

## Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

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

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

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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### Darwin Initiative Project Information

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|---|--|
| Project reference   | 29-011   |
| Project title   | Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods  |
| Country/ies   | Nepal  |
| Lead Partner  | Zoological Society of London   |
| Project partner(s)  | Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Parsa National Park (PNP) and Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT) |
| Darwin Initiative grant value   | GBP 467,282  |
| Start/end dates of project  | 1 June 2022 – 31 March 2025  |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | Jun 2022 – Mar 2023, Annual Report 1   |
| Project Leader name   | Ms. Monica Wrobel/Mr. Bishnu Prasad Thapaliya  |
| Project website/blog/social media   |  |
| Report author(s) and date   | <b>Muna Thapa (ZSL), Satyam Chaudhary (MWT), April 2023</b>  |

### 1. Project summary

Protected areas in Nepal’s Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) are fragmented (*Annex 4.1.1, 4.1.2 & 4.1.3*) meaning recovering wildlife populations (such as tiger and rhino) in Parsa National Park (PNP) are pushed towards human settlements in surrounding buffer zones (*Annex 4.1.1, 4.1.2 & 4.1.3*) and into the villages, increasing human-wildlife conflict (*Annex 4.1.4*), with particularly negative impacts for women and Indigenous communities disproportionately reliant on forest resources (*Annex 4.1.4*). This phenomenon was evident in FY2020 Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) data, which showed 72% of those suffering from HWC in PNP were from indigenous and disadvantaged communities (*Annex 4.1.5*). 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*) (*Annex 4.1.5*). This project focuses on securing connectivity linking PNP to northern Shivalik hills and eastern Terai Forest, ensuring safe wildlife movement and increasing community wellbeing. Therefore, the project is targeting to work at 20 buffer zone community forests (BZCFs) and three communities in the northern buffer zone area of PNP namely: Amlashwor Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC), Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC. The average wellbeing index of community members is less than 0.39, indicating the majority of households are poor with an average land size of 5.81 *Kathha* (<0.2 ha). To achieve the intended result, the project will work under four major themes which are community forest corridor conservation, sustainable livelihood improvement, HWC mitigation and agroforestry promotion.

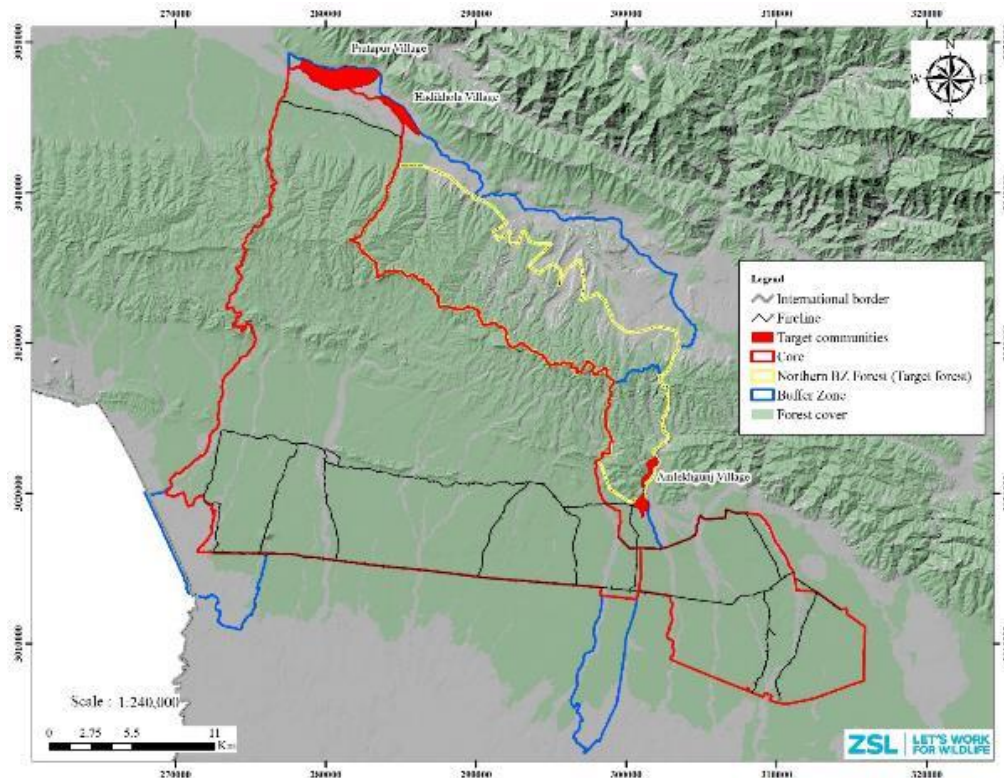


Figure 1: Map showing project site in Parsa National Park and Buffer Zone area

## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the main government partner for ZSL's Nepal office. DNPWC and ZSL Nepal have a project coordination committee (PCC) to facilitate the design and implementation of all projects. The PCC is chaired by the Deputy Director General, with section heads from DNPWC and representation from senior ZSL Nepal staff. During past joint projects, ZSL Nepal has fostered a strong partnership with DNPWC. With DNPWC as a guiding partner, ZSL Nepal has partnered with Parsa National Park (PNP) and Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT) for this project. Partners were selected based on the organisations' government-authorised roles in different aspects of conservation (DNPWC for overall protected area (PA) management and PNP for management of PNP and its buffer zone area), and on field presence and experience (MWT). To facilitate project implementation inside the buffer zone of the protected area, a project management unit (PMU) has been formed, including representatives from MWT and ZSL and chaired by the Chief Conservation Officer of PNP.

The project concept was shared among all partners and the project was designed with their inputs (information, data, and feedback). Once project funding was secured, the finalised project proposal was shared with the PCC on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (*Annex 4.2.1*) and PMU on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2022 (*Annex 4.2.2 and 4.2.3*) and approval was received to formally start project implementation. Additionally, the project concept (mainly logical framework, targets, deliverables, and evidence documentation requirements) was shared with MWT (the implementing partner) on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2022 (*Annex 4.2.4 and 4.2.5*). MWT then further shared the project with local governments at project sites (Jitpur Simara Sub-Metropolitan City on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 2022 and Manahari Rural Municipality offices on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2022) to obtain approval to start implementation and request support that may be required during implementation (*Annex 4.2.6 and 4.2.7*). MWT is implementing community engagement activities across all outputs, and PNP is supporting implementation of all activities inside the core area and requiring technical inputs. Virtual quarterly meetings are conducted between ZSL and MWT, to share project progress and discuss any implementation issues. This year, four of these meetings were held (*Annex 4.2.8*). Furthermore, MWT shares activity completion reports and all related evidence on the online platform (shared Onedrive folder), which is regularly monitored by the Project Lead. PMU meetings are also held regularly to share progress updates and make implementation decisions. This year, five such meetings were held (*Annex 4.2.9*).

The partnership with DNPWC and PNP has created a platform and opportunities for ZSL to share any issues related to the project, for smooth implementation and instant decision making (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.9*). Similarly, implementing partners like MWT with a strong field presence, have helped the project have a positive influence on the communities, CFUGs and decision makers (local and provincial government bodies) (*Annex 4.2.6, 4.2.7, 4.10.1, 4.9.1., 4.14.3, 4.14.4, 4.14.5, 4.21.1, 4.21.2, 4.21.3*). Having strong partners at both the central and local level has enabled the project to engage government bodies and their line agencies at federal and local level (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.6 and 4.2.7*).

In addition to formal partners, MWT has been engaging local government bodies (Jitpur Simara Sub-Metropolitan City and Manahari Rural Municipality offices) in the project sites. ZSL Nepal briefed the British Embassy (Development Director and Head of Governance Politics and Services) and FCDO (Team leader-Project coherence Unit of Bagmati Pradesh and Head of Office-Project Coherence Unit of Madhesh Province) on the project during their field visit to the Chitwan-Parsa complex on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (*Annex 4.2.10*). Furthermore, ZSL Nepal has continued updating the British Embassy and FCDO office on the project through annual reports and semi-annual formal letters to the Embassy.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

##### ***Output 1 Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest corridor is established.***

Output 1 includes activities related to community forest corridor conservation and management. Activities in year one focused on developing knowledge related to community forest corridor including: identifying priority sites for habitat management and conservation, developing knowledge on wild mammals' movement in project sites and revising operational plans for buffer zone community forest management and conservation. The output also initiated habitat (wetland and grassland) management activities and restoration of priority sites.

##### **1.1, Support PA management in identifying and executing priority habitat management measures to increase the prey density within the core area.**

A study was conducted to identify the priority habitat management sites in PNP and northern BZ (*Annex 4.8.1*). The study found five major grassland sites covering approximately 3,348 ha inside PNP and the buffer zone area. Among these, only around 200 ha of grassland is maintained annually by PNP. Similarly, the study also found that there are around 18 major wetlands occupying approximately 14,530 ha (including a few areas of the Rapti River which flows along PNP's northern border) in PNP and buffer zone area.

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

The study conducted to identify the priority habitat management sites also found 10 major wetlands/ponds in the project sites (northern buffer zone community forest area of PNP). Of these, four were identified as priority sites for wetland conservation/management (*Annex 4.8.1*).

##### **1.2.1, Wetland/water source protection and management by BZCFUG**

As recommended by the study, the project supported management of the '*Kamini daha*' wetland covering 0.5ha in the buffer zone forest of Amleshwor BZUC (*Annex 4.2.9, 4.3, 4.4.1*). The wetland is in an area adjoining PNP core area, therefore also prioritised by PNP, as the wetland is regularly used by wildlife such as tigers, elephants and other small and medium sized mammals. Management involve clearing surrounding bushes and vegetation, removing debris, cleaning inlets (water source sites) and maintaining outlets (water seepage sites).

##### **1.2.2, Grassland management by BZCFUG**

The study also found 95% of grassland surrounding '*Kamini daha*' wetland is covered by invasive species such as *Lantana camara*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Mikania micrantha*, *Ageratum houstonianum* amongst others. Therefore, in the first year of project, grassland management also focused on this area. In total, 2.4ha of grassland around '*Kamini daha*' was managed by slashing, uprooting, burning, clearing invasive species and dead trees (*Annex 4.2.9, 4.3, 4.5.1*).

### **1.3, Conduct camera trap survey to monitor wild mammals (small, medium and large) within buffer zone/corridor forest.**

Camera trap and occupancy surveys were conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the northern buffer zone area of PNP (*Annex 4.6.1 and 4.6.2*). Prior to the survey, a one-day orientation was conducted on camera trap and occupancy survey methods for 10 wildlife technicians from PNP, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The camera trap survey recorded a total of 25 mammal species. Of them nine species were small mammals including jungle cat, leopard cat, fishing cat, yellow-throated marten, Asian palm civet, large Indian civet, small Indian civet, Indian hare and Indian crested porcupine (*Annex 4.6.1, 4.6.2, and 4.6.3*). The most commonly captured species was the barking deer, which appeared in 14 camera stations, followed by the rhesus macaque in 12 camera stations, and the golden jackal in 10 camera stations. Leopards were captured from 7 camera stations, while tigers were seen in 3 stations. These large cats were primarily found in the forests near the national park boundary, which connects PNP towards the eastern boundary. Dhole and fishing cat were only observed once in the Lamitar area, which is in the northern part of the park boundary. (*Annex 4.6.1, 4.6.2, and 4.6.3*)

The presence of a diverse range of species demonstrates high biodiversity significance of the northern buffer zone of PNP. Although the area has potential to serve as wildlife habitat, it is under considerable human pressure. Out of 11,000 photos captured through the survey, approximately 80% depict human and domestic animal presence, including domestic dogs, suggesting that the area is heavily utilised by people and their livestock. Photos of humans and domestic cattle were captured in 29 and 16 camera stations respectively. Photos of human activity mainly depict collection of fuelwood and fodder (*Annex 4.6.1, 4.6.2, and 4.6.3*).

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

The periodic buffer zone community forest operational plan (BZCFOP) is the most essential document for conservation, management and sustainable use of resources in BZCFs. Buffer Zone Community Forest User Group (BZCFUG) can manage and use their BZCF's resources only after the formation and endorsement of BZCFOP by respective protected areas. There are 46 BZCFs in the northern buffer zone of PNP. This year, the project supported revision of five BZCFOPs covering an area of 265.5 ha which will benefit 695 HHs (3,731 individuals with 50% women) affiliated with these BZCFs (*Annex 4.3, 4.7.1, 4.7.2, 4.7.3, 4.7.4, 4.7.5*). Of the total households, 87% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups/communities.

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

In year one, the project supported BZCF by helping them identify priority sites in need of conservation and management interventions, then starting regeneration at one site. Activity details are as follows:

#### **1.5.1, Identify priority areas in the community forest corridor.**

A study was conducted to identify the priority sites that needed conservation and management intervention to maintain connectivity and improve ecological services in the northern buffer zone community forest areas (*Annex 4.8.1*). Altogether, the study identified 18 priority sites that need conservation and management interventions. Of these, seven sites were found suitable for plantation and regeneration, six were found suitable for agroforestry, two suitable for fruit farming, one for nursery and one site for fish farming (*Annex 4.8.1*).

#### **1.5.3, Regeneration promotion in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG**

As per the study recommendation and community consultation, 5ha of degraded area in Janahit CFUG of Lokhit BZUC was identified for regeneration in year one (*Annex 4.3 and 4.9.1*). The area is degraded mainly due to human interference and uncontrolled grazing, therefore the project aims to regenerate the area through planting and fencing, to prevent human disturbance and grazing. This will be completed during the rainy season in June 2023.

