
DIR28S2\1057

Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods

Protected areas in Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape are fragmented, meaning recovering wildlife populations (like tiger and rhino) in Parsa National Park are pushed towards human settlements in surrounding buffer zones, increasing human-wildlife conflict, with particularly negative impacts for women and Indigenous communities disproportionately reliant on forest resources. This project will secure connectivity between protected areas and northern Shivalik hills using a corridor of community-managed forests; mitigate human-wildlife conflict; and reduce communities' dependence on resources through diversified livelihoods and enhanced agroforestry.

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR28S1\1395

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Savannas and grasslands

Biome 3

Palustrine wetlands (flooded forests, wetlands, marshes, floodplains)

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

Education & awareness (incl. training)

Conservation Action 3

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Threat 3

Other threats

Q5. Summary

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

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Protected areas in Nepal's Terai Arc Landscape are fragmented, meaning recovering wildlife populations (like tiger and rhino) in Parsa National Park are pushed towards human settlements in surrounding buffer zones, increasing human-wildlife conflict, with particularly negative impacts for women and Indigenous communities disproportionately reliant on forest resources. This project will secure connectivity between protected areas and northern Shivalik hills using a corridor of community-managed forests; mitigate human-wildlife conflict; and reduce communities' dependence on resources through diversified livelihoods and enhanced agroforestry.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

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

Country Nepal
1

Country No Response
2

Country No Response
3

Country No Response
4

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 June 2022

End date:

31 March 2025

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

2 years, 10 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£138,853.00	£218,581.00	£109,848.00	£ 467,282.00

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %



Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding has been secured from ZSL core funds (£) and from Parsa National Park authorities (£)

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty.

For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the methodology page).

Over 24,710 sq. km, Nepal's part of the transboundary Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) encompasses highly productive alluvial grasslands and subtropical broadleaf forests(1). Providing habitat to threatened flagship species like tiger, rhinoceros and elephant, it is home to 7.5 million people from 45 different ethnic groups(5). Human populations (expanding 2.1%/year(5)) have split the once-contiguous forest(2), restricting wildlife habitat primarily to five protected areas (PAs) in three forest complexes, including Chitwan-Parsa complex(3,4).

Parsa National Park (PNP) in the eastern TAL provides crucial transboundary connectivity between India's Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Chitwan NP (CNP), the northern Shivaliks, and the eastern Terai forest of Nepal, facilitating movement of tiger, elephant and other wildlife, and accommodating expanding wildlife populations from CNP(14). PNP is home to 37 mammal species, of which 14 are threatened and under IUCN, CITES, or Nepal government protection categories. The status of threatened medium-sized mammals like dhole (*Cuon alpinus*), and of small mammals like Chinese (Manis pentadactyla) and Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Hispid hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*), is poorly understood(14). Tourism is important, as up to 50% of PA tourism revenue goes to community development in surrounding buffer zone areas(14). However, despite being the only PA in Madhesh Province, tourism in PNP is limited, with only 3,733 visitors in the past two decades(14,15) – just 2% of those visiting adjoining CNP in FY2021(16).

The corridor and surrounding buffer zone community forests (BZCF) are degraded(5), as buffer zone communities are poor and highly dependent on forest resources(14), and studies predict climate change will increasingly force terrestrial mammals northwards(6). Successful recovery of tiger numbers (rising from 7 in 2014 to 18 in 2018), and lower prey density(1,7) in PNP have raised concerns about the capability of tiger-bearing PAs to support further increases; experts warn of a rise in human-wildlife conflict (HWC)(7). More tigers in the core habitat have forced other carnivores towards the fringes of buffer zones(9), and into villages. As wildlife movement grows, competition for resources and conflict will likewise intensify(4,11), with disadvantaged and indigenous communities, and women, disproportionately impacted due to their greater reliance upon fuelwood, fodder and non-timber forest products (NTFPs)(12). This phenomenon was evident in FY2020 HWC data, which showed 72% of those suffering from HWC in PNP were from indigenous and disadvantaged communities(15). Interactions with leopards, deer and ungulates now account for most of the HWC in these zones. In FY2020, of the 70 HWC incidents reported, 70% were caused by leopards (*Panthera pardus*)(15).

Wildlife and habitat evaluation, the development of site-specific strategies including awareness-raising, preparedness, and mitigation measures are urgently needed to address HWC and so generate local support for conservation(10,11). As community participation is key to successful conservation and conflict reduction(13), providing local people with diversified livelihoods and promoting traditional and responsibly managed practices like agroforestry will help reduce unsustainable natural resource dependency and strengthen ecosystem services(17,18), while improved ecotourism will stimulate new income-generating opportunities. Together, these changes are core components of the pathway to better livelihoods for people and a secure corridor for wildlife.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

This project will contribute significantly to delivering Nepal's NBSAP, specifically through activities that align with the following NBSAP strategies: improvement in protected area habitats and connectivity (PA-C); preparing community-based organisations for conservation-friendly management of their forests, with a particular focus on women, disadvantaged and Indigenous groups (CE-A); and improving connectivity of natural ecosystems, particularly north-south connectivity (CC-B2). Nepal's NBSAP has identified significant gaps in the participation of women and Indigenous groups in conservation, which this project will help to address by working directly with these groups. This will, in turn, contribute to Nepal's achievement of Aichi Targets 1, 5, 7, 11 and 15.

The project will additionally contribute to the following SDGs: 1: No Poverty (through fostering sustainable livelihoods for marginalised communities); 5: Gender Equality (through supporting women's greater participation in decision-making on natural resource management); 10: Reduced Inequalities (through improving wellbeing and financial resilience of indigenous and marginalised people); and 15: Life on Land (through improving habitats for threatened wildlife and plants).

