the harvesters sub-committee*
- *Orient CFUGs executive member and producer enterprises on fair price determination, fair trade and premium price distribution*
- *Orient harvesters sub-committee on the FairWild premium fund operational guideline*
- *Establish a written agreement between CFUGs and producer enterprises*

Output 3: Sustainable supply chains are in place, led by producers/exporters in Nepal, and 'matched' to manufacturers in consumer markets, based on sustainable production systems following FairWild Standard

Activity 3.1: Conduct value chain and market analysis of three target NTFPs species to identify priority markets and commercial partners to maximise their export potential (FWF, TRAFFIC)

- *Identify main target markets, their opportunities and access barriers for Nepalese producers*
- *Confirm market channels and segments best fit with Nepalese producers.*
- *Develop market engagement plan, including the potential commercial partners, steps for match-making, key opportunities for engagement (e.g. key trade fair)*

Activity 3.2: Support the development of local capacities in Nepal to implement FairWild and enable market access (ANSAB, FWF, TRAFFIC)

- *Develop manual/toolkit on market access*
- *Train the trainer to use these toolkits*
- *Top-up and advance the capacity of Nepal project partners to support CFUG/producers with FairWild implementation (top-up trainings, FairWild Forum)*
- *Engage and enable certification body/ies in Nepal to deliver FairWild and FairWild + organic audits*

Activity 3.3: Facilitate the engagement and development of trade agreements with potential identified buyers interested in sustainable NTFPs from target areas (FWF, TRAFFIC, ANSAB, NEHHPA, CWPCA, CATCM)

- *Coordinate the communication with at least 20 producer enterprises in Nepal to support match-making with buyers*
- *Support the FairWild application and facilitate risks analysis of species, enabling companies' presentation on FairWild match-making platform.*
- *Organize at least one face-to-face industry meeting in Kathmandu, with the focus on international buyers and counterparts to exchange the experiences, focus on China's TCM companies and India importers, in collaboration with NEHHPA and CATCM, CWPCA*
- *Support one-to-one meetings with ethical buyers to establish trading agreements based on sustainable supply chains and facilitate agreements development.*

- *Showcase environmental, social and economic benefits of eco-friendly plant-based products, including through the potential Wild Plants for Wildlife platform, FairWild website, and other platforms.*

Activity 3.4: Support the implementation of FairWild requirements, including the traceability system (ANSAB, TRAFFIC, FWF)

- *Organize account and record keeping training*
- *Provide support to maintaining documents for demonstrating traceability*
- *Create sample/template versions of the key documents required for Y1 of FairWild certification, including collection area maps, collection instructions, plant specification and a management plan.*
- *Assess and address the gaps against FairWild and organic standards, in preparation for the audit*

Activity 3.5: Support the FairWild audit of at least five supply chains (ANSAB, FWF)

- *Identify potential certification body to undertake the audit*
- *Organise account and record keeping training, support the preparation of documents to accompany the audit*

Output 4: Policies, legislation and strategies at federal, provincial and local levels incentivize and enable a long-term shift towards sustainable use and trade in NTFPs in Nepal

Activity 4.1: Develop an evaluation framework for assessing the long-term suitability for international trade of high-value/volume NTFPs (UOXF, ANSAB, TRAFFIC, UOC)

- *Use Bayesian belief network models to develop a framework that uses available data (e.g. biological and trade data, harvest methods) combined with expert elicitation with key stakeholders (e.g. CFUGs, TCM companies) and species experts to map out how the sustainability of trade in different species may change with shifting international markets for medicinal plants.*
- *Apply the framework to species that occur in the project site to sort them into three categories for further action, based on long-term sustainability of trade: already threatened, at-risk of unsustainable trade, and opportunity for sustainable trade.*

Activity 4.2: Develop and disseminate a practical guideline on including NTFPs harvesting and management (including monitoring responsibilities and practices) in CFUG management plans (ANSAB, FECOFUN)