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

Wildlife killed in road accidents is frequent in PNP as the major East-West highway, passes through the core area of the park. In a four-year period (15<sup>th</sup> July 2016-15<sup>th</sup> July 2020), PNP reported 123 wildlife individuals killed in road accidents (*Annex 4.1.5*). Because of this, the

project aimed to initiate discussions among stakeholders for wildlife friendly infrastructure to prevent wildlife deaths on roads. Therefore, on 10<sup>h</sup> January 2022, a stakeholder meeting was conducted to discuss the current situation and need for wildlife friendly infrastructure. The meeting was attended by 27 representatives from PNP, District Administration Office, Siddhibox battalion, Shree Jung battalion, District Post Office-Birgunj, District Court- Parsa, Custom office- Birgunj, District Forest Office- Parsa, District Treasury Controller Office, MWT and ZSL Nepal (*Annex 4.10.1 and 4.10.2*). In this meeting, the Chief Conservation Officer briefed on the situation of wildlife road deaths along the highway in PNP, shared information on wildlife friendly infrastructure construction directives 2022 (*Annex 4.10.3*) and provided hard copies of the directive to participants. The meeting brought positive responses for wildlife friendly infrastructure construction.

***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.***

Activities under output 2 relate to human wildlife conflict (HWC) management. The focus of output 2 this year was to also develop knowledge related to HWC including HWC trends and hotspots in project sites, as well as to prepare and implement a human wildlife coexistence (HWCx) plan and increase HWC awareness.

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

A study was conducted to assess the impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications. The study found a total of 13,106 HWC cases including 8,053 cases of farm crop loss, 122 cases of crop storage raids, 109 human deaths, 250 human injury, 3,935 livestock depredation and 637 cases of property damage were recorded in the TAL over the last five years. Mega-carnivores such as tigers have attacked 68 people over the last five years whilst leopards have attacked 23 people. The study found the trend of wildlife attacks on people and livestock is increasing and estimated that the number of attacks on people could reach over 50 per year in the TAL if the tiger population increased to 500, and over 30 with a tiger population of 400. (*Annex 4.11.1*)

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

A study was also conducted to assess the status of HWC in PNP BZ, identify vulnerable communities and prepare HWC hotspot maps. A total of 492 cases of wildlife attacks on people or causing economic losses were reported to the National Park authorities over the past five year (2015/16 to 2021/22). The highest number of cases were reported from Nirmal and Manahani User Committees, which border Chitwan National Park's Buffer Zone. Out of the total, crop raiding has the highest incidence with 226 cases, followed by livestock depredation with 151 cases. Over the five years, 23 attacks on people were reported. The data shows an increasing trend of HWC in PNP. (*Annex 4.11.1 and 4.11.2*).

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

This year, communities were supported to prepare HWCx plans through three different workshops conducted at each of the project sites.

**2.2.1, Conduct meeting and workshops on HWCx plan.**

Three workshops were conducted at the project sites (one per site) engaging 37 community members (41% female) to discuss HWC issues and in turn develop HWCx plans (*Annex 4.12.1*). Of the total participants, 78% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.

**2.2.2, Develop HWCx plans.**

Based on the workshops' discussions, three HWCx plans were developed (one for each site) (*Annex 4.13.1*). These HWCx plans will be shared with community members in each site in the second and third year and implemented by communities with support of this project and other conservation and development stakeholders within the communities.

**2.3, Support buffer zone communities to implement HWC mitigation and management measures from HWCx plan.**

The project supported all three BZUCs (Amleshwor BZUC, Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC) to implement some HWC mitigation measures identified by the HWCx plans. This year, 80 predator proof corrals (PPC) were constructed in all three BZUCs and 7km of solar fencing maintained at Manahari BZUC.

### **2.3.1, Support predator-proof corrals to HWC victim HHs**

In the project sites, the majority of HWC cases is livestock depredation, with 70% of cases in FY2020 involving leopards and 72% of households affected by these conflicts belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.1.5*). Therefore, in year one, 80 predator proof corrals (PPCs) were constructed throughout project sites (Amleshwor BZUC: 15, Lokhit BZUC: 30 and Manahari BZUC: 35), protecting approximately 400-800 small livestock (goats). Of the total beneficiary households, 70% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.14.1, 4.14.2, 4.14.3, 4.14.4*). One PPC costs approximately NPR 50,000/£300. 50% of the total cost was provided by the project in form of equipment and technical support, with the remaining 50%, mainly for wooden frames, shared by beneficiary HHs.

### **2.3.2, Install and maintain wildlife-preventing fences.**

To prevent crop raiding in Manahari BZUC, the project maintained 7km of solar powered fence by replacing damaged poles, wires and batteries, protecting 339.69ha of land and benefitting 300 HHs (*Annex 4.15.1&4.15.2*). PNP had installed this 7km solar fence to prevent HWC from elephants and rhino, but it was not in use due to damage caused by elephants and people entering the forest illegally. The maintenance provided has thereby relieved community members from potential elephant conflict in the project site. Ongoing maintenance will maintain functionality if further damage occurs.

## **2.4, Train and create awareness among PA staff and vulnerable local communities on wildlife conservation and HWC.**

Three different interventions took place to raise community awareness on HWC including installation of information boards on HWC, publication of wildlife damage relief support information booklet and orientation on HWC to female community members.

### **2.4.1, Install hoarding boards on HWC.**

One information board (12ft\*8ft) was installed at a strategic location of Manahari BZUC to disseminate awareness regarding tiger conservation and potential tiger conflict among community members (*Annex 4.16.1*).

### **2.4.2, Develop IEC materials on HWC.**

To help communities get adequate information on relief support available from the Government of Nepal (GoN) to wildlife victims, the project produced 500 copies of the 'Wildlife damage relief support information' booklet. This booklet will be promoted and distributed to community members in the project site, helping improve knowledge on applying for relief (*Annex 4.17.1*).

### **2.4.3, Orient and train HWC-vulnerable local community.**

A one-day orientation program on HWC awareness was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at PNP headquarter office for 21 female community members (*Annex 4.18.1, 4.18.2*). Of them, 86% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. During this event, community members were informed on the basic concept of HWC, elephant behaviours, potential elephant conflict and mitigation measures, issues of HWCs in the northern buffer zone area of PNP and legal provision of relief for HWC victims (*Annex 4.18.3*). This training helped to increase the average knowledge score of participants by 33.3% (the average pre-test knowledge score was 22.8% and post-test score was 56.1%) (*Annex 4.18.4*).

***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 3 is around support to livelihoods, with livelihood and tourism as two major components. Activities under this output are focused on developing knowledge related to livelihoods and forming and strengthening women-led community banks, as well as tourism promotion through website maintenance, watch tower construction and preparation of nature guide training.

## **3.1, Provide sustainable, diversified livelihoods to the local people**

In the first year, the project documented knowledge related to livelihoods such as indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on livelihoods, development of livelihood improvement plan, market chain analysis of preferred livelihood activities as identified by the socio-economic analysis. Similarly, three women-led community banks were established (one at each project site) and seed funds also established in each of the community banks.

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

Indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on diversified livelihoods were documented through a social survey, involving interviews with 94 community members (60% female) and three workshops with 29 community members (93% female; 79% indigenous and disadvantaged groups). Communities were found to use indigenous knowledge on various livelihood aspects including food, medicine, and shelter. It was reported that communities use 49 plants as food and 79 different plants for medical purposes. Agriculture, livestock rearing, sewing and fishing were some indigenous incomes generating practices. Currently, livestock rearing, vegetable farming and fish farming were regarded as the best income generating practices (*Annex 4.19.1 and 4.19.2*). Based on this, and three additional workshops engaging 31 community members (41% female; 76% indigenous and disadvantaged groups), three livelihood improvement plans have been developed for each project site (*Annex 4.19.3 and 4.19.4*). To ensure that livestock rearing practices will not increase pressure on forests, the livelihood improvement plan has integrated the livelihood practice (output 1) with agroforestry promotion (output 4) in the project communities. This will help produce fodder required for livestock rearing in and around farm and villages. These plans will be endorsed by the community in year two and implemented by the community accordingly.

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

A market chain analysis was conducted for livelihood options/trainings identified by a socio-economic survey including tourism, skills-based trainings, commercial vegetable farming, commercial livestock rearing, wildlife deterrent crop farming and bee keeping. The market chain analysis report strongly recommended income generating activities including commercial vegetable farming, commercial livestock rearing, bee keeping, nature guide training and hospitality training. Furthermore, it also recommended skills-based training such as plumbing, electrician, painting, beautician, motorcycle repair and mobile repair. The report also studied the strengths of women-led livelihood groups (community banks) and conducted market chain analysis for commercial activities preferred by the respective groups. In all three groups, vegetable farming and livestock rearing were found to be the most preferable and sustainable income generating livelihood options (*Annex 4.20.1*).

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

Three women-led livelihood community banks were formed in three project sites with 87 women members in total, of which 74% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. These members were selected based on a socio-economic survey (mainly wellbeing and HWC burden index) and recommendations received from respective user committees. In Manahari BZUC, *Makhamali Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha* (Makamali Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, with 31 female members, including 19 belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.21.1*). In Lokhit BZUC, *Janahit Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha* (Janahit Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, with 30 female members, including 28 belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.21.2*). In Amleshwor BZUC, *Suraksha Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha* (Suraksha Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, with 26 female members, including 17 belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.21.3*). The main objective of the women-led community banks is to support women from indigenous and disadvantaged communities to become economically independent and to have equal rights over natural resources. As women spend more time interacting with nature, the project also wanted to encourage women's engagement and leadership in conservation activities.

After formation of the women-led community banks, a two-day cooperative/community bank management training was conducted for each of the three groups (*Annex 4.21.4, 4.21.5, 4.21.6*). Training helped members learn about the concept of community banks/co-operative

banks; roles and responsibilities of executive members and general members; types and benefits of saving; loan mobilisation and amounts; interest rates; various roles of a loan committee and account committee for co-operative management; co-operative principles such as: democratic control, open membership and education training and information, legal provision of community bank/co-operative and plan of action with commitment (*Annex 4.21.7*). After the training, the average knowledge score of women participants increased by 21.3 % (average pre-test score was 20.2% and post-test score was 41.5%) (*Annex 4.21.8*).

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

After forming women-led community banks and capacity building of members, seed money amounting to NPR 945,000/£6,000 was provided (NPR 315,000/£2,000 to each of the three community banks) (*Annex 4.22.2*). To establish the seed fund, the community also contributed NPR 23,100/£145 (NPR 500/£3/member as a share amount) and NPR 8,800/£55 as entry amount (NPR 100/£0.60/member) giving a total of NPR 976,900/£6,200. Currently, Suraksha Women's Income Generation Group of Amleshwor BZUC have not yet collected the share amount as they decided to do this from April 2023 (Nepali New year). So far, NPR 53,200/£340 has been collected through monthly savings (NPR 100-300/£0.60-£2/month/HH), giving a seed fund total of NPR 1,030,100/£6,500, which is a 9% increase to the actual fund provided by the project. (*Annex 4.22.2*). Of this total, NPR 950,000/£6,000 has been released as soft loans to community members to support income generating activities. During this reporting period, 36 members received loans ranging from NPR 10,000-NPR 30,000/£65-£190 with an interest rate of 6%. Of these, 32 received loans for livestock rearing (goat:16; buffalo: 9; cow: 5; pig: 1; and poultry: 1) and the remaining four received loans for ginger and mushroom farming, carpet and cosmetic businesses (*Annex 4.22.3*).

### **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.**

As PNP is the only PA in Madhesh State of Nepal, it is the only wildlife-based tourism destination in the whole state. However, tourism only opened in PNP after it was designated a national park in 2018, therefore, is relatively new in PNP and in need of support. In line with this, the project helped PNP to maintain its website, construct a watch tower in a strategic location and also made the necessary preparations for conducting nature guide training.

#### **3.2.1, Conduct nature guide training.**

The project aims to start support with tourism by building capacity of youths interested in guiding tourists through nature and culture of PNP and BZ. For this, PNP and MWT collaborated and made decisions to conduct nature guide training as per the Nature Guide Training Manual (*Annex 4.2.9*). As planned, all preparatory work for the nature guide training was completed in year one and details will be reported in the next reporting period.

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

To increase outreach of information regarding PNP, the project supported PNP to maintain its website. This year maintenance included keeping photos and videos in a single menu, adding more details of important tourism destinations (Bhata grassland and Halkhoriya wetland) and activities (jungle safari and elephant riding), adding notices and documents related to wildlife victim relief, as well as useful links and reports. The website was also made easier to use from mobile phones. After the maintenance was completed, the vendor demonstrated changes to 12 staff amongst PNP, ZSL and MWT (*Annex 4.24.1 and 4.24.2*).

#### **3.2.5, Improve, maintain or establish community tourism initiative**

Integrating with habitat management interventions (grassland and wetland management), a two-storey wooden watch tower was constructed near '*Kamini daha*' in the buffer zone forest of Amleshwor BZUC (*Annex 4.2.9*). This is a frequent wildlife sighting site, as there is both wetland and grassland, making it easy for wildlife to graze, prey and drink water. Additionally, this site is only 3.5km from an elephant breeding centre in Amleshwor BZUC and so can be packaged together. Therefore, PNP and the BZUC are also prioritising tourism in this site.

***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.***



Activities under output 4 aim to promote agroforestry in the project site to reduce communities' dependency on natural resources. This includes activities such as increasing the capacity of communities in agroforestry practices, providing communities with seedlings required for agroforestry and establishing a community nursery to produce seedlings.