The project will support the Nationally Determined Contribution of Nepal to the UNFCCC, which has the target to "ensure fair and equitable benefits (carbon and non-carbon) from sustainable forest management, watershed management, and biodiversity conservation among local communities, women and Indigenous People." The outcomes of the proposed project activities contribute directly to this target by strengthening, and thereby increasing the benefits of, forest and watershed management and biodiversity conservation, and by establishing benefit-sharing principles for buffer zone communities. The project will also contribute towards the achievement of Nepal's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), particularly the targets around the Restoration of Habitats and Strengthening Ecological Connectivity for Wildlife and Biodiversity (including safeguarding wild fauna from climate extreme events, establishing climate resilient safe wildlife passage in selected corridors and connectivity between protected areas and managing and restoring ecological connectivity) and the Development and Strengthening of Ponds/Lakes in Community Forests for Resilient Biodiversity. This is crucial as the NAP highlights that capacity gaps have hindered effective response to climate change impacts.

Nepal's commitment to the conservation of biodiversity in the TAL is enshrined in several policy documents, including the Wildlife Act, Forest Policy, TAL Strategy and Action Plan, and Species-focused Conservation Action Plans (covering, e.g., tiger, rhino, pangolin). Specifically, the TAL strategy outlines its goal to conserve the ecosystems of the Terai and Churia hills in order to ensure integrity of ecological, economic, and sociocultural systems and communities (13). By facilitating sustainable, community-driven forest management, the project also aligns with the Nepal government's focus on the community forest management mechanism for achieving its targets, as embodied in Nepal's National Forest Policy 2019 and Forest Act 2019. Finally, this project aligns with Nepal's Tiger Conservation Action Plan, particularly its focus on "manag[ing] Nepal's tigers as metapopulation, by maintaining connectivity among the protected areas... through the following strategic actions: Improve and restore critical tiger habitats and corridors... Engage local communities in resolving human tiger conflicts... [and] Strengthen tiger and prey-base monitoring and research. Connectivity is also important for the CMS-listed Asian elephant and leopard.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

The project incorporates the following approaches and learnings:

i. Community wellbeing through inclusive committees: In lowland Terai PAs, ZSL has already established 29 committees supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable groups, including women (63%), Indigenous (72%), and disadvantaged (90%) communities, by reducing HWC, raising conservation awareness and diversifying livelihoods. 4380 households have reported increases in income (average 20%). We will replicate this proven model to ensure meaningful participation by vulnerable people and sustain livelihood support post-project.

ii. Habitat management to reduce HWC: ZSL's experience improving wildlife habitat by working with communities to manage grasslands and wetlands - in the core (ITHCP Phase I [IUCN/KfW], WCCA) and corridor forests (IUCN's Tigers in Nepal project) - will inform the project's habitat management to increase food availability in the PA and reduce wildlife encounters outside the PA .

iii. Improved livelihood opportunities and tourism promotion: We will draw on existing interventions (community homestays, livestock farming, dairy cooperatives) in PAs/buffer zones, including those allowing disadvantaged communities to generate income through ecotourism (e.g., Chitwan and Bardia NP). ZSL has supported tourism plans in Ghodaghodi (DI 26-012) and infrastructure development (IWT 284, DI 26-012, DI 24-015) to improve tourists' experiences. Around 200 tourists/year visit PNP, with up to 50% of revenue underpinning BZ community development, so supporting this is important.

iv. Improving ecosystem services: ZSL's experience of controlling habitat degradation to improve ecosystem services in Shuklaphanta NP (DI 22-009), such as grazing control assisting natural regeneration, participatory forest management in buffer zone community forests, and community-based grassland management, will help shape this project's habitat restoration and livelihood interventions.

ZSL and partners will promote corridor conservation through community-forest corridor management, reduction of HWC, diversified livelihoods and agroforestry practices.

i. Output 1 – Participatory management framework

ZSL will use previous wildlife survey data and GIS to identify corridor and priority areas. Representatives from Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs) (min. 50% women and low-income households) will participate in a participatory mapping and planning workshop. BZCFUGs will agree a corridor charter outlining women's and disadvantaged groups' representation, priority area demarcation, management guidelines, and benefit-sharing principles. 20 BZCFUGs' operational plans will be prepared/reviewed and BZCFUGs will maintain/restore 3 wetlands, grasslands (100ha) and forest (50ha) in key BZCF areas. We will monitor wildlife in buffer zone and corridor forests with camera trap surveys and occupancy analyses for small/medium mammals (*Hystrix indica*, *Felis bengalensis*, *Felis chaus*, *Lepus nigricollis*, *Sus scrofa*, *Muntiacus vaginalis*, *Cuon alpinus*), and use camera traps to assess *Panthera tigris* presence. We will manage potential HWC risk through mitigation measures, as outlined in Output 2. During monitoring we will also collect information that support PNP in strategizing conservation actions for Chinese (*Manis pentadactyla*) and Indian pangolin (*M. crassicaudata*) and hispid hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*).

ii. Output 2 – HWC mitigation

We will assess long-term HWC data and analyse HWC trends and disseminate through a peer-reviewed publication. We will train 75 community members in Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) to be HWCx champions. BZCFUGs will prepare, endorse, and enhance capacity around HWCx plans. HWCx champions will support implementing HWCx plans by facilitating awareness raising within BZCFUGs (drills, three workshops/ trainings, five display boards). HWC-impacted households, identified via assessment, will be supported with HWC mitigation measures: predator-proof corrals (200 households), wildlife exclusion fencing (6km) and a wildlife relief fund. Wildlife exclusion fencing includes: solar-powered electric fencing to exclude large mammals (elephant and rhino); mesh fencing to exclude small/medium mammals (wild boar, ungulates, porcupine); and biological fencing like bamboo, a nature-based solution that provides diversified livelihood options and helps reduce flood risk.

