

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

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Darwin Initiative Project Information

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)	April 2023 – March 2024, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Ms. Monica [REDACTED] /Mr. Bishnu [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Maheshwor Basnet (ZSL), Satyam Kumar Chaudhari (MWT)

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 who are 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 focused on 20 buffer zone community forests (BZCFs) and three communities in the northern buffer zone area of PNP namely: Amleshwor 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.

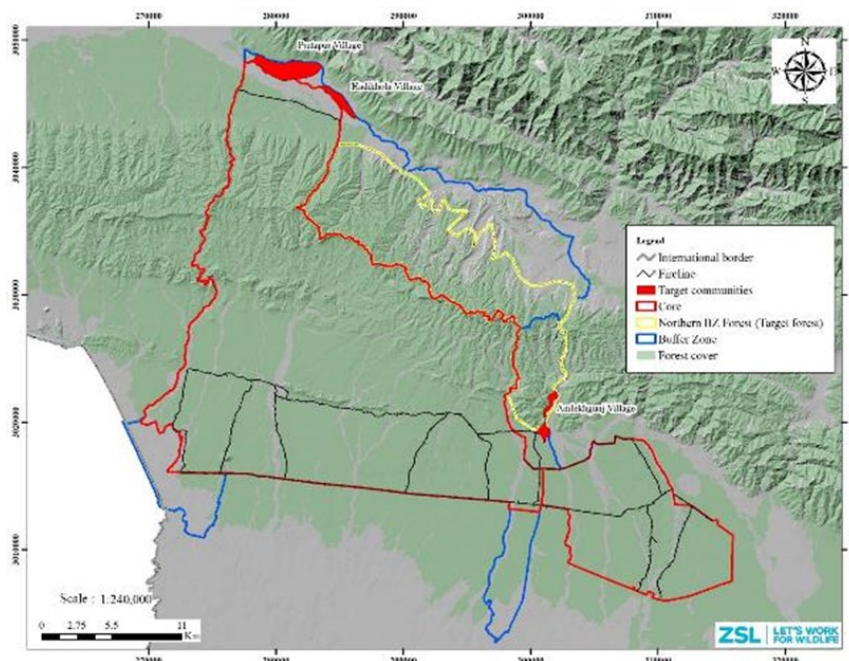


Figure 1: Map showing project site in Parsa National Park and Buffer Zone area

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. With DNPWC as a guiding partner, ZSL Nepal has partnered with Parsa National Park (PNP) and Mithila Wildlife Trust (MWT) for this project. To facilitate project implementation inside the buffer zone of the protected area, a project management unit (PMU) was formed in Y1, comprising representatives from MWT and ZSL and chaired by the Chief Conservation Officer of PNP.

PCC and PMU were fully active in guiding the project team to implement the activities in PNP as well as in the buffer zone (Annex 4.2.1). 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 4.2.2). 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. In addition to formal partners, the project has been engaging local government bodies (Jeetpur Simara Sub-Metropolitan City, Ward offices and Manahari Rural Municipality offices, in the project sites (Annex 4.2.3, 4.2.4). Further, the project extended its collaboration with the British Embassy Kathmandu's (BEK) Project coherence Unit (PCU). The project disseminated project information, funded by the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), regarding an initiative launched by the British Embassy Kathmandu-Project Coherence Unit (BEK-PCU) known as the activity mapping tool (5W). This tool aims to enhance BEK's capacity to synchronize the efforts of implementing partners at the delivery level. Consequently, it ensures interventions to operate with maximum effectiveness within the new federal model and fosters greater coherence in BEK's operations (Annex 4.2.5). Further, a tripartite agreement for the operation of homestays and the establishment of a nursery to produce seedlings for plantation was held engaging Amleshwor BZUC and Lokhit BZUC respectively (Annex 4.28.1, 4.40.1).

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 two focused on developing community forest corridor by making the habitat suitable for wild animals. The output also initiated habitat (wetland and grassland) management

activities and restoration of priority sites. Furthermore, a status survey of *Cuon alpinus* (Dhole) was carried out to support the preparation of management action of Dhole.

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

In year two, the project supported habitat management such as wetlands and grasslands, to maintain the wildlife population and retain within the forest.