#### **4.1, Conduct trainings and workshops on agroforestry practice.**

Two agroforestry training events were conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Manahari BZUC and Lokhit BZUC respectively. In these one-day training events, 65 buffer zone users (51% female) engaged in farming, land-based activities and interested in learning about agroforestry practices participated. Of the total participants, 63% belonged to indigenous, marginalised, and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.25.1, 4.25.2*). During the workshops, participants learnt about the current situation of agroforestry and potential opportunities and challenges, government policies and programs related to agroforestry, integrated pest management strategies, organic fertilisers, proper nursery management and appropriate plantation distances which can all contribute to sustainable agriculture (*Annex 4.25.3*). This training helped participants increase their knowledge score by 21% (average pre-test knowledge score was 25% and post-test knowledge score was 47%) (*Annex 4.25.4*).

#### **4.2, Provide seedlings to households for agroforestry.**

Following agroforestry training, the project aimed to provide seedlings to trained and other community members interested in initiating agroforestry practices. For this, 12,000 seedlings (Nepiyer grass: 5,000; fodder: 4,000, fruits: 1,500 and lemon: 1,500) were procured and stored in the community nursery. These seedlings will be planted in and around participants farms and kitchen gardens during June which is the best season for planting seedlings (*Annex 4.26.1*).

#### **4.3, Promote wildlife-deterrent cash crops.**

As the project site adjoins wildlife habitat, HWC is regularly reported. Therefore, while promoting agroforestry, the project aimed to ensure that cash crops used are wildlife deterrents to prevent crop raiding. In line with this, 10 HWC vulnerable households from two project sites (Manahari BZUC and Lokhit BZUC) were supported with wildlife deterrent crops (lemon and ginger) on 1.3ha of land (*Annex 4.27.1 and 4.27.2*). Of these households, 90% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. The five households in Manahari BZUC are doing lemon farming on 0.77ha of land. They plan to plant around 2,500 lemon seedlings, of these, the project provided around 580 seedlings and one water pump. The remaining five households in Lokhit BZUC are doing ginger and turmeric farming for which the project provided around 50kg of ginger seeds and 220kg of turmeric seeds. (*Annex 4.27.1 and 4.27.2*).

#### **4.5, Establish/strengthen community nursery.**

To ensure easy access to seedlings for agroforestry, the project is supporting establishment of a community nursery at Janahit BZCFUG of Lokhit BZUC. In the first year, the project focused on managing the physical infrastructure of the community nursery which includes fencing the nursery area, making bedding and storing 12,000 seedlings (Nepiyer grass: 5000; fodder: 4,000; fruits: 1,500 and lemon: 1,500). In the following project periods, the nursery is expected to produce 50,000 seedlings during the project for agroforestry practices (*Annex 4.28.1*).

#### **5.1, Conduct baseline and endline survey**

A socio-economic survey was conducted in all three project sites to set baselines for socio-economic aspects of the project sites (*Annex 4.29.1*). In total, 532 community members (Amlshwor BZUC:168, Lokhit BZUC: 128 and Manahari BZUC: 216) were interviewed. Of total respondents, 55.26% were male and 44.74% were female, and 71.04% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. These also included 41 people with disabilities and 68 single women. Most respondents were illiterate (37.78%) or had only primary education (28.2%). Average land size of households was 5.81 Kathha (<0.2 ha). Through this socio-economic survey, baselines for wellbeing, natural resource dependency, burden of HWC and willingness to pay for conservation by agroforestry practices were measured. While setting baselines, site specific baselines were also created to measure project impact at each site also. This in turn will help project understand if site specific issues were addressed by the project. The results as follows:

- The average wellbeing index for the overall site was 0.39. The wellbeing index in Amlshwor BZUC (0.42) was highest, compared to Manahari BZUC (0.41) and Lokhit BZUC (0.33).

- The average natural resource dependency index of households was 0.32. The natural resource dependency of communities at Lokhit BZUC (0.46), compared to Manahari BZUC (0.32) and Amleshwor BZUC (0.19).
- The average HWC burden index of households was 0.05. The HWC burden index was highest at Lokhit BZUC (0.07), compared to Manahari BZUC (0.04) and Amleshwor BZUC (0.03).
- 31.77% of respondents (practicing or interested in practising agroforestry) were willing to pay for conservation. Communities at Lokhit BZUC (38.51%) were willing to pay for conservation more, compared to communities at Amleshwor BZUC (33.93%) and Manahari BZUC (25.46%).

### 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

#### **Output 1: Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest corridor is established.**

As output 1 focused on community forest corridor conservation and management, year one started with developing the knowledge base of the ecological situation of the northern community forest corridor of PNP. For this, the project conducted three studies: i) to identify priority sites in need of conservation and management intervention (*Act 1.1; Act 1.5.1*); ii) camera trap survey; iii) occupancy survey to understand wild mammals' presence and movement within the northern buffer zone community forest corridor (*Act 1.3*). Based on these, one wetland, 2.4ha of grassland and 5ha of degraded area were maintained (*Ind 1.3; Act 1.2.1, Act 1.2.2, Act 1.5.3*). Similarly, five BZCFOPs were revised for five BZCF covering an area of 265.5ha, supporting 695HHs (3,731 individuals with 50% women) affiliated with these BZCFs to sustainably use and manage BZCF resources (*Ind 1.2; Act 1.4*). The outputs were measured by analysing data from BZCFOP plans and partner's report. Furthermore, to ensure connectivity of the northern community forest corridor amidst Nepals development needs, a stakeholder meeting took place on the need of wildlife friendly infrastructure, attended by 27 officials from different sectors in the project sites.

Based on the knowledge developed in Y1, the participatory corridor mapping and planning workshop will be conducted in Y2 (*Ind 1.1*) and North-East Parsa community-forest corridor charter will be developed and agreed by Y3 (*Ind 1.4*).

#### **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 2, focused on HWC mitigation and management, also began by building the knowledge base, including two studies: i) assessing HWC status and impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications (*Ind 2.2; Act 2.1*); and ii) prioritising and mapping HWC hotspots in project sites (*Act 2.1.1*). In year one, three HWCx plans were prepared for communities at Amleshwor BZUC, Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC engaging 37 community members (41% female; 78% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups) (*Ind 2.3; Act 2.2.1 and Act 2.2.2*). These plans will be endorsed by communities in Y2. After providing training/orientation on HWCx plans, HWCx champions will be recruited in Y2 (*Ind 2.1*) who will lead HWC drills and/or HWC mitigation interventions (*Ind 2.4*) from Y2 onwards. The reduction in livestock kill and crop raiding in project communities will be measured in Y3 (*Ind 2.5*) onwards, as the project has just started supporting BZUCs to implement HWC mitigation interventions, such as 80 PPC for reduction of livestock depredation (*Act 2.3.1*) and 7km of solar fencing to reduce crop raiding (*Act 2.3.2*). The measurement of their effectiveness needs time and a study. The maintained fence is expected to protect approximately 339.69ha of cropland and benefit around 300HHs living along the electric fence (*Annex 4.15.1*). The output level indicators were measured with the help of report provided by the consultation and analysis of workshop data. Furthermore, the area of crop land protected was measured with help of GIS analysis.

#### **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.**

Knowledge development was also prioritised for output 3 which is around diversified livelihoods. This involved two studies to i) document indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on diversified livelihoods (*Act 3.1.1*) and ii) market chain analysis for livelihood options/trainings identified by the socio-economic survey (*Ind 3.2.1*). Furthermore, three livelihood restoration plans were also prepared for three project communities, engaging 31 community members (41% female; 76% indigenous and disadvantaged groups) in three community workshops (*Act 3.1.1*).

This year, three women-led livelihood community banks were formed in three project sites with 87 women members, 74% belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Ind 3.1; Act 3.1.4*) along with seed money totalling NPR 945,000/£6,000 (NPR 315,000/£2,000 in each community bank) (*Act 3.1.5*). 82 community bank members (all females; 84% belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups) had their capacity built in community bank management training, through three two-day training events (*Ind 3.2; Act 3.1.4*). By end of year one, 41% of community bank members (n=36) had received loans ranging from NPR 10,000-NPR 30,000/£65-£190, with an interest rate of 6% to support adoption of livelihoods such as livestock rearing (32), vegetable farming (2) and other businesses (2) (*Ind 3.2.2; Act 3.1.5*). The output indicators were measured by analysing data obtained from monthly meeting minutes of women-led community banks and reports provided by the partner. As the community bank members have just started these livelihood options, the increases in incomes (*Ind 3.2.3*) will be measured from year two onwards. Similarly, as skills-based trainings will start from year two, the percentage of cooperative members passing vocational exams in business management, finance, hospitality and promotion skills will be measured by year three.

Additionally, tourism promotion (such as nature guide training, watch tower maintenance and PNP website maintenance) started in year one, therefore as planned, the people reached by tourism promotion (*Ind 3.4*), the % increase in number of visitors to PNP (*Ind 3.5*) and increase in tourism-related income in communities (*Ind 3.6*) will be measured in year two and/or year three.

#### **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 4, focused on agroforestry, started with capacity building of 65 community members (51% female; 63% indigenous and disadvantaged groups) on enhanced agroforestry practices (*Ind 4.1; Act 4.1*), initiating establishment of the local nursery (*Ind 4.2; Act 4.5*), providing wildlife deterrent cash crops such as lemon: 580 seedlings ginger: 50kg and turmeric: 220kg (*Act 4.3*) and 12,000 seedlings (Nepiyer grass: 5,000; fodder: 4,000, fruits: 1,500 and lemon: 1,500) (*Act 4.2*). The output level indicators were measured by analysing the data from the registration sheet and the partner report.

The percentage of households implementing enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings (*Ind 4.3*) and percentage of targeted households successfully planting 10,000 seedlings from the local seedling nursery (*Ind 4.4*) will be measured by end of year three.

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

#### **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 5,000 people.**

In year one, all outcome-level baselines were set to monitor changes this project will bring, involving ecological and socio-economic surveys. Through ecological surveys, baselines for occupancy of small and medium-sized mammals in the community-forest corridor (*Ind 0.2*) and evidence of *Panthera tigris* moving through the corridor (*Ind 0.3*) were identified. Occupancy was calculated for each species mentioned in *Ind 0.2*, including: *Hystrix indica* (Indian crested porcupine): Not calculated due to low detection; *Felis bengalensis* (leopard cat): 0.473; *Felis chaus* (jungle cat): 0.228; *Lepus nigricollis* (Indian hare): 0.184; *Sus scrofa* (wild boar): 0.262; and *Muntiacus vaginalis* (barking deer): 0.525. The barking deer has the highest occupancy, and Indian crested porcupine the lowest in the study area (*Ind 0.2, Annex 4.6.1*). Regarding evidence of *Panthera tigris* (tiger), three individual tigers were detected from three different sites (3 out of 32 grids) (*Ind 0.3, Annex 4.6.2*).

Additionally, socio-economic surveys set baselines for wellbeing (*Ind 0.4*), natural resource dependency and HWC burden (*Ind 0.5*) and willingness to pay for revenue and conservation by agroforestry practices (*Ind 0.6*). The average wellbeing index of communities for the overall site is 0.39 and site-specific averages are 0.42 at Amleshwor BZUC, 0.41 at Manahari BZUC and 0.33 at Lokhit BZUC (*Ind 0.4*). The average natural resource dependency index of HHs at the overall site is 0.32 and site-specific averages are 0.19 at Amleshwor BZUC, 0.32 at Manahari BZUC and 0.46 at Lokhit BZUC (*Ind 0.5*). Similarly, the average HWC burden index of HHs in the overall project site is 0.05 and site-specific is 0.03 at Amleshwor BZUC, 0.04 at Manahari BZUC and 0.07 at Lokhit BZUC (*Ind 0.5*). Regarding willingness to pay revenues and for conservation by interested agroforestry practitioners, 31.77% respondent HHs were willing to pay for conservation, of which 33.93% showed willingness to pay at Amleshwor BZUC, 25.46% at Manahari BZUC and 38.51% at Lokhit BZUC.

As outlined in the proposal, the joint community-forest corridor management plans will be agreed and implemented by year three. All changes against outcome-level indicators will be seen from year two and measured in year three through endline surveys. The year one progress shows the project is likely to achieve the intended outcome by the end of the funding and that the outcome can be measured by the indicators set during project development.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

**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.**

**Assumption 1:** Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) remain supportive of this initiative to strengthen connectivity.

**Comments:** Still holds true. Terai Arc Landscape Strategic and Action Plan (2015-2025) is still active.

**Assumption 2:** Compounding climate change and infrastructure development threats to Nepal's lowland protected areas continue to escalate, demanding a policy response to secure connectivity to higher altitudes – as will be piloted in this proposal.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 3:** Small mammals' rapid response to habitat conditions, without extraordinary climate events during the life of the project, will enable them as an effective indicator of connectivity recovery for efforts across Nepal, in advance of forests recovering sufficiently to enable widespread large mammal movement.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 4:** Community indices designed by ZSL from our experiences (including DI 26-012) remain appropriate for the local context.

**Comments:** Still holds true. The baseline survey used the same indices.

**Output 1 Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest corridor is established.**

**Assumption 5:** BZCFUGs recognise the benefits of joint management (as experienced on other ZSL Nepal projects), supported by benefits from other outputs, and all members commit to the management guidelines.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**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.**

**Assumption 6:** By building local capacity to manage HWC issues (as in Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Project [ITHCP] Phase I), and establishing community members as hubs of expertise, long-term community resilience and adaptability in the face of changing HWC pressures is supported (without extraneous factors greatly influencing or increasing HWC beyond the levels currently predicted).