iii. Output 3 – Diversified livelihood options

Three women-led community banks, including disadvantaged and vulnerable community members, will be formed in priority communities, and provided with 6 skills trainings and toolkits on livelihoods identified through local indigenous knowledge and market assessment. Community banks will receive seed grants for minimal-interest loans and materials to assist members to start livelihoods. We will work with PNP/BZ to promote ecotourism through nature guide training, enhancement of PNP's information centre and website, tourism stakeholder workshops, documentary film, hoarding and display boards, and embedding a tourism plan in PNP's management plan.

iv. Output 4 – Enhanced agroforestry practices

200 community members from targeted communities (min. 50% women and low-income households) will be trained in agroforestry practices. One local nursery, producing 50,000 native and low-water-demanding seedlings, will be established, distributing 70% of seedlings to reforest the corridor and 30% in private lands to reduce dependence on protected forests. Minimum 50 households will grow wildlife-unpalatable crops (e.g., lemons, turmeric) for income generation.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

The project will directly improve the capacity of 561 individuals (at least 50% women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people). Of them, 20 BZCFUG executive members will be trained in corridor conservation, through their engagement in corridor planning processes. Similarly, 26 BZUC executive members will be engaged in HWCx planning, building their knowledge on HWC and necessary mitigation measures. The project will train 75 HWCx champions on wildlife, their behaviour, and ways to prevent and manage HWC. They will go on to train a further 90 local community members on HWCx. 20 PA staff will be trained on wildlife rescue techniques. At least 320 local community members will receive livelihoods skills-based training and agroforestry training. 10 local youths will be given nature guide training, promoting livelihoods in tourism.

At the organizational level, the project will capacitate 37 organizations (1 governmental; 36 community-based organizations). The capacity of 20 BZCFUGs will be strengthened through participatory revision of their operational plans, and by the creation of a corridor charter to improve the effectiveness and equity of the BZCFUGs' management. Similarly, an HWCx plan will capacitate 8 BZUCs to advocate and implement HWC mitigation measures. The three community banks established will have their capability built to run livelihood interventions through the seed money and trainings provided. PNP's tourism management will be enhanced by integrating the tourism plan with the PNP management plan and through support for tourism marketing and stakeholder meetings. In addition, all partner organisations will receive mandatory training in ZSL's code of conduct, global safeguarding, and GDPR. ZSL's policies (including its Safeguarding; Fraud, Corruption and Anti-Bribery; and Global Whistleblowing policies) will be made available for partners to implement or adapt if they do not have their own. These steps will help strengthen partners' internal policies and procedures and build capacity to implement them.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

Community consultations have identified 1,136 potential beneficiary households, 60% women. Predominantly involved with resource extraction from the forests, women have limited economic resilience and access to employment opportunities, and therefore are highly vulnerable(19). The project contributes to gender equality through increased security, access to livelihoods opportunities and enabling inclusive voices in governance. In doing so, the project builds on ZSL's past successes enabling fairer representation of women and marginalised groups (40-80% of participants) in livelihoods and governance work, and equitable benefits sharing. Women and marginalised groups will be prioritised for cooperatives and livelihood activities, ensuring the prevention of elite capture. This will also ensure benefits are fairly and equitably distributed.

Moreover, ZSL considers GESI issues at all stages of project implementation (i.e., beneficiary selection, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and communication of results). Across ZSL's project area in Terai, 29 cooperatives are supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable groups, including women (63%), indigenous (72%), and disadvantaged (90%) communities(20). ZSL uses a GESI-sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that assesses and ensures equitable representation, participation, access, and benefit sharing to show the impacts of the project on equality. As part of gender mainstreaming, men and women will be given equal opportunities for recruitment into all capacity-building opportunities. Furthermore, grievances will be collected and dealt with as per the ZSL Grievance Standards and Guidelines. Beneficiary feedback will support the context-specific needs of ZSL's target groups, such as women, and promote inclusive project adaptation and accountability. These mechanisms will fulfil the rights and entitlements of participants, redressing any issues on the ground. As such, they will also empower the participants by

building their confidence and voice, reducing elite capture.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

ZSL maintains a database accessible to staff that hosts project reports and outputs in compliance with GDPR requirements. Any data collected will be freely available in English and Nepali and delivered to project partners. All project outputs will be made available on ZSL's and partners' websites and disseminated via social media, and content will be provided for inclusion in newsletters and press releases. ZSL's website has c.326k unique users per month; the separate conservation webpages receive 7k. ZSL's social media reach is 25.3k people on Twitter and 11.5k on Instagram. Outputs and publications will be published through open access peer-reviewed journals, with costs covered by overheads. They may also be listed on the ZSL library catalogue (c.6000 library users annually + c.22,000 digital users). We will disseminate the information further through relevant IUCN specialist groups, other conservation and development agencies working in Nepal, and at events held at ZSL's London headquarters. Data will be shared to feed into global conservation initiatives such as the Living Planet Index, as well as being used for national needs, including regular reporting to the CBD.

ZSL Nepal shares its progress and achievements with partners and stakeholders through its annual report. Project partners will disseminate information about the project and findings through their websites, annual reports and social media outlets. Knowledge generated through the project will be shared to communities, partners and stakeholders through organising trainings, workshops and meetings to ensure access regardless of literacy levels. Furthermore, the project will develop awareness-raising materials (brochures, information boards, signs) and documentaries to create awareness around corridor conservation, HWC mitigation and tourism development. The project databases and training curricula will be developed in Nepali to ensure accessibility to all users. DNPWC will be the long-term custodian of the project impact reports, survey reports, and legal framework recommendations.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

Overall, the project is expected to create secure and sustainable connectivity from the crucial lowland PAs to the Shivaliks and eastern Terai, with improved relationships between humans and wildlife in the project sites.