1.2.1 Wetland/water source protection and management

In year 2, two wetland/water source management activities were carried out based on the priority site study report produced in year one in the Masine BZCF in the Ujjwol Bhawisya BZUC and Manahari BZUC areas (*Annex 4.4.1 & 4.4.2*). These wetlands are 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 involved clearing surrounding bushes and vegetation, removing debris, cleaning inlets (water source sites), maintaining outlets (water seepage sites) and soil excavation. The waterhole in Ujjwol Bhawisya BZUC, lies in the proximity of a natural spring that ensures consistent water availability, crucial for the survival of these species, especially during dry seasons. In Manahari BZUC however, provisions have been made to fill the pond during dry seasons through tank water, ensuring accessibility for herbivores and other animals in need of water. These management efforts aim to preserve and manage vital water sources, crucial for the sustenance of wildlife populations.

1.2.2 Grassland management

Site selection for grassland management was based on a priority site study report produced in year one, Pratapur area at Manahari BZUC. The site is a hotspot for rhinos, elephants, tigers, leopards, swamp deer, and other herbivorous animals due to the availability of a water source nearby the grassland. However, the grassland was covered by invasive species, like *Lantana Camara*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Mikania micrantha*, and *Ageratum houstonianum*. Hence, in total, a 40-hectare grassland was managed involving interventions such as slashing, burning, and clearing invasive species, and dead trees (*Annex 4.5.1*).

1.4 Support buffer zone community forest for adaptive management plans preparation 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. The Buffer Zone Community Forest User Group (BZCFUG) can manage and use their BZCF's resources only after the formation and endorsement of a BZCFOP which is revised and renewed after five years. This year, the project supported the revision of 10 BZCFOPs covering an area of 519.5 ha which will benefit 1100 HHs (5610 individuals) (*Annex 4.6.1 & 4.6.2*). Newly added topic in this includes a HWC mitigation plan and specific plan on tiger conservation and human elephant conflict mitigation measures. Supporting buffer zone community forests in preparing and implementing adaptive management plans that incorporate habitat management is crucial for sustainable natural resource management and conserving wildlife and habitat in Parsa National Park's northern buffer zone area.

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

In year two, with the objective to restore native tree species, protect them from grazing and human interference, and support the good health of forests and wildlife conservation, plantation and regeneration promotion activities were carried out by distributing 7500 seedlings of various and constructing 243meter of mesh fencing to restore 15 of ha of degraded land.

1.5.2 Plantation

To enhance and preserve 1000 hectares of the northern community forest within Parsa National Park, a joint community forest management approach was promoted. This initiative aims to reduce human-wildlife conflicts in the park's fringe areas and improve community welfare.

The project team conducted a preliminary survey of the plantation site, which had been previously identified in a report, priority area identification in the community forest corridor. The site's validity was confirmed through discussions with the PNP and BZUC. However, it later came to our attention that the site could potentially become a conflict zone due to riverbed materials mining activities. Consequently, the project decided to withdraw its support from the site, leading to a

disruption in the planned plantation activities in the first quarter of this financial year. Hence the targeted amount of work planned for Y2 could not be achieved. However, 7500 saplings produced at nursery in Goganpani, Manahari rural municipality-1, Makwanpur, were planted covering 5 ha of forest area (*Annex 4.7*). In addition to this, a maintenance and construction project for a mesh wire fence spanning 243 meters at Chetana BZCFUG is underway. The fence will help alleviate grazing pressure and enhance plant survival in the designated block. The selection of the block was based on wildlife survey data, GIS analysis, consultations with BZCFUG representatives, park and forest office authorities, and a baseline survey of habitat management priorities in the park's northern buffer zone. Along with the completion of this preparatory work, plantation activities have been in progress and are scheduled to take place from June to August 2024, the optimal time for successful lowland plant growth reaching the target. The plantation efforts will involve collaboration with BZUCs, BZCFUGs, local government, divisional forest office, park authorities, and other stakeholders.

1.5.3 Regeneration promotion

In Chakari BZCF and in Lokahit BZUC, a strategic regeneration initiative has been conducted. A 2-meter high, 7cm² mesh wire fence covering 243 meters has been installed along the periphery of the community forest and adjacent human settlements (*Annex 4.8.1*). This measure aims to restrict open grazing and limit human intrusion, fostering minimal disturbance within the forest and promoting the natural habitat. This initiative covers a total of 15 hectares, facilitating the regeneration of native species with active community involvement. Crucially, the mesh wire fence not only safeguards 170 households from potential conflict with small and large mammals but also serves as a pivotal step towards mitigating human-wildlife conflicts in the region.