- *Analyse the gaps in the current CF guideline and review current forest management guidelines in Nepal/globally in the context of alpine regions*
- *Organize key informant interview to get advise on guideline for alpine regions*
- *Develop a draft guideline, obtain stakeholder feedback*
- *Present the draft guidelines in a meeting (involving government agencies, FECOFUN) to finalize the guidelines for integration into CFUG policies.*

Activity 4.3: Develop a model plan for decentralized alpine natural resources management (ANSAB, UCPH)

- *Develop a model plan, apply the guideline in CFs*
- *Share this plan with the government agencies for input and as policy recommendations*

Activity 4.4: Provide orientation and hands-on training to local and national FECOFUN to facilitate the dissemination of guideline including NTFP harvesting and management along with the model plan across Nepal (ANSAB, FECOFUN)

- *Organize a training to central FECOFUN ; Support FECOFUN to roll-out training to local FECOFUNs*

Activity 4.5: Consultation meetings and dialogue to embed sustainability considerations in Nepal's trade policy and agreement concerning NTFPs (ANSAB, MOFE, FECOFUN, NEHHPA, TRAFFIC, UOXF, UCPH)

- *Develop influence plan to coordinate the pathways to reach desired impact at local/national/global/policy levels*
- *Facilitate a workshop to review the evaluation framework outcomes (Activity 4.1), co-develop strategies for species in threatened and at-risk groups based on existing best practices, and feed these into policy recommendations.*
- *Organise a stakeholder meeting to discuss the longer-term strategic plans and recommendations for the development of NTFPs sector in Nepal, including with the focus on effective alpine natural resource management.*

Activity 4.6: Support and facilitate the CBD and CITES Government authorities to comply with international conventions and targets (ANSAB, MOFE, TRAFFIC)

- *Provide technical advice to the CBD and CITES authorities throughout the project*
- *Support in booklet/brochure preparation that will be helpful to clarify the status of species to CBD and CITES*
- *Participate in various forums organized by the government and provide technical inputs*
- *Engage in presenting the project case-study in terms of support to Nepal's government's commitments under CBD and CITES at international level, for dissemination and learning.*

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total achieved	Total planned
DI-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,643	5000
DI-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	Gender	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,359 men 2,284 women	5000 (40% women minimum)
DI-A05	Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.	People	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	32	
DI-A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.	Number	Organisations	N/A	N/A	48	48	48
DI-B03	Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed*. **OR** DI-C03 New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published. Number, Area (hectare) Biome/Ecosystem/Habitat; Assessment method. **OR** DI-C02 Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published	Number		8	29 in planning	21	21	30
DI-B08	Volume of internationally traded products complying with sustainability standards		Kilograms	500 kg Kutki	200kg Kutki	10 kg Jatamansi Oil	700 kg Kutki & 10 kg Jatamansi oil	N/A
DI-A01	Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Typology/Language		3	4	5	12	10
DI-C02	Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published. Number Taxa (Flora/Fauna/Fungi), RDL Category (global/regional), Assessment method.	Knowledge products		8	17	29	29	30
DIC05	Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	Data/insight/ca		2		1	3	1

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total achieved	Total planned
	related reporting processes and calls for evidence. Number MEA, Information typology (data, insights, case studies)	se studies						
DI-D01	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.	Ha	Ha	17,297 ha	N/A	N/A	33,443	25,000

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Biodiversity and Beyond: Experience and Lessons on Community-based Forest Management	Presentation/Blog post	Ghimire, P and S. Khanal, 2024	Male	Nepali	ANSAB website	2024 ISDRS conference in Kathmandu, Nepal | ISDRS ANSAB
Building a Roadmap for Sustainable management of Commercial Medicinal Plants in Nepal	Blog post	TRAFFIC	Female	UK	TRAFFIC website	Building a roadmap for sustainable management of commercial medicinal plants in Nepal - Wildlife Trade News from TRAFFIC
A roadmap to sustainable management of commercial medicinal and aromatic plants, fungi, and lichen in Nepal	Presentation	Smith-Hall, C. et. al. 2024	Male	Danish		Conference presentation
Theorising and analysing the forest-based bioeconomy through a global production network lens	Journal paper	Smith-Hall, C. et.al. 2024	Male	Danish	Elsevier	Theorising and analysing the forest-based bioeconomy