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 7:** A 80% reduction livestock kill and 20% reduction on crop raiding for the median household is both achievable (as evidenced by the results of the ITHCP Phase I and

IUCN Nepal - Tiger in Nepal projects) and sufficient to drive a substantive shift in attitudes as attributable to this particular project.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**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.**

**Assumption 8:** Take up of loans from community banking cooperatives is high and enables the economic barriers to new livelihood adoption to be overcome, as seen in previous ZSL projects (e.g., DI 22-009, DI 26-012).

**Comments:** Still holds true. Community taking loans (Sec 3.1 and 3.2)

**Assumption 9:** By targeting the low-income, disadvantaged and vulnerable parts of the community for development of this direct revenue stream (e.g., DI-26-012 and DI 24015), those community members most likely to be forced into unsustainable natural resource dependency are sufficiently supported to avoid this outcome, substantially reducing the risk of such overuse.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 10:** Trends indicating the likelihood of increased tourism to Parsa National Park continue, and commitment from DNPWC to manage tourism levels can be effective with benefit-sharing commitments to buffer zone communities, as with Chitwan and Bardia NPs.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 11:** No travel bans, or lock downs imposed by government due to increased COVID-19 cases. Travel and tourism activities are promoted locally, nationally and globally with adequate preventive measures during COVID-19 pandemic. National and international tourists are willing to travel following required COVID-19 preventive protocols.

**Comments:** Still holds true. No travel bans or lock downs imposed by government this year.

**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.**

**Assumption 12:** Laying the foundations for biodiversity-friendly production forests now will ensure the community-forest corridor is supported to provide connectivity into the future as timber harvests are made.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 13:** Increased long-term forestry revenues (outside project timeframe) will secure the financial incentives for corridor management for the community.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

**Assumption 14:** Sustainable water management, through tree choice, will ensure the long-term sustainability of the agroforestry, the corridor, and Parsa National Park itself (which is dependent on Nepal's rivers to maintain its grasslands), and raising the profile of the area will prompt the government of Nepal longer-term to recognize and ameliorate water management issues outside the NP.

**Comments:** Still holds true.

### **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction**

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

This is the first year of the project, and so too early to report evidence of the contribution that the project is making towards the impact. However, the project has laid the foundations by documenting required knowledge bases to implement project activities in each of the outputs. For example, studies have been conducted to understand the ecological and socio-economic status of project sites and communities respectively. Based on this knowledge, the project will work to conserve critical connectivity sites with the help of communities while addressing their stress points like HWC, natural resource dependency and lower income situation.

This year, the project has directly reached 356 HHs in the project sites, which equates to around 1,851 community members through various livelihood, HWC and agroforestry interventions. Of these, 77% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, the project has also indirectly benefitted an additional 766 HHs (around 3,830 community

members) through interventions such as revision of the BZCFOP. Of the total indirect beneficiaries, 86% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.

The first year has therefore laid the foundations to achieve the intended results in the coming year of the project.

#### 4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

**National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP):** The project is contributing to deliver Nepal's NBSAP through various activities which align with NBSAP strategies. For example, management of degraded habitats (one wetland and 2.4 ha of grassland) and regeneration of 5 ha of degraded forest area (*Ind 1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 1.2 & 1.5.3*) is contributing to "improvement in protected areas habitats and connectivity (PA-C)" and "improving connectivity of natural ecosystems, particularly north-south connectivity (CC-B2)" strategies. Revisions to the five BZCFOPs (*Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1- Act 1.4*) is contributing to the "improvement in conservation of biodiversity in community managed forest (FB-C)" strategy. The agroforestry training and practices (*Ind 4.1, Sec 3.1-Act 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3*) is contributing to the improving management of agrobiodiversity (AB-A) strategy. Engagement of 52% women and 85% indigenous and disadvantaged groups across the overall project activities is contributing to "empowering women and other disadvantaged groups through financial and technical capacity building for conservation, sustainable use and access to equitable sharing of benefits (GSI-B3)" strategy.

**Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) Strategic and Action Plan: 2015-2025:** The project majorly contributes to the TAL strategy which has the goal "to conserve the ecosystems of the Terai and Churia hills in order to ensure integrity of ecological, economic, and sociocultural systems and communities". This year has particularly contributed to certain strategies including: management of degraded habitats (one wetland and 2.4 ha of grassland) (*Ind 1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 1.2*) is contributing to "protect, restore and manage critical habitats (Strategy 1)"; regeneration of 5 ha of degraded forest area (*Ind 1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 1.5.3*) and five BZCFOP revisions (*Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1- Act 1.4*) is contributing to "strengthen and promote sustainable forest management (Strategy 10)"; agroforestry training and practices (*Ind 4.1, Sec 3.1-Act 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3*) is contributing to "promote private and public forestry (Strategy 14)"; and establishment of three women-led community banks for livelihood activities (*Ind 3.2, Sec 3.1-Act 3.1.4*) is contributing to "provide local communities with innovative, sustainable economic incentives linked to forest and river conservation (Strategy 16)".

**Other National Policies and Plan:** Revisions to five BZCFOPs (*Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1- Act 1.4*) is contributing to the National Forest Policy 2019. Management of degraded habitats (one wetland and 2.4 ha of grassland) and regeneration of 5 ha of degraded forest area (*Ind 1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 1.2 & 1.5.3*) is contributing to the targets around the "Restoration of Habitats and Strengthening Ecological Connectivity for Wildlife" of Nepal's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). All project activities are in line with the Parsa National Park and its Buffer Zone Management Plan (2018).

**Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):** The project is contributing to four SDG goals. Establishment of three women-led community banks for livelihood activities (*Ind 3.2, Sec 3.1-Act 3.1.4*) and engagement of 52% women and 85% indigenous and disadvantaged groups in overall project activities is contributing to 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). Management of degraded habitats (1 wetland and 2.4 ha of grassland) and regeneration of 5 ha degraded forest area (*Ind 1.3, Sec 3.1-Act 1.2 & 1.5.3*) is contributing to 15: Life on Land (through improving habitats for threatened wildlife and plants).

The project has had no interaction with any host country convention focal point, via host country or UK partners in the last 12 months. However, ZSL as an organisation, has participated in various national discussions for the CBD, CITES and UNFCCC.

#### 5. Project support to poverty reduction

The project is targeting three communities in the northern buffer zone area of the PNP, namely: Amlshwor BZUC, Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC. The average wellbeing index of

community members is less than 0.39, indicating the majority of HHs are poor, with an average land size of 5.81 Kathha (<0.2 ha) (*Ind 0.4*). They are forest resource dependent communities with a natural resource dependence index of 0.32 (*Ind 0.5*). More than 70% of community members belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Sec 3.1, Act 5.1*). The project is aiming to reach at least 150 HHs with direct sustainable livelihood schemes in order to increase incomes and wellbeing. Specifically, women and indigenous and disadvantaged groups are the main targeted beneficiaries for the livelihood schemes. In the first year, three women-led community banks were established, with 87 women members (*Ind 3.1*), and supported with seed funds amounting to NPR 945,000/£6,000 (NPR 315,000/£2,000 in each bank) (*Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5*). Of the total members, 74% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Ind 3.1*). Members have had their capacity built in community banks/cooperative management so they can manage the seed fund and use the funds for the income-generating activities (*Ind 3.2, Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.4*). These three women-led community banks have expanded their initial seed fund by 9%, giving a total seed fund of NPR 1,030,100/£6,500, with their contributions, share amount and the savings. Of this total seed money, NPR 950,000/£6,000 has been released through soft loans to community members, to conduct income generating activities. During this reporting period, 36 community bank members have received loans for various livelihood activities (*Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5*). Community bank members are expected to see an increase in income in the coming years of the project.

In addition to direct livelihood schemes, the project has also reached 269 HHs through HWC interventions (predator proof corral support and wildlife preventive fencing), agroforestry support (wildlife deterrent crops) and various training related to HWC and agroforestry practices (*Sec 3.1, Act 2.2, Act 2.3., Act 4.1, Act 4.3*). HWC support is helping communities safeguard their livelihoods (400-800 small livestock/goats and crops across 339.69 Ha of cropland) (*Sec 3.1, Act 2.3*). Wildlife deterrent crop support will help communities make income from crops such as ginger, turmeric and lemon which will not be raided by wildlife. Training related to HWC, and agroforestry has helped communities gain awareness around the causes of HWC, preventive methods, relief available and systematic agroforestry practices which ultimately help secure and/or improve their livelihoods. The project will further benefit an additional 766 HHs (approximately 3,830 community members, 86% belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups) through BZCFOP revision (*Ind 1.2*). BZCFOP is the only document which allows communities to use natural resources from the BZCF, to meet their various livelihood needs.

**6. Gender equality and social inclusion**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board<sup>1</sup>.</p>  | <p>Overall, there are 16 team members (ZSL and MWT) for this project, of which 44% (N=7) are female.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three programme staff (2 male and 1 female; 33% female) in ZSL including Project Lead, dedicated to project implementation in Nepal. The female staff is fully dedicated to overall project management.</li> <li>• Four programme staff (1 male and 3 female; 75% female) in MWT, fully dedicated to project implementation in the project sites.</li> <li>• Remaining nine staff (6 male and 3 female) in ZSL (8) and MWT (1) provide guidance and support on various aspects of programme and finance/operation.</li> </ul> |
| <p>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<sup>2</sup>.</p> | <p>The lead ZSL project manager for this project is female. All project partners (DNPWC, PNP and MWT) are led by men.</p>   |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

The project is actively working to mainstream gender equity and social inclusion principles, with a major focus on engagement of women and indigenous and historically underrepresented groups. As part of the overall project activities, 52% of people engaged are women, and 85% belong to Indigenous and/or underrepresented groups. The proportion of women and those from historically underrepresented groups varies across specific activities. This inclusion of these groups was ensured from the very beginning of the project, for example, through the socio-economic survey that collected baseline data. In this survey, 45% of respondents were female and 71% of respondents belonged to Indigenous and/or historically underrepresented groups. As part of these surveys, we track demographic data, disaggregated using GESI principles, to allow us to monitor gender equity and social inclusion throughout the lifespan of the project (*Annex 4.29.1*). Similarly, various consultation meetings conducted for knowledge documentation and HWC and livelihood plan preparations included 60% women and 77% indigenous and disadvantaged group members to ensure their perspectives and voices were well considered and documented (*Annex 4.13.1, 4.19.2. and 4.19.4*). Community training on HWC and agroforestry practices also ensured participation of 61% female and 81% Indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Sec 3.1, Act 2.4.3 and Act 4.1*).

In addition to consultations and training, female and indigenous voices have been centred and their knowledge and opinions documented through a social survey, interviewing 94 community members (60% female) and conducting three workshops with 29 community members (93% female; with 79% of participants from Indigenous and disadvantaged groups). The communities in the project sites were found to use Indigenous knowledge as part of various livelihoods and for other household needs related to food, medicine and shelter. It was reported that communities use 49 plants as a food source and 79 different plants for medical purposes. Agriculture, livestock rearing, sewing and fishing were some of the indigenous income generating practices. Currently, livestock rearing, vegetable farming and fish farming were regarded as the best income generating practices. These results and considerations were then fed into the development of livelihood plans.

A major achievement for gender equity during this project period has been the formation of three women-led cooperatives with 87 women members, creating economic decision-making opportunities for women in the project sites (Ind 3.1) and facilitating the centering of female voices and female-led decision making. These members were then trained in community banks/cooperative management and were supported with seed funds amounting to NPR 945,000/£6,000 (Ind 3.2, Act 3.1.5). Women members have full management rights over this seed money. Based on the fund management guidelines, 36 members have taken loans at low interest (6%) for livelihood activities such as livestock rearing, farming and other income generating business (Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5). Furthermore, HWC and agroforestry interventions were supported, directly benefiting those from Indigenous and historically underrepresented groups (with 78% of participants belonging to Indigenous and historically underrepresented groups; *Sec 3.1, Act 2.3.1, Act 4.3*).

## **7. Monitoring and evaluation**

The PCC and PMUs are the key monitoring units established by the project for monitoring and evaluation purposes (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.9*). Similarly, the PNP in coordination with project partners, buffer zone representatives and local communities, are conducting regular monitoring of project progress at the site. Regular visits have been conducted by the Project Lead to monitor and evaluate implementation. Altogether, two monitoring visits have been made by the Project Lead.

Tied to the logframe, the ZSL project team uses a performance appraisal framework (PAF), to conduct M&E. The PAF is a web-based system designed by ZSL to track progress and promote interaction between project partners. Monthly reports are generated from the PAF system with input from all the relevant project components. These feed into the regular project reports for both the Darwin Initiative and ZSL's internal M&E procedures.

As this is the first year of the project, it is too early to demonstrate through evidence the contribution that activities and outputs are making towards the outcomes. This year, the project



team worked more on preparatory tasks, such as creating baselines (*Ind 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6*). Regarding output indicators, targets set for year one indicators related to BZCFOP revision (*Ind 1.2*), priority area conservation and management (*Ind 1.3*), HWC status assessment (*Ind 2.2*), HWCx plan preparation (*Ind 2.3*), women-led community bank formation (*Ind 3.1*), skill development (*Ind 3.2*) and capacity enhancement on agroforestry practices (*Ind 4.1*) were achieved. Indicators 1.1 and 2.1 related to corridor planning workshop and HWCx recruitment, will be met in year two when related activities are planned for. Activities planned for year two will initiate progress towards other output and outcome indicators.