In the shorter term, the conservation of 1000 ha of northern community forest corridor will be ensured through establishing policies (joint community forest corridor management plan and 20 Buffer Zone Community Forests' operational plans), with at least 100 ha of grassland, 50 ha of forest and 3 wetlands maintained/restored, improving the forest corridor during the project. Forest corridor improvement will further be aided by agroforestry practices and livelihood diversification. Pressure on forest resources will be reduced across at least 395 households: 200 households will receive alternative sources for grass, fuelwood, and fodder from agroforestry practices, and 195 will establish alternative sources of income generation through the livelihood scheme. With improved forest and reduced human disturbance, the movement of wildlife will increase in the forest corridor, with a minimum 10% increase in occupancy of small and medium mammals and increased evidence of tiger movement. Learning the status of the threatened but lesser-known dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) will support PNP to develop needed strategies for its conservation. Current and potential HWC will be reduced through mitigation measures: 200 carnivore-conflict-vulnerable households will have predator-proof corrals, safeguarding at least 1000 small livestock and reducing 80% of livestock kill; three communities will have 6 km of wildlife-exclusion fencing installed, reducing at least 20% of crop raiding for 300 households. A HWCx plan will be prepared, ensuring HWC reduction beyond the project period, facilitated by 75 HWCx champions developed through the project. Community motivation to conserve the forest corridor and wildlife will increase as income-generating opportunities from tourism are

realised. Over 120,000 people will be reached through tourism marketing strategies, and PNP's tourist numbers will rise by 50% compared to 2021 .

In three years, we expect that at least 1,136 households (3,136 people, 60% female), prioritising disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including 51% Indigenous and 5% households with disabilities, will benefit directly from the project, and at least 8,290 households (64,630 people, 51% female) will be indirectly engaged and/or benefitted.

Beyond the project, the forest corridor will be restored and remain intact, connecting PNP with the northern Shivaliks and eastern Terai forest, allowing easy and safe wildlife movement in harmony with humans. The benefit of agroforestry practices will be realised by communities and conservation partners, and will be integrated and/or replicated as a sustainable approach for corridor conservation and community wellbeing. The livelihood scheme will continue functioning sustainably, reaching more community members through the active engagement of community banks. Long-term HWC costs will be reduced through ongoing implementation of the HWCx plan with the support of HWCx champions. The tourism plan, integrated into the PNP management plan, will guide overall tourism promotion in PNP, and the marketing products created through the project will continue to reach more people, supporting the flourishing of tourism in PNP and ensuring long-term income for conservation and community development.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project will employ a participatory and inclusive approach, based on extensive experience of working in the landscape, to secure the sustainable connectivity of the Chitwan-Parsa complex with the Shivaliks and eastern Terai forest, facilitating safe and easy wildlife movement and benefiting communities through proven and effective livelihood interventions.

Short-term, habitat management will improve degraded priority areas in community forests, while joint forest corridor and individual community forest user group management plans will empower BZCFs to ensure long-term improvement. Agroforestry practices will support corridor improvement by reducing pressure on forests through alternative sources of forest products. Similarly, alternative livelihood schemes will increase community members' income and reduce dependence on forests for their livelihoods. Improved habitat and decreased human disturbance will ease wildlife movement through the corridor. This movement will be made safe for wildlife and people through pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures, like predator-proof corrals and wildlife-prevention fencing, supplemented through awareness-raising activities. The HWC relief fund will increase communities' HWC resilience through immediate relief. Tourism promotion will bring long-term income-generating opportunities, fostering positive community attitudes towards conservation and promoting HWCx.

This approach will be replicable in the larger TAL, where there are signs of imminent, climate-driven wildlife movement beyond the PAs.

Q19. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

Intervention sustainability: The community forest management plans and corridor management plan will ensure corridor sustainability, establishing resource generation opportunities from good agroforestry practices, BZCFUGs' commitment, and the PA's legal guidance. The HWCx plan will continue to guide communities in HWC mitigation but better habitat management can also reduce wildlife encounters. Livelihood interventions will continue through community banks, institutionalised under BZCFs to access technical and financial support from BZUCs/PNP. Tourism support will be taken over by PNP.





Financial sustainability: Community banks will circulate seed funds for livelihood support at low interest rates, making livelihood support available after the project and covering operational costs. The HWC relief fund will continue, reaching more HWC victims. The nursery will keep producing seedlings for agroforestry, covering operational costs through sales. Individual households will maintain predator-proof corrals. CFUGs' operational plans will help them continue generating income from forest resources.

Knowledge availability: Most capacity-building interventions focus on local communities in buffer zones affiliated with community-based institutions (BZUCs and BZCFUGs) with legal standing with PAs. Therefore, knowledge and skills will remain in the communities under the PA's guidance. HWCx champions, agroforestry practitioners, and nature guides will all remain in their communities, able to share the knowledge they've gained. All other knowledge products will remain on file with DNPWC and on public platforms, making them readily available.

Scalability: This approach can be scaled up to other critical connectivity sites by the Nepal government and conservation partners working on strengthening connectivity and implementing the TAL programme, which is in middle of its 50-year vision. A community-forest corridor development and impact policy brief will be submitted to DNPWC and DoFSC to promote scaling the model up across the landscape.

ZSL and partners' commitment: ZSL and partners have permanent presence in Nepal and will remain available for ongoing technical support.