						through a global production network lens - ScienceDirect
The Sustainability of trade in wild plants – A data integtation approach tested on critically endangered Nardostachys Jatamansi	Paper	Smith-hall, C 2023				The sustainability of trade in wild plants-A data-integration approach tested on critically endangered Nardostachys jatamansi - PubMed (nih.gov)
The Sustainability of the Environmental Product Trade: Joining Ecology and Economics in the Nepali Himalayas	Blog	Smith-Hall 2024				The Sustainability of the Environmental Product Trade: Joining Ecology and Economics in the Nepali Himalayas – University of Copenhagen (ku.dk)
CITES and Livelihoods Case Study: Jatamansi *	Case study	Amy Woolloff, Anastasiya Timoshyna 2022	Female	British	CITES Secretariat	https://cites.org/eng/prog/livelihoods
WildCheck: Assessing the risks and opportunities of trade in wild plant ingredients	Report	Schindler, C., Heral, E., Drinkwater, E., Timoshyna, A., Muir, G., Walter, S., Leaman, D.J. and Schippmann, U. 2022	Female	Canadian	FAO, Rome	https://www.fao.org/3/cb9267en/cb9267en.pdf
Jatamansi profile on WildCheck Platform	Webpage	Schindler, C., Heral, E., Drinkwater, E., Timoshyna, A., Muir, G., Walter, S., Leaman, D.J. and Schippmann, U. 2022	Female	Canadian	TRAFFIC, Cambridge	https://www.wildcheck.info/jatamansi

Jatamansi featured in TRAFFIC 2017-2022 End of Programme story-map	Webpage	Anastasiya Timoshyna, Audrey Plyler, Abbie Pearce, Marcus Cornwaithe 2023	Female	Ukrainian	TRAFFIC, Cambridge	https://www.traffic.org/about-us/achievements-and-impacts/ (scroll to Purchasing section)
2 World Health Day 2022: Celebrating the Himalayan plants supporting local livelihoods, health, and biodiversity	Website publication					https://www.traffic.org/news/world-health-day-2022-celebrating-the-himalayan-plants-supporting-local-livelihoods-health-and-biodiversity/
Himalayan Plants for People: Sustainable Trade for Biodiversity & Development	Website publication	Aakriti Poudel	Female	Nepali	ANSAB	https://ansab.org.np/projects/himalayan-plants-for-people--sustainable-trade-for-biodiversity-and-development
Himalayan Plants for People: Sustainable Trade for Biodiversity & Development	Project Brochure	Aakriti Poudel	Female	Nepali	ANSAB	https://ansab.org.np/storage/product/ansab-di27-himali-project-flyer-eng-ver-20220407-compressed-1649838380.pdf
ANSAB and DoFSC jointly organized a CITES Policy Review Workshop	News - Website publication	Aakriti Poudel	Female	Nepali	ANSAB	https://ansab.org.np/news/ansab-and-the-department-of-forest-and-soil-conservation--dfsc--jointly-organize-a-cites-policy-review-workshop

Annex 5 Supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

SM_1_Field photos & captions_2023

SM_2_Selection of links to communications materials including end of project video

SM_3_ SM_3_ANSAB presentation on CITES Experience with Jatamansi for DPR_June-10_2022

SM_4_Project objectives_kick-off 8 November 2021

SM_5_TRAFFIC_wildlife trade Timoshyna_Mosig_June 2023_short

SM_6_Full presentation. Medicinal plants in Nepal. Assessing sustainability using Bayesian Belief Network Model

SM_7_Report from Mountain community forests' issues and lessons sharing workshops in various parts of Nepal 2024

SM_8_List of participants of the participatory respources maping in 29 CFUGs

SM_9_2022 Total number of NTFPs harvesters in the project districts

SM_10_Beneficiary data summary

SM_11_PROFOUND_Technical Progress Report.docx_30.10.23

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 BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. All supporting material should be submitted in a way that can be accessed and downloaded as one complete package.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, **do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?**	
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.	
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.	