To date, there has been no changes to the M&E plan. As planned, M&E responsibilities are shared among partners and all required data is being collected accordingly. The project partner (MWT) is conducting activity monitoring (*Annex 4.31*) and therefore supporting data and evidence for community engagement activities across all outputs on a quarterly basis. MWT is also conducting pre- and post-event surveys to measure the effectiveness of the capacity-building events which is also reported quarterly (*Annex 4.18.4, 4.21.8 and 4.25.4*). To support secure data sharing and storage amongst partners, data is collated on the OneDrive cloud and available to all in a timely and easy manner. Through ZSLs field office at Parsa, PNP is providing data and evidence on the activities they are implementing. Monitoring and reporting officers compile data received from partners twice a year (half yearly and yearly) to report against the logical framework. Furthermore, quarterly update meetings are conducted with partners to share updates on project progress. This year, four quarterly update meetings were conducted (*Annex 4.2.8*).

## 8. Lessons learnt

Listed below are the project team's learnings from the first year of project implementation:

- **Integrating project learning and combining update sessions can optimise resource use and improve project implementation:** This year, ZSL implemented two Biodiversity Challenge Fund (BCF) projects (One DI main and one IWTCF main). From the very beginning of this project, learnings from IWTCF were incorporated and comments received from the independent reviewer of the year one report were considered and shared with partners accordingly. This supported year one reporting of this project. Additionally, as the DI main and IWTCF have similar reporting requirements, progress update sessions and reporting orientations were combined helping implementing partners learn from each other whilst also making the process more efficient for ZSL project team members.
- **Capacity enhancement of partners is important:** To increase capacity of partners, a series of orientation events were conducted for partners both in person and virtually. Before starting the project, an inception meeting was conducted for MWT on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022 where the partner was briefed in detail about the partner agreement, project logframe, partner roles in achieving results and deliverables/reports that partners need to submit as evidence to those achievements (*Annex 4.2.4 and 4.2.5*). Similarly, an orientation on safeguarding and financial compliance was conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 for partners of both BCF projects (*Annex 4.30*). Finally, a refresher orientation on reporting was organised again on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (*Annex 4.30*). All these orientations helped partner understand project requirements which ultimately helped in timely implementation and reporting of the project.
- **Virtual platforms are a cost effective and efficient medium for regular communication and coordination:** The project maximised the use of virtual platforms for monitoring, reporting, progress sharing and increasing capacity of partners. The online drive (OneDrive) was used to submit all reports, data and evidence. Partners updated brief reports and evidence after completion of each activity which helps the project team monitor those activities virtually. Similarly, online communication platforms (Microsoft teams) were used to conduct progress sharing meetings and partner capacity building orientations, which not only helped in timely communication and partner's capacity enhancement but also helped organise cost effective events without the need of additional resources.

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

This is not applicable to this report as this is first year of reporting.

## 10. Risk Management

No new risks have arisen in the last 12 months.

### 11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

This is not applicable to this report.

### 12. Sustainability and legacy

The project was developed in line with the Government of Nepal's priority area, the Terai Arc Landscape Strategic and Action Plan 2015-2025, DNPWC's strategic plan and Parsa National Park and its Buffer Zone Management Plan (2018). DNPWC and PNP have therefore taken ownership of the project and have supported its development and implementation (*Annex 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and 4.2.9*). The five revised BZCFOPs (*Ind 1.2*) will be of great support to BZCF users in managing and using forest resources from their BZCF for the next five years. Similarly, the HWCx plans (*Ind 2.3*) and livelihood restoration plans (*Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.1*) prepared will help guide communities HWC management and livelihood improvement in coming years. The women-led cooperatives formed (*Ind 3.1*) in the first year of the project, with sustainable financial flow mechanisms, are a step towards establishing environmentally and economically sustainable livelihoods in project communities. These women-led cooperatives have expanded their original seed fund by 9% (*Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5*), which shows their investment in and ownership of project activities. The project is enhancing community awareness and knowledge and as the communities remain in the project site, the knowledge gained will do also. The capacity enhancing training and orientations have increased the knowledge score of participants, e.g., HWC awareness training has helped increase the average HWC knowledge score by 33.3% (*Sec 3.1, Act 2.4.3*), community bank management training has helped increase the average knowledge score by 21.3% (*Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.4*) and agroforestry training has increased the average knowledge score by 21% (*Sec 3.1, Act 4.1*).

### 13. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative has been mentioned in each agreement signed with partners. The guidelines on use of the Darwin Initiative logo was briefed to project partners during the inception meeting before the start of implementation. The Darwin Initiative logo, along with the partners logo, has also been placed on banners, information boards and communication products. The project will continue placing the Darwin Initiative logo on hoarding boards and any other communication materials.

This project supported by the Darwin Initiative is a distinct project in the Chitwan-Parsa complex, as it focuses on the connectivity of PNP with Shivalik through the northern buffer zone community forest of PNP. This aligns with the Terai Arc Landscape programme (a government-led landscape approach programme), which has a larger vision of developing contiguous habitat across the Terai Arc of Nepal and India through Terai and Shivalik hill forest of Nepal. The project aims to maintain connectivity in the eastern complex of the TAL.

In general, the wildlife conservation community in Nepal is familiar with the Darwin Initiative through previously supported projects. However, this project has particularly publicised the Darwin Initiative in PNP through engagement with local communities, local government, line agencies and PNP, through project inceptions and stakeholder meetings and consultations.

### 14. Safeguarding

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 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 [ <i>If yes, please provide their name and email</i> ]<br>Anuska Joshi ( ) |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?  | No [ <i>If yes, please provide date and details of training</i> ]              |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During this project period, there has been no formal training on Safeguarding for project staff. However, prior to the inception of this</li> </ul> | Past: % [and number]<br>Planned: % [and number]                                |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>project, all project staff were briefed on ZSL's Global Code of Conduct and Global Safeguarding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Furthermore, during this project period, ZSL organised a virtual orientation event (22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022) on safeguarding and financial compliance for partners implementing BCF funded projects (One DI main and one IWTCF main). Therefore, the orientation event was combined for all partners involved (MWT and Himalayan Nature) engaging nine partner staff. Of these, 2 staff members were from this project.</li> <li>Going forwards, further safeguarding training is planned through ZSL's new Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).</li> </ul> |  |
| <p>Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There have not been any particular lessons learnt or challenges but as Safeguarding is a relatively newer term for many of our partner organisations, project partners have requested a detailed orientation on project specific Safeguarding which is due to take place during the next six months.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p>Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so, please specify.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are not any activities planned as such, in the project workplan. However ZSL is planning to provide refresher orientation on safeguarding to the partner's project implementing team in the project sites.</li> </ul>  |  |

### 15. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

| Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report | 2022/23 Grant (£) | 2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Staff costs (see below)                             |                   |                                |            |   |
| Consultancy costs                                   |                   |                                |            |   |
| Overhead Costs                                      |                   |                                |            |   |
| Travel and subsistence                              |                   |                                |            |   |
| Operating Costs                                     |                   |                                |            |   |
| Capital items (see below)                           |                   |                                |            |   |
| Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)                       |                   |                                |            |   |
| Others (see below)                                  |                   |                                |            |   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>138,853</b>    | <b>138,853</b>                 |            |   |

**Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)**

|   | Matched funding secured to date | Total matched funding expected by end of project |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.   |                                 |  |
| Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£) |                                 |  |

### 16. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (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).

The project “Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods” has started very smoothly, building strong foundations for the remaining project period. The project started with developing ecological and socio-economic knowledge, creating baselines for knowledge-based project implementation and measuring changes brought by the project. Based on this knowledge, the project will work to conserve critical connectivity sites with the help of communities, whilst addressing their stress points such as HWC, natural resource dependency and lower income situation.

Based on the knowledge developed, 7.9 ha of degraded habitat (one wetland of 0.5 ha, 2.4 ha of grassland and 5 ha of degraded forest area) is now under conservation and management. Furthermore, revisions to five BZCFOPs have ensured management of 265.5 ha of BZCF area for the coming five years. This year, the project has directly reached 356 HHs in the project area, approximately 1,851 community members, through various livelihood, HWC and agroforestry interventions. Of these, 77% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Additionally, the project has also indirectly benefitted an additional 766 HHs (around 3,830 community members) through revision of the BZCFOPs. BZCFOP is the only document that allows communities to use natural resources from the BZCF to meet their various livelihood needs. Of the total indirect beneficiaries, 86% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. The project has remained progressive towards gender and social equality by engaging 52% women and 85% indigenous and disadvantaged groups overall, across project activities. Furthermore, women focused activities such as three women-led community banks have created economic decision-making opportunities for 87 women in the project sites. Of these, 36 community bank members have already received loans with a low interest rate (6%) for various livelihood activities. Community bank members have also started collecting monthly savings and have expanded the project-supported seed fund by 9% to date, indicating their investment in and ownership of the community banks and the projects livelihood schemes.

As lead partner, ZSL has invested time and effort in building capacity of the implementing partner MWT, involving a series of capacity building events conducted in person and virtually including four orientations on project documents, safeguarding, financial compliance and reporting. Additionally, to promote value for money and integrate cross learning between projects, virtual orientations and sharing meetings took place among BCF project implementing partners, helping partners share learning on project implementation and reporting.

| <b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b> | <b>File Name or File Location</b> | <b>Caption, country and credit</b>   | <b>Online accounts to be tagged d (leave blank if none)</b>               | <b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Image                                      | Wetland management                | Wetland managed in the buffer zone area of Parsa National Park, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT  | FB/Twitter/Insta: @OfficialZSL/<br>LinkedIn: Zoological Society of London |   |
| Image                                      | Grassland management              | Grassland managed in the buffer zone area of Parsa National Park, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT  | As above  |   |
| Image                                      | Predator proof coral              | Beneficiary happily using a predator proof corral to protect their goats from predators in the buffer zone of Parsa National Park, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT | As above  | Yes   |
| Image                                      | Wildlife preventive fence         | Solar fencing maintained to prevent wildlife entering villages and cropland in the buffer zone of Parsa National Park, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT             | As above  |   |
| Image                                      | Information board                 | Information board installed to raise awareness on potential tiger conflict in the buffer zone of Parsa National Park, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT              | As above  |   |
| Image                                      | Community bank formation          | Women participating in community bank formation in the buffer zone of Parsa National, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT  | As above  | Yes   |
| Image                                      | Cooperative management training   | Community bank members participating in community bank management training in the buffer zone of Parsa National, Nepal. PC- Satyam Chaudhari/MWT                   |   | Yes   |

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators  | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Secured sustainable connectivity from the crucial lowland PAs to the Shivalik and eastern Terai Arc Landscape using community forest networks as corridors.</li> </ul> |   | <p>The project has laid the foundations by documenting the required knowledge bases to implement project activities under each of the outputs. Based on this knowledge, the project will work to conserve critical connectivity sites with the help of communities while addressing their stress points like HWC, natural resource dependency and the lower income situation. This year the project has directly reached 356 HHs in the project sites, approximately 1,851 community members through various livelihood, HWC and agroforestry interventions. Of these, 77% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Outcome</b><br/>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.</p>                   | <p><b>0.1 Joint community-forest corridor management plans covering 1000ha, agreed and implemented</b> by 20 Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs), by Y3<br/> <b>0.2 10% increase in occupancy of small and medium-sized mammal in the community-forest corridor</b> including agroforestry sites (Example: <i>Hystrix indica</i>, <i>Felis bengalensis</i>, <i>Felis chaus</i>, <i>Lepus nigricollis</i>, <i>Sus scrofa</i>, <i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>) from Y1 baseline, by Y3<br/> <b>Baseline-</b> The species wise occupancies are calculated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hystrix indica</i> (Indian crested porcupine)- Not calculated due to low detection</li> <li>• <i>Felis bengalensis</i> (leopard cat)- 0.473</li> <li>• <i>Felis chaus</i> (jungle cat)- 0.228</li> <li>• <i>Lepus nigricollis</i> (Indian hare) – 0.184</li> <li>• <i>Sus scrofa</i> (wild boar)- 0.262</li> <li>• <i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i> (barking deer)- 0.525</li> </ul> <p><b>0.3 Increased evidence of Panthera tigris moving</b> through the corridor, from pre-project baseline, by end of Y3<br/> <b>Baseline-</b> 3 individual <i>Panthera Tigris</i> (tiger) detected from three different sites (3 out of 32 grids).</p> | <p>0.1 Joint community-forest corridor management plans will be agreed and implemented by Y3 only.<br/> 0.2 <b>Baseline for occupancy of small and medium sized mammals in the community forest corridor set in Y1.</b><br/> 0.3 <b>Baseline for evidence of <i>Panthera tigris</i> moving in the community-forest corridor set in Y1.</b><br/> 0.4 <b>Baselines for wellbeing of communities at project sites set in Y1.</b><br/> 0.5 <b>Baselines for both natural resource dependency and burden of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) of communities at project sites set in Y1.</b><br/> 0.6 <b>Baseline for willingness to pay revenue and conserve forest and wildlife set in Y1.</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participatory corridor mapping and planning workshops will be conducted.</li> <li>2. Critical habitats and degraded sites will be managed and conserved.</li> <li>3. Status of Dhole will be updated.</li> <li>4. HWCx plan will be endorsed and implemented.</li> <li>5. Livelihood schemes will be continued strengthening women led community banks, providing skill-based trainings and promoting tourism.</li> <li>6. Agroforestry promotion will be continued.</li> </ol> |