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

-  [Parsa Additional Information for Upload \(1\)](#)
-  31/01/2022
-  16:04:35
-  pdf 1.03 MB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Misuse of funds by partners	Severe	10%	Major	ZSL has stringent financial protocols in place and works with a wide range of partners. A grant agreement is set up with clear outline of financial responsibilities by each partner. Additionally, ZSL has worked with the project partners on many grants and has strong financial reporting systems already in place.	Moderate

<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Harassment, abuse or sexual exploitation of project stakeholders or participants during their interactions with the project, resulting in harm caused to individuals.</p>	Major	20%	Major	ZSL has rigorous in-house protocols and policies for safeguarding, binding on all partners. ZSL conducts mandatory training for all project staff on safeguarding, GDPR and the Global Code of Conduct (which is implemented through locally relevant grievance and feedback mechanisms, open to all project participants, partners and stakeholders).	Moderate
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Local government or development stakeholders remain silent over unsustainable resource extraction and infrastructure development in fragmenting and degrading northern community forest corridor.</p>	Major	20%	Major	ZSL and partners will sensitise BZCF members and communities on sustainable natural resource management use, and will also promote collaboration among PA management, local government and development stakeholders on sustainable resource use and wildlife-friendly infrastructure development.	Moderate
<p>Risk 4</p> <p>The project works with vulnerable community members and causes harm or deepens gender or other inequity by not involving members of the community, not informing them appropriately or leaving out groups' voices from the consultations.</p>	Moderate	10%	Moderate	GESI is mainstreamed into the ZSL Nepal approach, ensuring the inclusion of marginalised groups. This includes the implementation of participatory stakeholder engagement and Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The project also implements grievance mechanisms and beneficiary feedback and collects disaggregated data. Regular checks ensure guidelines and processes are adhered to.	Minor
<p>Risk 5</p> <p>COVID-19 causes disruption to project activities.</p>	Moderate	40%	Major	Staff and project partners will take H&S precautions to avoid the spread of COVID in line with national policy. Virtual tools are available as a way to continue regular stakeholder meetings, community engagement, and advocacy if social distancing is necessary.	Moderate
<p>Risk 6</p> <p>Increased risks from natural disasters such as flooding and landslides</p>	Major	10%	Major	H&S assessment carried out at project inception phase to guide site selection for project activities and data collection. Close collaboration with local authorities to progress activities in safe conditions. Integration of nature-based solutions like bamboo plantation in relevant output activities to reduce flooding risk.	Moderate


Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities


Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

 [R28-Darwin-Implementation-Timetable-Nepal Parsa](#)

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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

Day-to-day data collection, management and compilation will be conducted by the M&E officer, who will monitor project progress through monthly reporting and evaluation against the indicators outlined in the logframe. The project leader will provide insight. Project milestones will be developed to measure monthly progress. In addition, mid-term and endline M&E will be conducted.

Completion of milestones will be monitored through monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based system – including activity tracking, indicator tracking and finance tracking systems. Together, these allow different aspects of successful project implementation to be monitored simply and effectively, while enabling information sources to be readily combined to assess overall progress and enable highly flexible adaptive management in response to changing conditions.

Outcome indicators will be monitored and evaluated based on the BZCF management plans and joint community forest corridor management plan prepared, and BZCF reports on management activities. Under the guidance of a Nepal wildlife biologist and the M&E officer, wildlife camera trap surveys will be conducted to evaluate the increase in occupancy of small/medium mammals and the evidence of tiger movement. Outcome indicators on community livelihoods, wellbeing, natural resource dependence and perceptions will be evaluated based on community surveys conducted with a stratified-random selection of participants in the targeted three communities by the M&E officer. The survey will be designed with a Nepali socio-economist to accurately capture experienced and perceived improvement with disaggregated data among gender and ethnic groups.

Progress towards Output 1 will be monitored through workshop attendance records, BZCF management plans and management reports for priority areas by the M&E officer with support from PNP, MWT and the field programme officer. This will be supplemented with participatory corridor maps showing priority areas, prepared under the guidance of the project lead. The success of the overall initiative will be evaluated through increased wildlife movement in the corridor (under the outcome).

Progress towards Output 2 will be monitored by the M&E officer working closely with the field programme officer, MWT and BZUC through analysis of HWCx champions' records and reports, workshop minutes, BZUC implementation reports and HWC data from PNP. The socio-economic survey will further complement the analysis of HWC data received from PNP.

Progress towards Output 3 will be monitored by the livelihood officer with support from the M&E officer, working closely with MWT, BZUC and the field programme officer, through pre- and post-project surveys supplemented by community bank records, trainings logs and post-training assessment. Tourism-related progress will further be analysed and evaluated with the help of the PNP tourism plan, workshop minutes, opportunities to view at airports, website visits, and PNP visitor records. A socio-economic survey will also be conducted, capturing the income from livelihood and tourism support.

Progress towards Output 4 will be monitored by the livelihood officer with support from the M&E officer, working closely with MWT, BZUC and the field program officer, through workshop records, seedling records from the nursery, and a socio-economic survey with a random sampling of communities, capturing data on agroforestry activities, seedling planting, and success.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	██████████
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	5
Number of days planned for M&E	84

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q23. Logical Framework

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

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [R28-Darwin-St2-Logical-Framework-Nepal Parsa Final](#)
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Impact:

Secured sustainable connectivity from the crucial lowland PAs to the Shivalik hills and eastern Terai Arc Landscape using community forest networks as corridors.

Outcome:

A community-managed forest corridor linking Parsa National Park to the Shivalik hills and eastern Terai Arc Landscape secures sustainable connectivity and the wellbeing of 5000 people.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest corridor is established.

Output 2:

Reduced short-term costs from HWC, and long-term plan to manage future HWC pressures in corridors, enable communities to receive net benefits from their community-forest corridor.

Output 3:

Diversified livelihoods for the most marginalized community members provide a direct revenue stream from the protected area, ensuring that precarious households equitably benefit from the corridor and are not forced into the overuse of natural resources.

Output 4:

Enhanced agroforestry practices adopted throughout the community-forest corridor, laying foundations for long-term forestry revenues and sustainable corridor connectivity across Parsa National Park.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1

1.1 Support PA management in identifying and executing priority habitat management measures to increase the prey density within the core area. (Fireline, grassland, wetland)

1.2 Support BZCF towards identifying and executing priority habitat management measures to maintain vital corridors for wildlife movement.