| Project summary   | SMART Indicators  | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023  | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|---|--|--|
|   | <p><b>0.4 Increase in wellbeing for 50% of households of project sites in community-forest corridor (disaggregated by gender, income, and ethnicity), from Y1 baseline, by Y3</b><br/> <b>Baseline-</b> The average wellbeing index for overall site – <b>0.39</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amleshwor BZUC - <b>0.42</b></li> <li>• Manahari BZUC - <b>0.41</b></li> <li>• Lokhit BZUC – <b>0.33</b></li> </ul> <p><b>0.5 Decrease in both natural resource dependency and burden of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) for 60% of households of project sites in community-forest corridor (disaggregated by gender, income, and ethnicity), from Y1 baseline, by Y3</b><br/> <b>Baseline -</b> The average natural resource dependency index of households - <b>0.32</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amleshwor BZUC - <b>0.19</b></li> <li>• Manahari BZUC - <b>0.32</b></li> <li>• Lokhit BZUC - <b>0.46</b></li> </ul> <p>The average HWC burden index of households - <b>0.05</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amleshwor BZUC - <b>0.03</b></li> <li>• Manahari BZUC - <b>0.04</b></li> <li>• Lokhit BZUC - <b>0.07</b></li> </ul> <p><b>0.6 90% of households practicing agroforestry as a means of livelihood show an increase in willingness to pay revenue and conserve the corridor by the end of Y3</b><br/> <b>Baseline -</b> 31.77% willing to pay for conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amleshwor BZUC - <b>33.93%</b></li> <li>• Manahari BZUC - <b>25.46%</b></li> <li>• Lokhit BZUC - <b>38.51%</b></li> </ul> |  |  |
| <p><b>Output 1.</b><br/> Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest</p> | <p>1.1 20 BZCFUG representatives (at least 50% women and people from low-income households) participate in participatory corridor mapping and planning workshops, by Y1<br/> 1.2 20 BZCF management plans prepared/ revised: 5 by Y1, 10 by Y2 and 5 by Y3</p>  | <p>1.1 Participatory corridor mapping and planning workshops are planned for Y2 in the workplan.<br/> 1.2 Five BZCFOPs revised in Y1. (<i>Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.7.1, 4.7.2, 4.7.3, 4.7.4 and 4.7.5</i>)</p> |  |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators  | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period   |
|--|---|---|--|
| corridor is established.   | 1.3 Wetland (3), grassland (100ha), and forest (50ha) priority areas within the corridor maintained in 20 BZCFUGs, by Y2 supporting the movement of wildlife<br>1.4 North-East Parsa community-forest corridor charter agreed by 20 BZCFUGs (including provisions for representation of women, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, demarcation of priority areas, agreed management guidelines, and benefits-sharing principles) by Y3 | 1.3 One wetland, 2.4ha grassland and 5ha degraded forest area maintained in buffer zone forest of Amleshwor BZUC. ( <i>Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.4.1 and 4.5.1</i> )<br>1.4 North-East Parsa community-forest corridor charter will be agreed by Y3.   |  |
| Activity 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)                          |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study was conducted to identify the priority habitat management sites in PNP and northern BZ</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>         |
| Activity 1.2, Support BZCF towards identifying and executing priority habitat management measures to maintain vital corridors for wildlife movement.   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One wetland and one grassland managed (Details below)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat management will be continued in Y2</li> </ul>   |
| Activity 1.2.1, Wetland/water source protection and management by BZCFUG (Cleaning, clearing, maintenance, small check dam, plantation around water source etc)  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One wetland (<i>Kamini daha</i>) covering 0.5 ha was managed by clearing the surrounding bushes and vegetation, removing debris, cleaning inlets (water sources sites) and maintaining outlets (water seepage sites).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One wetland will be managed in Y2</li> </ul>            |
| Activity 1.2.2, Grassland management by BZCFUG (uprooting trees and cutting, burning and sowing grasses etc)   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.4 ha of grassland around <i>Kamini daha</i> was managed by slashing, uprooting, burning, clearing invasive species, and dead trees.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grassland management will be continued in Y2</li> </ul> |
| Activity 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). |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The camera trap and occupancy surveys were conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in northern buffer zone area of PNP.</li> <li>Prior to the survey, a one-day orientation was conducted on camera trap and occupancy survey methods for 10 wildlife technicians on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>         |
| Activity 1.4, Support buffer zone community forests (BZCF) to prepare adaptive management plans incorporating participatory habitat management. (BZCF operation plan preparation/revision).                      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five BZCFOPs revised for five BZCF covering an area of 265.5 ha area which will benefit 695 HHs (3,731 individuals with 50% women) affiliated with these BZCFs.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 BZCFOPs will be revised in Y2.</li> </ul>            |

| Project summary   | SMART Indicators   | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023  | Actions required/planned for next period  |
|---|--|--|---|
| Activity 1.5, Support BZCF to improve the degraded forest in the identified corridor to improve ecological services.                    |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BZCF supported to identify priority sites and initiate regeneration promotion in 5 ha area.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support will be continued to improve the degraded forest.</li> </ul>   |
| Activity 1.5.1, Identify priority areas in the community forest corridor.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study was conducted to identify the priority sites that needed conservation and management intervention to maintain connectivity and improve ecological services in the northern buffer zone community forest areas.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>  |
| Activity 1.5.2, Plantation of native seedlings and saplings in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG                                 |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2 and Y3</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native seedlings and saplings will be planted in priority areas</li> </ul>                                     |
| Activity 1.5.3, Regeneration promotion in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 ha degraded area in Janahit CFUG of Lokhit BZUC is identified for regeneration through fencing and plantation. It will be completed in rainy season (June 2023).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regeneration promotion will be continued in 15 ha priority areas.</li> </ul>                                   |
| Activity 1.6, Support PNP and buffer zone to prepare/review the participatory adaptive management plan to improve the corridor habitat. |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PNP and buffer zone will be supported to prepare/review the participatory adaptive management plan.</li> </ul> |
| Activity 1.7, Update status of Dhole and prepare species action plan.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2 and Y3</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of Dhole will be updated, and species action plan will be prepared.</li> </ul>                          |
| Activity 1.8, Promote collaboration between PA management and development stakeholders to construct wildlife-friendly infrastructure.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A stakeholder meeting was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to discuss the current situation of road killing and need of wildlife friendly infrastructure. The meeting was attended by 27 representatives from PNP, District Administration Office, Siddhibox battalion, Shree Jung battalion, District Post Office-Birgunj, District Court- Parsa, Custom office- Birgunj, District Forest Office- Parsa, District Treasury Controller Office, MWT and ZSL Nepal.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder meeting will be continued for wildlife-friendly infrastructure.</li> </ul>                         |
| <b>Output 2.</b><br>Reduced short-term costs from HWC, and long-term plan to manage future  | 2.1 75 Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions recruited (at least 3 per BZCFUG), by Y1<br>2.2 HWC status assessed, and human and wildlife population trends projected with conservation | 2.1 Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champion training is planned for Y2, therefore their recruitment will also take place in Y2.<br>2.2 Assessment on HWC status and impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications conducted in Y1. ( <i>Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.11.1 and 4.11.2</i> )   |   |



| Project summary  | SMART Indicators   | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period   |
|--|--|---|--|
| HWC pressures in corridors, enable communities to receive net benefits from their community-forest corridor.   | measures, assessment by end of Y1 and peer-reviewed article by end of year 3<br>2.3 Participatory HWCx plan endorsed by all (20) BZCFUGs, (co-developed by HWCx champions, and incorporating projections from HWC assessment), by Y2<br>2.4 At least 80% of HWCx champions have led HWC drills, or supported intervention measures in their communities, by Y3<br>2.5 A 80% reduction in livestock kill and 25% reduction in crop raiding in project communities by Y3<br>(Baseline: 29 livestock killed by tiger and leopard in 2021 according to PNP FY2021 data; crop raiding baseline to be established by Y1) | 2.3 Three HWCx plans prepared for communities at Amleshwor BZUC, Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC in Y1. They will be endorsed by communities in Y2. <i>(Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.13.1)</i><br>2.4 HWCx champions will lead HWC drills, or support intervention measures from Y3 onwards.<br>2.5 % reduction in livestock kill and % reduction in crop raiding in project communities will be measured by Y3 |  |
| Activity 2.1, Assess the impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore like tigers on other carnivores, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications. |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study was conducted to assess the impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>                                 |
| Activity 2.1.1, Prioritise and map HWC hotspots to implement pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWC hotspots in PNP BZ were prioritized and map prepared through an independent study.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>                                 |
| 2.2, Support BZMC to prepare and endorse human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) plan, including training for the community members.                               |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three BZUC supported to prepare and implement human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) plans.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWCx plan will be implemented in Y2.</li> </ul>                                 |
| 2.2.1, Conduct meeting and workshops on HWCx plan.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three workshop meetings were conducted at the project sites (one in each site) engaging 37 community members (41% female) to discuss HWC issues in the project sites and thereby develop HWCx plans.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>                                 |
| 2.2.2, Develop HWCx plan.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three HWCx plans prepared for three BZUCs (Amleshwor BZUC, Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>                                 |
| 2.2.3, Train HWCx champions and community members to implement HWCx plan.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWCx champions will be recruited and trained to implement HWCx plan.</li> </ul> |
| 2.3, Support buffer zone communities to implement HWC mitigation and management measures from HWCx plan (including PPC, fencing, and relief fund).           |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported all three BZUCs (Amleshwor BZUC, Lokhit BZUC and Manahari BZUC) to construct 80 predator proof corrals (PPC) and maintain 7km of solar fencing at Manahari BZUC.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support will be continued to implement HWCx plan.</li> </ul>                    |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period  |
|--|------------------|---|---|
| 2.3.1, Support predator-proof corral to HWC victim HHs (Equipment and material)  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80 predator proof corrals (PPCs) were constructed throughout project sites (Amleshwor BZUC:15, Lokhit BZUC: 30 and Manahari BZUC: 35) protecting approximately 400-800 small livestock (goats). Of total beneficiary households, 70% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>120 Predator proof corrals will be constructed in Y2.</li> </ul>                                   |
| 2.3.2, Install and maintain wildlife-preventing fences (solar/mesh wire/biological).   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7km of solar fence maintained by replacing damaged poles, wires and batteries. This will protect approximately 339.69 ha of cropland and benefit around 300 HHs living along the electric fence.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife preventive fences will be installed/maintained in other sites.</li> </ul>                 |
| 2.3.3, Maintain HWC relief fund within BZUC.   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWC relief fund will be maintained in all three BZUCs.</li> </ul>                                  |
| 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. |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information boards on HWC installed, wildlife damage relief support information booklet published and orientation on HWC to female community members conducted to create community awareness on HWC.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness activities will be continued in Y2.</li> </ul>   |
| 2.4.1, Install hoarding boards on HWC.   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One information board (12ft*8ft) was installed at strategic location of Manahari BZUC to disseminate awareness regarding tiger conservation and potential tiger conflict among community members.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three hoarding boards will be installed in Y2.</li> </ul>  |
| 2.4.2, Develop IEC materials on HWC.   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The booklet on 'Wildlife damage relief support information' published to help community members enhance their knowledge on the relief applying process.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IEC materials will continue to be developed in Y2.</li> </ul>                                      |
| 2.4.3, Orient and train HWC-vulnerable local community.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21 female community members orientated on HWC on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at PNP headquarter office. Of them, 86% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. This training helped to increase the average knowledge score of participants by 33.3%.</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two orientation events on HWC will be conducted in Y2.</li> </ul>                                  |
| 2.4.4, Deliver HWC management and wildlife rescue training to PA staff and community members.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One event of HWC management and wildlife rescue training will be conducted for PA staff</li> </ul> |

| Project summary   | SMART Indicators   | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Output 3.</b><br/>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</p> | <p>3.1 <i>Three women-led community banks formed (More than 50% of members from low-income households with 70% of members being women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people); 25 members per bank initially, growing to at least 40 members each by Y3</i></p> <p>3.2 <i>120 members (at least 50% women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people) trained on developing livelihood skills (including tourism enterprises) in Yr 1 (2 trainings) and Yr 2 (4 trainings)</i></p> <p>3.2.1 <i>Market chain analysis completed to identify linkages in Yr 2 and community bank members accessing such linkages by Y3</i></p> <p>3.2.2 <i>50% of members adopting livelihood options by the end of Yr 3</i></p> <p>3.2.3 <i>20% increase in income of beneficiary members by the end of Yr 3</i></p> <p>3.2.4 <i>At least 80% of cooperative members pass vocational exams in business management, finance, hospitality, and promotion skills by Y2</i></p> <p>3.3 <i>Parsa National Park (PNP) tourism management plan publicly proposed and discussed, with all cooperatives and BZCFUGs represented, (led by PNP) by Y2, adopted into PNP Management Plan by Y3</i></p> <p>3.4 <i>People reached by tourism promotion, over 50,000 people reached by Y2 and Over 120,000 people reached by Y3</i></p> <p>3.5 <i>50% increase number of visitors to Parsa National Park by Y3 against baseline. Baseline: 152 tourists visited PNP in fiscal year 2021 (147 national tourists and 5 international tourists) - Source: PNP Data FY2021</i></p> <p>3.6 <i>Increase in tourism-related income in communities (accommodation, sales of goods)</i></p> | <p>3.1 Three women led livelihood community banks were formed in three project sites with total membership of 87 women, among whom 74% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (&gt;25 members/banks in Y1). <i>(Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.21.1, 4.21.2 and 4.21.3)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Manahari BZUC, Makhamali Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha (Makamali Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, with 31 female members, 19 of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups</li> <li>In Lokhit BZUC, Janahit Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha (Janahit Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, with 30 female members, 28 of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>In Amleshwor BZUC, Suraksha Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha (Suraksha Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, with 26 female members, 17 of them belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul> <p>3.2 Capacity building of 82 community bank members on community bank management training through three events of two-day training. (All females; 84% belonged to indigenous and disadvantaged groups). <i>(Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.21.4, 4.21.5, 4.21.6, 4.21.7, 4.21.8)</i></p> <p>3.2.1 Market chain analysis completed in Y1</p> <p>3.2.2 41% of members adopting livelihood options by the end of Y1</p> <p>3.2.3 % increase in income of beneficiary members will be measured by the end of Y3</p> <p>3.2.4 % of cooperative members passing vocational exams in business management, finance, hospitality, and promotion skills will be measured by Y3.</p> <p>3.3 Parsa National Park (PNP) tourism management plan publicly proposed and discussed by Y3</p> <p>3.4 People reached by tourism promotion will be measured from Y2</p> <p>3.5 % increase in number of visitors to Parsa National Park will be measured by Y3.</p> <p>3.6 Increase in tourism-related income in communities will be reported from Y2.</p> | <p>and community members.</p>   |
| <p>3.1, Provide sustainable, diversified livelihoods to the local people (skills training/community banking/cooperatives).</p>  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented knowledge related to livelihoods such as indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on livelihoods, development of livelihood</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for diversified livelihoods to the local people will be continued</li> </ul> |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023  | Actions required/planned for next period   |
|--|------------------|--|--|
|  |                  | improvement plan, market chain analysis of preferred livelihood activities as identified by the socio-economic analysis. Similarly, three women-led community banks were established (one at each project site) and seed funds also established in each of the community banks.  |  |
| 3.1.1, Document indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on diversified livelihoods and prepare livelihood improvement plan.                       |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on diversified livelihoods were documented through a social survey, involving interviews with 94 community members (60% female) and conducting three workshops with 29 community members (93% female; 79% indigenous and disadvantaged groups).</li> <li>• Based on this information and three additional workshops engaging 31 community members (41% female; 76% indigenous and disadvantaged groups), three livelihood improvement plans have been developed for each of the three project sites.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>                         |
| 3.1.2, Conduct Rapid Market Assessment (market chain analysis) for identified livelihood options/trainings.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A market chain analysis was conducted for livelihood options/trainings identified by a socio-economic survey including tourism, skills based trainings, commercial vegetable farming, commercial livestock rearing, wildlife deterrent crop farming and bee keeping.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>                         |
| 3.1.3, Support skills-based trainings and toolkits (commercial vegetable and livestock farming, plumbing, electrician, tailoring, motorcycle repair, etc.) |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned for Y2 and Y3.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills-based trainings and toolkits will be supported in Y2.</li> </ul> |
| 3.1.4, Form/strengthen community banks/cooperatives by providing trainings, cooperative education and institutional support.                               |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three women led livelihood community banks were formed in three project sites with a total membership of 87 women, among whom 74% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups (&gt;25 members/banks in Y1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In Manahari BZUC, Makhamali Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha (Makamali Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, with 31 female members, 19 of which belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups</li> <li>○ In Lokhit BZUC, Janahit Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha (Janahit Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023  | Actions required/planned for next period   |
|--|------------------|--|--|
|  |                  | <p>December 2022, with 30 female members, 28 of which belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In Amleshwor BZUC, Suraksha Mahila Aaya-arjan Samuha (Suraksha Women's Income Generation Group) was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, with 26 female members, 17 of which belonging to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>• After the formation of women-led community banks, two-day cooperative/community bank management trainings were conducted for each of three women's groups.</li> </ul> |  |
| 3.1.5, Provide materials to start livelihood activities, including seed money.   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After forming women-led community banks and capacity building of community bank members, seed money amounting to NPR 945,000/£6,000 was provided (NPR 315,000/£2,000 in each of the three community banks)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seed money will be added in Y2 and Y3.</li> </ul>                       |
| 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. |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNP website maintained, watchtower constructed, and necessary preparation required for conducting nature guide training completed.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecotourism promotional activities will be continued</li> </ul>          |
| 3.2.1, Conduct nature guide training.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In joint cooperation of PNP, MWT and ZSL, all preparatory works required for the nature guide training was completed as per the plan.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The details of nature guide training will be reported in Y2.</li> </ul> |
| 3.2.2, Conduct hospitality training (cooking/housekeeping/waiting/bartending).   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned for Y2 and Y3.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitality training will be conducted.</li> </ul>                      |
| 3.2.3, Support/strengthen information centre.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned for Y2 and Y3.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information centre will be strengthened.</li> </ul>                     |
| 3.2.4, Maintain websites (PNP and partners) for tourism marketing.   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNP website maintained by keeping photos and videos in a single menu, adding more details of important tourism destinations and activities, adding notices and documents related to wildlife victim relief as well as useful links and reports.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PNP website maintenance will continue.</li> </ul>                       |
| 3.2.5, Improve, maintain or establish community tourism initiative (Community homestay/lodge/towers)   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A two-storey wooden watch tower has been constructed near 'Kamini daha' in buffer zone forest of Amleshwor BZUC.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for community tourism initiative will be continued.</li> </ul>  |
| 3.2.6, Install signage along tourist route.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned for Y2 and Y3.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage along tourist route will be installed.</li> </ul>               |

| Project summary   | SMART Indicators   | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period   |
|---|--|---|--|
| 3.2.7, Create documentary.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentary will be created.</li> </ul>   |
| 3.2.8, Install hoarding boards in Janaki Temple area and Birgunj.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hoarding boards in Janaki Temple area and Birgunj will be installed.</li> </ul>                 |
| 3.2.9, Conduct central-level workshop with NTB, HAN, TAAN.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central-level workshop with NTB, HAN, TAAN will be conducted.</li> </ul>                        |
| 3.2.10, Conduct local-level workshop for tourism promotion.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2 and Y3</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local-level workshop for tourism promotion will be conducted.</li> </ul>                        |
| 3.2.11, Install digital display (Simara Airport and Madhesh province HQ).   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2 and Y3</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital display will be installed.</li> </ul>   |
| 3.2.12, Incorporate tourism plan within management plan of PNP and its buffer zone.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2 and Y3</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism plan will be incorporated within management plan of PNP and its buffer zone.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Output 4.</b><br>Enhanced agroforestry practices adopted throughout the community-forest corridor, laying foundations for long-term forestry revenues and sustainable corridor connectivity across Parsa National Park | 4.1 200 community members trained in enhanced agroforestry practices (from targeted communities and with at least 50% women and people from low-income groups) - 100 by end of Y1 and an additional 100 by end of Y2<br>4.2 Local nursery established to provide 50,000 native and low water-demand seedlings (70% in forest and 30% in private land) for North-East Parsa Community-Forest Corridor by end of Y2<br>4.3 60% of households across community-forest corridor have implemented enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings by Y3<br>4.4 20% of targeted households (disaggregated by income, gender, and ethnicity) have successfully planted 10,000 seedlings from the locally established seedling nursery by end of Y3. | 4.1 65 community members (51% female; 63% indigenous and disadvantaged) trained in enhanced agroforestry practices in Y1. (Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.25.1, 4.25.2, 4.25.3, 4.25.4)<br>4.2 Establishment of local nursery initiated in Y1. (Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex 4.28.1)<br>4.3 % of households implementing enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings will be measured by Y3<br>4.4 % of targeted households successfully planting 10,000 seedlings from the locally established seedling nursery will be measured by end of Y3. |  |
| 4.1, Conduct trainings and workshops on agroforestry practice.  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65 buffer zone users (51% female), who are engaged in farming, land-based activities and interested in learning about agroforestry, were trained in agroforestry practices. This training helped participants increase their knowledge score by 21%.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and workshops on agroforestry practice will be continued.</li> </ul>                   |

| Project summary   | SMART Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023   | Actions required/planned for next period  |
|---|------------------|---|---|
| 4.2, Provide seedlings to households for agroforestry (such as fodder, fruit, and bamboo).                                  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12,000 seedlings (Nepiyer grass: 5,000; fodder: 4,000; fruits: 1,500 and lemon: 1,500) were procured and stored in the community nursery. These seedlings will be planted in and around the participants farm and kitchen gardens during June which is the best season for planting seedlings in the project sites.</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional seedlings will be provided to households for agroforestry.</li> </ul>         |
| 4.3, Promote wildlife-deterrent cash crops (chillies, lemons, cotton, lemongrass, asparagus, ferns, turmeric, ginger, etc). |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 HWC vulnerable households from two project sites (Manahari BZUC and Lokhit BZUC) were supported with wildlife deterrent crops (lemon: 580 seedlings, ginger: 50kg and turmeric: 220kg) farming on 1.3ha of land. Of the total households selected 90% belong to indigenous and disadvantaged groups.</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional support will be provided to promote wildlife deterrent cash crops.</li> </ul> |
| 4.4, Conduct learning visit at the best agroforestry and wildlife-deterrent cash crop site.                                 |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for Y2 and Y3</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A learning visit will be conducted.</li> </ul>   |
| 4.5, Establish/strengthen community nursery.  |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported to establishment of a community nursery at Janahit BZCFUG of Lokhit BZUC. In the first year, the project focused on managing the physical infrastructure of the community nursery which includes fencing the nursery area, making bedding and storing 12,000 seedlings.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursery established in Y1 will be strengthened.</li> </ul>                               |
| 5.1, Conduct baseline and endline survey.   |                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A socio-economic survey was conducted in all three project sites to set baselines for the socio-economic aspects of the project sites. In total 532 community members (Amleshwor BZUC: 168; Lokhit BZUC:128 and Manahari BZUC: 216) were interviewed in this survey. Of the total respondents 55.26% were male and 44.74% female.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No activity planned for next period.</li> </ul>  |

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

| Project summary   | SMART Indicators  | Means of verification   | Important Assumptions   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Impact:</b> Secured sustainable connectivity from the crucial lowland PAs to the Shivalik and eastern Terai Arc Landscape using community forest networks as corridors.                                      |   |   |   |
| <p><b>Outcome:</b> 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.</p> | <p>0.1 Joint community-forest corridor management plans covering 1000ha, agreed and implemented by 20 Buffer Zone Community Forest User Groups (BZCFUGs), by Y3</p> <p>0.2 10% increase in occupancy of small and medium-sized mammal in the community-forest corridor including agroforestry sites (Example: <i>Hystrix indica</i>, <i>Felis bengalensis</i>, <i>Felis chaus</i>, <i>Lepus nigricollis</i>, <i>Sus scrofa</i>, <i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>) from Y1 baseline, by Y3</p> <p>0.3 Increased evidence of <i>Panthera tigris</i> moving through the corridor, from pre-project baseline, by end of Y3</p> <p>0.4 Increase in wellbeing for 50% of households of project sites in community-forest corridor (disaggregated by gender, income, and ethnicity), from Y1 baseline, by Y3</p> <p>0.5 Decrease in both natural resource dependency and burden of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) for 60% of households of project sites in community-forest corridor (disaggregated by gender, income, and ethnicity), from Y1 baseline, by Y3</p> <p>0.6 90% of households practicing agroforestry as a means of livelihood show an increase in willingness to pay revenue and conserve the corridor by the end of Y3</p> | <p>0.1 Joint management plan, BZCF management plan, reports of management activities</p> <p>0.2 Small and medium-sized mammal camera trap survey report</p> <p>0.3 DNPWC-led large mammal camera trap surveys and hotspot monitoring report</p> <p>0.4 Reports on socio-economic surveys conducted with a random sample of community capturing data on wellbeing index (income, access to education and health, dignity, etc.)</p> <p>0.5 Reports on socio-economic survey conducted with a random sample of community capturing data on i) Natural Resource Dependency Index, and ii) HWC Burden Index</p> <p>0.6 Reports on socio-economic survey report conducted with a stratified sample of community capturing data on willingness to i) pay revenue for agroforestry, and ii) conserve corridor connectivity through agroforestry practice</p> | <p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) remain supportive of this initiative to strengthen connectivity.</p> <p>Compounding climate change and infrastructure development threats to Nepal’s lowland protected areas continue to escalate, demanding a policy response to secure connectivity to higher altitudes – as will be piloted in this proposal.</p> <p>Small mammals’ rapid response to habitat conditions, without extraordinary climate events during the life of the project, will enable them as an effective indicator of connectivity recovery for efforts across Nepal, in advance of forests recovering sufficiently to enable widespread large mammal movement.</p> <p>Community indices designed by ZSL from our experiences (including DI 26-012) remain appropriate for the local context.</p> |
| <p><b>Output 1</b><br/>Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest corridor is established.</p>  | <p>1.1 20 BZCFUG representatives (at least 50% women and people from low-income households) participate in participatory corridor mapping and planning workshops, by Y1</p> <p>1.2 20 BZCF management plans prepared/revised: 5 by Y1, 10 by Y2 and 5 by Y3</p>   | <p>1.1 Participatory corridor maps, workshop attendance records, cross referenced with baseline survey data</p> <p>1.2 BZCF management plans</p> <p>1.3 Participatory corridor maps showing priority areas,</p>   | <p>BZCFUGs recognise the benefits of joint management (as experienced on other ZSL Nepal projects), supported by benefits from other outputs, and all members commit to the management guidelines.</p>  |