1.2.1 Wetland/water source protection and management by BZCFUG (Cleaning, clearing, maintenance, small check dam, plantation around water source etc)

1.2.2 Grassland management by BZCFUG (uprooting trees and cutting, burning and sowing grasses etc)

1.3 Conduct camera trap survey to monitor wild mammals (small, medium and large) within buffer zone/corridor forest. (Capacity development to local resource person, equipment, food, transportation).

1.4 Support buffer zone community forests (BZCF) to prepare adaptive management plans incorporating participatory habitat management. (BZCF operation plan preparation/revision).

1.5 Support BZCF to improve the degraded forest in the identified corridor to improve ecological services.

1.5.1 Identify priority areas in the community forest corridor.

1.5.2 Plantation of native seedlings and saplings in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG

1.5.3 Regeneration promotion in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG

1.6 Support PNP and buffer zone to prepare/review the participatory adaptive management plan to improve the corridor habitat.

1.7 Update status of Dhole and prepare species action plan.

1.8 Promote collaboration between PA management and development stakeholders to construct wildlife-friendly infrastructure.

Output 2

2.1 Assess the impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore like tigers on other carnivores, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications.

2.1.1 Prioritise and map HWC hotspots to implement pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures.

2.2 Support BZMC to prepare and endorse human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) plan, including training for the community members.

2.2.1 Conduct meeting and workshops on HWCx plan.

2.2.2 Develop HWCx plan.

2.2.3 Train HWCx champions and community members to implement HWCx plan.

2.3 Support buffer zone communities to implement HWC mitigation and management measures from HWCx plan (including PPC, fencing, and relief fund)

2.3.1 Support predator-proof corral to HWC victim HHs (Equipment and material)

2.3.2 Install and maintain wildlife-preventing fences (solar/mesh wire/biological).

2.3.3 Maintain HWC relief fund within BZUC.

2.4 Train and create awareness among PA staff and vulnerable local communities (older people, people with disabilities, women and children) on wildlife conservation and HWC.

2.4.1 Install hoarding boards on HWC.

2.4.2 Develop IEC materials on HWC.

2.4.3 Orient and train HWC-vulnerable local community.

2.4.4 Deliver HWC management and wildlife rescue training to PA staff and community members.

Output 3

3.1 Provide sustainable, diversified livelihoods to the local people (skills training/community banking/cooperatives).

3.1.1 Document indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on diversified livelihoods and prepare livelihood improvement plan.

3.1.2 Conduct Rapid Market Assessment (market chain analysis) for identified livelihood options/trainings.

3.1.3 Support skills-based trainings and toolkits (commercial vegetable and livestock farming, plumbing, electrician, tailoring, motorcycle repair, etc.)

3.1.4 Form/strengthen community banks/cooperatives by providing trainings, cooperative education and institutional support.

3.1.5 Provide materials to start livelihood activities, including seed money.

3.2 Promote ecotourism opportunities in PNP and buffer zone, including infrastructure support through collaboration (such as training on ecotourism, information centre, and other infrastructure), incorporating local indigenous knowledge.

3.2.1 Conduct nature guide training.

3.2.2 Conduct hospitality training (cooking/housekeeping/waiting/bartending).

3.2.3 Support/strengthen information centre.

3.2.4 Maintain websites (PNP and partners) for tourism marketing.

3.2.5 Improve, maintain or establish community tourism initiative (Community homestay/lodge/towers).

3.2.6 Install signage along tourist route.

3.2.7 Create documentary.

3.2.8 Install hoarding boards in Janaki Temple area and Birgunj.

3.2.9 Conduct central-level workshop with NTB, HAN, TAAN.

3.2.10 Conduct local-level workshop for tourism promotion.

3.2.11 Install digital display (Simara Airport and Madhesh province HQ).

3.2.12 Incorporate tourism plan within management plan of PNP and its buffer zone.

Output 4

4.1 Conduct trainings and workshops on agroforestry practice.

4.2 Provide seedlings to households for agroforestry (such as fodder, fruit, and bamboo).

4.3 Promote wildlife-unpalatable cash crops (chillies, lemons, cotton, lemongrass, ferns, turmeric, ginger, etc).

4.4 Conduct learning visit at the best agroforestry and wildlife-deterrent cash crop site.

4.5 Establish/strengthen community nursery.

5.1 Conduct baseline and end line survey

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.


- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

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

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

 [Nepal Parsa Darwin R28 Final to Upload](#)

 31/01/2022

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Q25. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have assessed the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

ZSL has extensive experience of delivering international projects. Our financial policies and procedures are subject to regular review, ensuring they remain appropriate for the projects, as well as internal and external compliance requirements. In addition, ZSL undertakes due diligence on prospective partners to ensure their finance policies and procedures are compliant with donor requirements. All partners receive ongoing financial management training and support.

ZSL follows strict segregation of duties policies. Regular bank and cash reconciliations are prepared, reviewed and approved. ZSL uses unique codes for all grants, enabling monitoring of income and expenditure at grant level, improving grant management and reducing financial risks. All funds will be transferred to and between partners through a traceable banking system.

ZSL implements robust policies and procedures to mitigate financial risk, including a Fraud, Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy and a Global Whistleblowing Policy, which all staff and partners are made aware of and required to abide by. Trainings on these are mandatory and accessible via ZSL's online training system. These policies are available for partners to implement or adapt if they do not have their own.

The past 36 months' FX trends have been considered and associated FX risk managed for project budgeting.

Q26. Funding

Q26a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new initiative designed in support of PNP and its buffer zone communities. The project will leverage PNP's work in improving buffer zone community forests, reducing HWC and improving community wellbeing through habitat management, livelihood schemes, tourism promotion and management, and agroforestry. ZSL has designed this project based on extensive community engagement experience in Nepal. Tourism promotion with enhanced marketing strategies and the integration of a tourism plan into the PNP management plan comprise an innovative approach to be implemented for the first time in PNP. This will provide crucial support for PNP, as its current tourism level for the past two decades is only 2% of the annual number for adjoining Chitwan NP. With the devolved structure of the government bodies and growing urban populations in Madhesh province, our project is a timely intervention to make tourism a key livelihood option for the buffer zone communities.

This initiative will also support the broader TAL programme's vision by securing the connectivity of the Chitwan-Parsa complex with the northern Shivalik and eastern Terai forests, which will further help develop a contiguous forest landscape for the safe and easy movement of wildlife throughout the transboundary Terai Arc Landscape.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

No

Q27. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

All capital equipment purchased during this project will remain the property of the ZSL upon closure of the project. The inventory record of capital items purchased will always be maintained by ZSL and partner organisations. We are not requesting more than 10% in capital costs.

Q28. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

ZSL has 25 years' experience working with DNPWC, the Government of Nepal and the local communities, improving ZSL's access to information, tools, permits and local expertise, enabling cost-effective impact. The project utilises methods, data, infrastructure and learning from our existing ZSL Nepal programmes and wider portfolio of community-based conservation and development projects.

ECONOMY

Costs are reduced by using existing systems, equipment, and infrastructure in Nepal; match-funding for key technical staff; and employing local staff. Required capital equipment, where feasible, will be sourced in-country, avoiding unnecessary shipping/customs charges. Community contributions to relevant interventions will support cost reduction and ensure community ownership.

EFFICIENCY

Building on established relationships with experienced local partners, having carried out similar work before, ensures inputs are efficiently translated into outputs, keeping administrative costs low from the outset of the project.

EFFECTIVENESS

Implementing tested approaches will support effective project implementation. For example, community banks are excellent investments, as demonstrated by our previous successful projects across South and Southeast Asia and Africa.

OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS

ZSL is experienced in developing deliverable, locally cost-effective budgets. The sustainable and scalable nature of the project will continue to provide benefits in the long term as previous ZSL projects have, without the need for further funding. The project will implement cost-effective management improvements with low start-up costs and overheads but large impacts on conservation and community development. By developing local physical and human capital, further long-term conservation benefits are unlocked, in addition to those targeted in the short-term, so increasing the return on investment.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. Please highlight any key safeguarding risks, including human rights issues, their assessment and measures to mitigate and manage them.

Throughout ZSL's long-term experience implementing projects jointly with Nepali NGOs, local governments, local

communities, universities, and research institutions, the team has developed ways to introduce safeguarding policies inclusive of vulnerable people. ZSL has several safeguarding policies governing national and international work. As part of due diligence, partners are required to show that they meet the same environmental and social safeguarding requirements. In addition, these policies are incorporated in cooperation agreements such as MoUs and ToRs. Partners and/or consultants will be oriented on the policies to ensure they understand these policies before making agreements with ZSL. ZSL's facilitation for developing beneficiary documents such as the community banking constitutions, management plans, human wildlife co-existence plan, tourism plan and buyer agreements ensures that these policies follow ethical standards and enable participation of vulnerable groups. While working with partners, financial and procurement rules and procedures are introduced and explained as necessary to officers of partner organizations and community members for maintaining ethical standards while maximising value for money. Training is also completed in safeguarding, GDPR and code of conduct as a pre-requisite for all projects. Therefore, many partners and service suppliers are already familiar with ZSL's safeguarding policies and financial/procurement procedures.

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

ZSL has in-house protocols for ethical approval adhering to international commitments for human rights and biodiversity, including Nepal's National Human Rights Commission Act 2012. The project will be subject to a full risk assessment, ensuring any programmatic risks and potential negative impacts on communities and biodiversity are mitigated and reported on.

ZSL Nepal's existing projects have undergone review through the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System and have mitigation measures in place where human rights issues have been flagged. This project will undergo additional assessment and implement requirements where needed.

This project will not introduce new access restrictions; rather, it supports preparation/revision of community forest management plans that allow and guide communities to use, conserve and manage community forest resources in an equitable manner. The project recognises Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and will use a participatory approach to all aspects of programming where appropriate. In line with this, target communities were consulted in the project design phase. The project promotes an inclusive approach, prioritising the participation of women and marginalised groups (50%). Target communities' safety is also prioritized by the project. Output 2 is dedicated to safeguarding communities and their livelihoods from current and potential HWC.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q31. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the

Finance Guidance.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Bishnu Thapaliya	Project Leader	15	Checked
Dr Bhagawan Raj Dahal	Deputy Country Director	5	Checked
Muna Thapa	Programme Management Specialist	20	Checked
Prachanda Maharjan	Programme Officer	10	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Amit Pajiyar	Finance Officer	15	Checked
Katherine Secoy	Head of Programme Oversight	5	Checked
Dr Hem Sagar Baral	Country Director	5	Checked
Helen Linda Karki Chettri	M&E Oversight	10	Checked
Taskina Hadi	Finance Business Partner (Programme)	3	Checked
Aaron Foy	Operations Coordinator	3	Checked
TBD	Project Officer	100	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [ZSL submission Parsa - CVs and IDs combined](#)

 31/01/2022

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 pdf 1.41 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name:	Zoological Society of London
Website address:	www.zsl.org
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>ZSL is an international conservation charity established in 1826, with a vision of a world where wildlife thrives. ZSL has extensive experience managing large field-based conservation projects effectively, working with local partners and communities to successfully achieve conservation outcomes in over 40 countries.</p> <p>ZSL has implemented conservation projects in Nepal for over 25 years, actively supporting the Government of Nepal in conserving priority landscapes and species. Establishing a permanent presence in 2014, under MoUs with the Ministry of Forests and Environment and Social Welfare Council, ZSL Nepal has a proven track record of working with project partners, including Panthera, Global Conservation, IUCN, and Himalayan Nature (below) to deliver outstanding projects improving livelihoods and establishing community-led conservation.</p> <p>ZSL Nepal's field office is at the proposed site, providing monitoring and technical assistance.</p> <p>ZSL will work with the government and implementing partners to ensure timely and quality delivery of the project. ZSL will also orient partners on the project's aims and necessary compliances; share learning nationally and internationally; provide technical support for project implementation; coordinate with partners, communities and stakeholders; conduct project-level monitoring, baseline and end line studies, and other assessments; and lead annual technical and financial reporting.</p>
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)