| Project summary  | SMART Indicators  | Means of verification  | Important Assumptions  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | <p>1.3 Wetland (3), grassland (100ha), and forest (50ha) priority areas within the corridor maintained in 20 BZCFUGs, by Y2 supporting the movement of wildlife</p> <p>1.4 North-East Parsa community-forest corridor charter agreed by 20 BZCFUGs (including provisions for representation of women, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, demarcation of priority areas, agreed management guidelines, and benefits-sharing principles) by Y3</p>  | <p>management reports for priority areas</p> <p>1.4 Community-forest corridor charter</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Output 2</b> 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.</p> | <p>2.1 75 Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions recruited (at least 3 per BZCFUG), by Y1</p> <p>2.2 HWC status assessed, and human and wildlife population trends projected with conservation measures, assessment by end of Y1 and peer-reviewed article by end of year 3</p> <p>2.3 Participatory HWCx plan endorsed by all (20) BZCFUGs, (co-developed by HWCx champions, and incorporating projections from HWC assessment), by Y2</p> <p>2.4 At least 80% of HWCx champions have led HWC drills, or supported intervention measures in their communities, by Y3</p> <p>2.5 A 80% reduction in livestock kill and 25% reduction in crop raiding in project communities by Y3<br/>(Baseline: 29 livestock killed by tiger and leopard in 2021 according to PNP FY2021 data; crop raiding baseline to be established by Y1)</p> | <p>2.1 HWCx champions' records, workshop minutes</p> <p>2.2 Assessment report, peer-reviewed paper</p> <p>2.3 Participatory HWCx plan</p> <p>2.4 HWCx champion reports, workshop reports, construction reports</p> <p>2.5 PNP HWC records, Socio-economic surveys conducted with a random sample of community capturing data on livestock kill, crop raiding and other HWC incidence</p> | <p>By building local capacity to manage HWC issues (as in Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Project [ITHCP] Phase I), and establishing community members as hubs of expertise, long-term community resilience and adaptability in the face of changing HWC pressures is supported (without extraneous factors greatly influencing or increasing HWC beyond the levels currently predicted).</p> <p>A 80% reduction livestock kill and 20% reduction on crop raiding for the median household is both achievable (as evidenced by the results of the ITHCP Phase I and IUCN Nepal - Tiger in Nepal projects) and sufficient to drive a substantive shift in attitudes as attributable to this particular project.</p> |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators   | Means of verification  | Important Assumptions  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Output 3</b> 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</p> | <p>3.1 Three women-led community banks formed (More than 50% of members from low-income households with 70% of members being women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people); 25 members per bank initially, growing to at least 40 members each by Y3</p> <p>3.2 120 members (at least 50% women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people) trained on developing livelihood skills (including tourism enterprises) in Yr 1 (2 trainings) and Yr 2 (4 trainings)</p> <p>3.2.1 Market chain analysis completed to identify linkages in Yr 2 and community bank members accessing such linkages by Y3</p> <p>3.2.2 50% of members adopting livelihood options by the end of Yr 3</p> <p>3.2.3 20% increase in income of beneficiary members by the end of Yr 3</p> <p>3.2.4 At least 80% of cooperative members pass vocational exams in business management, finance, hospitality, and promotion skills by Y2</p> <p>3.3 Parsa National Park (PNP) tourism management plan publicly proposed and discussed, with all cooperatives and BZCFUGs represented, (led by PNP) by Y2, adopted into PNP Management Plan by Y3</p> <p>3.4 People reached by tourism promotion, over 50,000 people reached by Y2 and Over 120,000 people reached by Y3</p> <p>3.5. 50% increase number of visitors to Parsa National Park by Y3 against baseline.<br/>Baseline: 152 tourists visited PNP in fiscal year 2021 (147 national tourists and 5 international tourists) - Source: PNP Data FY2021</p> <p>3.6. Increase in tourism-related income in communities (accommodation, sales of goods)</p> | <p>3.1 Cooperative records and by-laws</p> <p>3.2 Training logs, post-training assessment for cooperative members</p> <p>3.3 Parsa National Park tourism management plan, workshop minutes, Parsa National Park Management Plan</p> <p>3.4 Estimated viewing figures for documentary, passer rate at promotional boards at airport and major thoroughfares, website visits, PNP tourist information centre visits</p> <p>3.5 Parsa National Park official visitor records</p> <p>3.6 Socio-economic surveys conducted with cooperative members capturing income breakdown data</p> | <p>Take up of loans from community banking cooperatives is high and enables the economic barriers to new livelihood adoption to be overcome, as seen in previous ZSL projects (e.g., DI 22-009, DI 26-012).</p> <p>By targeting the low-income, disadvantaged and vulnerable parts of the community for development of this direct revenue stream (e.g., DI-26-012 and DI 24015), those community members most likely to be forced into unsustainable natural resource dependency are sufficiently supported to avoid this outcome, substantially reducing the risk of such overuse.</p> <p>Trends indicating the likelihood of increased tourism to Parsa National Park continue, and commitment from DNPWC to manage tourism levels can be effective with benefit-sharing commitments to buffer zone communities, as with Chitwan and Bardia NPs.</p> <p>No travel bans or lock downs imposed by government due to increased COVID-19 cases. Travel and tourism activities are promoted locally, nationally and globally with adequate preventive measures during COVID-19 pandemic. National and international tourists are willing to travel following required COVID-19 preventive protocols.</p> |
| <p><b>Output 4</b> Enhanced agroforestry practices adopted throughout the community-forest corridor, laying foundations for long-term forestry</p>   | <p>4.1 200 community members trained in enhanced agroforestry practices (from targeted communities and with at least 50% women and</p>   | <p>4.1 Workshop records</p> <p>4.2 Training certificates, attendance lists</p>   | <p>Laying the foundations for biodiversity-friendly production forests now will ensure the community-forest corridor is</p>  |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators  | Means of verification   | Important Assumptions  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>revenues and sustainable corridor connectivity across Parsa National Park.</p>  | <p>people from low-income groups) - 100 by end of Y1 and an additional 100 by end of Y2<br/>           4.2 Local nursery established to provide 50,000 native and low water-demand seedlings (70% in forest and 30% in private land) for North-East Parsa Community-Forest Corridor by end of Y2<br/>           4.3 60% of households across community-forest corridor have implemented enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings by Y3<br/>           4.4 20% of targeted households (disaggregated by income, gender, and ethnicity) have successfully planted 10,000 seedlings from the locally established seedling nursery by end of Y3.</p> | <p>4.3 Nursery management plan, seedling plantation photographs<br/>           4.4 Socio-economic surveys conducted with cooperative members capturing income breakdown data<br/>           4.4 Socio-economic surveys conducted with a random sample of community capturing data on agroforestry activities, and seedling planting and success</p> | <p>supported to provide connectivity into the future as timber harvests are made.</p> <p>Increased long-term forestry revenues (outside project timeframe) will secure the financial incentives for corridor management for the community.</p> <p>Sustainable water management, through tree choice, will ensure the long-term sustainability of the agroforestry, the corridor, and Parsa National Park itself (which is dependent on Nepal's rivers to maintain its grasslands), and raising the profile of the area will prompt the government of Nepal longer-term to recognize and ameliorate water management issues outside the NP.</p> |
| <p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for examples 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>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)</p> <p>1.2, Support BZCF towards identifying and executing priority habitat management measures to maintain vital corridors for wildlife movement.</p> <p>1.2.1, Wetland/water source protection and management by BZCFUG (Cleaning, clearing, maintenance, small check dam, plantation around water source etc)</p> <p>1.2.2, Grassland management by BZCFUG (uprooting trees and cutting, burning and sowing grasses etc)</p> <p>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).</p> <p>1.4, Support buffer zone community forests (BZCF) to prepare adaptive management plans incorporating participatory habitat management. (BZCF operation plan preparation/revision).</p> <p>1.5, Support BZCF to improve the degraded forest in the identified corridor to improve ecological services.</p> <p>1.5.1, Identify priority areas in the community forest corridor.</p> <p>1.5.2, Plantation of native seedlings and saplings in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG</p> <p>1.5.3, Regeneration promotion in priority areas of the corridor by BZCFUG</p> <p>1.6, Support PNP and buffer zone to prepare/review the participatory adaptive management plan to improve the corridor habitat.</p> <p>1.7, Update status of Dhole and prepare species action plan.</p> <p>1.8, Promote collaboration between PA management and development stakeholders to construct wildlife-friendly infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Output 2</b></p> <p>2.1, Assess the impact of increasing populations of mega-carnivore like tigers on other carnivores, its ecological footprint, and HWC implications.</p> |   |   |  |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>2.1.1, Prioritise and map HWC hotspots to implement pre-emptive HWC mitigation measures.</p> <p>2.2, Support BZMC to prepare and endorse human-wildlife coexistence (HWCx) plan, including training for the community members.</p> <p>2.2.1, Conduct meeting and workshops on HWCx plan.</p> <p>2.2.2, Develop HWCx plan.</p> <p>2.2.3, Train HWCx champions and community members to implement HWCx plan.</p> <p>2.3, Support buffer zone communities to implement HWC mitigation and management measures from HWCx plan (including PPC, fencing, and relief fund).</p> <p>2.3.1, Support predator-proof corral to HWC victim HHs (Equipment and material)</p> <p>2.3.2, Install and maintain wildlife-preventing fences (solar/mesh wire/biological).</p> <p>2.3.3, Maintain HWC relief fund within BZUC.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.4.1, Install hoarding boards on HWC.</p> <p>2.4.2, Develop IEC materials on HWC.</p> <p>2.4.3, Orient and train HWC-vulnerable local community.</p> <p>2.4.4, Deliver HWC management and wildlife rescue training to PA staff and community members.</p> <p><b>Output 3</b></p> <p>3.1, Provide sustainable, diversified livelihoods to the local people (skills training/community banking/cooperatives).</p> <p>3.1.1, Document indigenous knowledge and existing best practices on diversified livelihoods and prepare livelihood improvement plan.</p> <p>3.1.2, Conduct Rapid Market Assessment (market chain analysis) for identified livelihood options/trainings.</p> <p>3.1.3, Support skills-based trainings and toolkits (commercial vegetable and livestock farming, plumbing, electrician, tailoring, motorcycle repair, etc.)</p> <p>3.1.4, Form/strengthen community banks/cooperatives by providing trainings, cooperative education and institutional support.</p> <p>3.1.5, Provide materials to start livelihood activities, including seed money.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3.2.1, Conduct nature guide training.</p> <p>3.2.2, Conduct hospitality training (cooking/housekeeping/waiting/bartending).</p> <p>3.2.3, Support/strengthen information centre.</p> <p>3.2.4, Maintain websites (PNP and partners) for tourism marketing.</p> <p>3.2.5, Improve, maintain or establish community tourism initiative (Community homestay/lodge/towers)</p> <p>3.2.6, Install signage along tourist route.</p> <p>3.2.7, Create documentary.</p> <p>3.2.8, Install hoarding boards in Janaki Temple area and Birgunj.</p> <p>3.2.9, Conduct central-level workshop with NTB, HAN, TAAN.</p> <p>3.2.10, Conduct local-level workshop for tourism promotion.</p> <p>3.2.11, Install digital display (Simara Airport and Madhesh province HQ).</p> <p>3.2.12, Incorporate tourism plan within management plan of PNP and its buffer zone.</p> |                  |                       |                       |

| Project summary  | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p><b>Output 4</b></p> <p>4.1, Conduct trainings and workshops on agroforestry practice.</p> <p>4.2, Provide seedlings to households for agroforestry (such as fodder, fruit, and bamboo).</p> <p>4.3, Promote wildlife-deterrent cash crops (chillies, lemons, cotton, lemongrass, asparagus, ferns, turmeric, ginger, etc).</p> <p>4.4, Conduct learning visit at the best agroforestry and wildlife-deterrent cash crop site.</p> <p>4.5, Establish/strengthen community nursery.</p><br><p>5.1, Conduct baseline and endline survey.</p> |                  |                       |                       |

## Annex 3: Standard Indicators

**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

| DI Indicat or number | Name of indicator using original wording  | Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators   | Units  | Disaggregation     | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|----------------------|---|--|--------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
|                      |   |  |        |                    |              |              |              |               |                                  |
| DI-A01               | 120 members (at least 50% women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people) trained on developing livelihood skills (including tourism enterprises) in Yr 1 (2 trainings) and Yr 2 (4 trainings)  | Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training                        | People | Female             | 82           |              |              | 82            | 120                              |
| DI-A04               | 50% of members adopting livelihood options by the end of Yr 3   | Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. | People | Female             | 0            |              |              | 0             | 120                              |
| DI-A06               | Three women-led community banks formed (More than 50% of members from low-income households with 70% of members being women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people); 25 members per bank initially, growing to at least 40 members each by Y3 | Number of people with improved access to services or infrastructure for improved well-being.                                 | People | Female             | 87           |              |              | 87            | 120                              |
| DI-B01               | 20 Buffer Zone Community Forest (BZCF) management plans prepared/ revised 5 by Y1, 10 by Y2 and 5 by Y3   | Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed   | Number | Language- Nepalese | 5            |              |              | 5             | 20                               |
| DI-B03               | Participatory Human Wildlife Coexistence plan prepared and endorsed   | Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed   | Number | Language- Nepalese | 3            |              |              | 3             | 3                                |
| DI-C17               | HWC status assessed, and human and wildlife population trends projected with conservation measures, assessment by end of Y1 and peer-reviewed article by end of year 3  | Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals  | Number | None               | 0            |              |              | 0             | 1                                |

| DI Indicator or number | Name of indicator using original wording  | Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|------------------------|---|--|-------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| DI-D01                 | Wetland (3), grassland (100ha), and forest (50ha) priority areas within the corridor maintained | Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices                     | Ha    |                | 7.9          |              |              | 7.9           | 150                              |

**Table 2 Publications**

| Title | Type<br>(e.g. journals, manual, CDs) | Detail<br>(authors, year) | Gender of Lead Author | Nationality of Lead Author | Publishers<br>(name, city) | Available from<br>(e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online) |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
|       |                                      |                           |                       |                            |                            |   |
|       |                                      |                           |                       |                            |                            |   |

## 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 <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission? | Y     |
| <b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.  | Y     |
| <b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.   | N     |
| <b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.   | Y     |
| <b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.                             | N     |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?  | Y     |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors  | Y     |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?   | Y     |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.  |       |