Website address: <https://dnpwc.gov.np/en/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Under the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), DNPWC is the leading government line agency responsible for the conservation and management of wildlife, their habitat and outstanding landscapes of ecological importance. For the past 42 years, DNPWC has managed 20 protected areas and 13 buffer zone areas across the country, with support from its 1,937 members of staff. It leads on the preparation and implementation of species conservation and action plans. DNPWC is also responsible for implementing conservation-related national and international treaties and conventions like CBD, CITES, Ramsar, GTF, and UNESCO/WHs. It has conducted periodic national surveys for protected flagship species like tiger and rhino. It also facilitates the distribution of human-wildlife conflict relief across the country.

ZSL and DNPWC have worked in partnership for over 25 years. ZSL has had an MoU in place with DNPWC since 2014 to support Nepal's conservation mission. DNPWC provides overall guidance on conservation issues, needs and interventions. It monitors and evaluates projects implemented in all protected areas and their buffer zones. In this project, DNPWC will support on the central and field-level coordination required for planning and implementation, as well as monitor, evaluate and advise on effective project interventions.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

2. Partner Name: Parsa National Park (PNP)

Website address: <https://parsanationalpark.gov.np/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

PNP was initially established as a wildlife reserve in 1984 to preserve Asian wild elephants. Becoming a national park in 2017, PNP now is working to maintain a healthy ecosystem in Chure-Bhawar-Terai, thereby delivering essential benefits for the wellbeing of local people. With 89 park staff, PNP protects wildlife, maintains wildlife habitat, controls illegal wildlife activities, manages human-wildlife conflict, and aims to promote tourism in a participatory manner, engaging local communities and conservation partners like NTNC, ZSL, and WWF. PNP and ZSL have worked together closely since the establishment of ZSL's permanent Nepal office in 2014. PNP has accommodated ZSL Nepal's field office in one of its range posts in Bara. Together with ZSL, PNP has implemented tiger conservation project supported by donors such as IUCN/KFW, Panthera, and Oak Foundation, and conducted tiger monitoring in northern hotspots.

In this project, PNP will implement tourism promotion and habitat management interventions; provide technical support in wildlife monitoring and the creation and implementation of HWCx plans and buffer zone community forest plans; capacitate local communities; coordinate with local stakeholders; and conduct site-level monitoring and supervision of project activities.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

3. Partner Name: Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT)

Website address: <https://mwt.org.np/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT) is actively working to restore diminished national forests and its biodiversity, as well as filling the gap in conservation activities outside protected areas (PAs) through community-based conservation methods. It has played an important role in restoring the diminished Dhanushadham Protected Forest and getting it declared an "Illicit Felling and Open Grazing Free Zone" at zero cost. With a strong bond with the communities residing in wildlife corridors in Madhesh Province, MWT has been restoring degraded riverbanks as dense forest in the Shivalik Churia range as part of its mission to restore traditional wildlife corridors. MWT has been working closely with the provincial and local governments for effective law enforcement to fight against the illegal wildlife trade. It has also coordinated Community Forest User Groups to implement community stewardship programmes, supported by ZSL, benefitting more than 400 financially marginalized families.

In this project, MWT will work closely with local communities and community-based organizations to implement community engagement activities including restoration, habitat management, species monitoring, human-wildlife conflict management, income-generating and agroforestry-related activities. It will also provide support in creating conservation awareness, enhancing interaction among stakeholders, and promoting ecotourism in Parsa National Park.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

4. Partner *No Response*
Name:

Website address: *No Response*

Details *No Response*
(including roles
and
responsibilities
and capacity to
engage with the
project):

Allocated *£0.00*
budget:

Represented on Yes
the Project No
Board

Have you Yes
included a Letter No
of Support from
this
organisation?

5. Partner *No Response*
Name:

Website *No Response*
address:

Details *No Response*
(including roles
and
responsibilities
and capacity to
engage with the
project):

Allocated *£0.00*
budget:

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No


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

No Response

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

 [Nepal Parsa Darwin R28 All Support Letters UPDATED](#)

 31/01/2022

 17:27:12

 pdf 925.74 KB

 [ZSL Parsa Cover Letter Final for Upload \(1\)](#)

 31/01/2022

 17:27:11

 pdf 305.94 KB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
26-012	Hem Sagar Baral	Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale
25-012	Gitanjali Bhattacharya	Steppe-Up: Community-led recovery of Mongolia's iconic species and forest-steppe ecosystem
24-015	Hem Baral	Community conservation of Chitwan National Park's freshwater ecosystems and gharials
24-016	Matthew Gollock	Sustainable community-based stewardship of freshwater resources in the Northern Philippines
23-001	Paul De Ornellas	Protecting the Dja Conservation Complex in Cameroon
22-009	Hem Sagar Baral	Securing Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve's Grassland and wellbeing of local communities

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Zoological Society of London

I apply for a grant of

██████████





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

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign





contracts on their behalf.)





- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, logframe, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked




Name	Catherine Martin
Position in the organisation	Institutional Fundraising Manager
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Signature  31/01/2022  18:13:07  png 18.24 KB
Date	31 January 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [ZSL Annual Report 2019-20 \(2\)](#)
 31/01/2022
 18:16:10
 pdf 5.22 MB

 [ZSL Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21](#)
 19/01/2022
 17:11:58
 pdf 5.03 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [ZSL Global Safeguarding Policy](#)
 19/01/2022
 17:12:56
 pdf 4.68 MB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked

The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).