1.7 Update status of Dhole and prepare species action plan.

Status survey on *Cuon alpinus* (Dhole) was carried out to support the preparation of Dhole conservation action plan (report available on request).

1.7.1 Status survey of Dhole

The survey was primarily focused in core area and a part of northern buffer zone forests of PNP. The survey was conducted in three different patches covering an area of 332 sq.km. This area comprises of diverse landscape of Terai, Chure and Shiwalik foothills that includes, forests, agricultural land, settlement areas and so on. A total of 83 grid cells of a grid size 2kmx2km was designed to survey the area (*Annex 4.9.1, 4.9.2 & 4.9.3*). One camera trap was laid for a minimum of 15 days at each grid. Remotely triggered passive infrared camera traps Panthera v6 xenon flash cameras were fixed at the best average height from the ground (approximately 0.5 m) to enable the capture of smaller to large animals. Camera-trap stations were chosen based on field observations and reviewing the Dhole presence data from previous studies. Of these 83 trap locations, 80 trap locations that were operational were scanned for the analysis. Camera traps from 3 different locations were lost (theft/vandalism/burn) during the survey (*Annex 4.9.4*). Single season occupancy analysis was used to estimate the proportion of area occupied by a species, within each survey grid. Occupancy estimates were corrected by detection probability (i.e., the likelihood that a species was detected when present). Detection/non detection histories were constructed using a one-day period as the sampling occasion, for each species and camera per survey grid. Out of 80 functional stations, Dhole was recorded near to Amlekhgunj and Lamitar area (northern buffer zone) (full report available on request). The study showed that the presence of Dhole has been limited to fewer areas compared to earlier studies. Therefore, it is important to develop a species action plan for the Dhole to safeguard and preserve its habitat, as well as enhance its conservation status.

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

On August 28, 2023, a day-long interaction program was conducted in collaboration with Parsa National Park (PNP) and the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) with an objective to engage in discussions regarding various issues associated with the effects of linear infrastructure on wildlife and to promote a better understanding of the significance of these impacts on both wildlife and the environment. A total of 28 participants attended this interaction program (*Annex 4.10.1, 4.10.2 & 4.10.3*), representing diverse organizations, including PNP, local government, divisional forest offices, security agencies (Nepal Army and Nepal Police), the Department of Transport, Nepal Telecom, and the Buffer Zone User Committee. Out of these 35 participants,

95% were male, and only 5% were female. Additionally, 60% belonged to the Brahmin/Chhetri ethnic group, while 40% were from indigenous and minor ethnic groups.

The interaction program focused on two main topics: i) Guidelines for the Construction of Wildlife-Friendly Infrastructure in 2078, ii) Sharing of Research Findings by NTNC on the Impact of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife.

During the event, an Assistant Conservation Officer from PNP highlighted the critical rules and regulations related to wildlife-friendly linear infrastructure within the proximity of the national park. His insights underscored the essential need to strike a harmonious balance between infrastructure development and the conservation of the park's unique biodiversity. This meeting not only fostered collaboration but also emphasized the collective commitment to safeguarding our natural heritage in the face of increasing infrastructure demands.

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 implement the HWC mitigation measures and train the HWCx champions.

2.2 Support BZMC to prepare and endorse human wildlife coexistence plan. (Including training to the community members)

This year the three human wildlife coexistence plans that were formulated during year 1 were endorsed on 18 December and 22 December 2024 (*Annex 4.3*) by the respective community guiding them to address the human wildlife conflict beyond project life span. Trainings and mitigation measures were supported to promote coexistence in the project communities.

2.2.3 Train HWCx champions and community members to implement HWCx plan

Two training events for HWCx champions was organized from 29-30th March 2024 and 30-31st March 2024 at Amleshwor and Manahari BZUC respectively with the objective of managing human-wildlife conflict and mitigating it at the community level. These events increased the knowledge of 76 HWCx champions (M:45, F:31) in understanding and managing HWC at the community level (*Annex 4.11.1 and 4.11.2*).

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

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, 120 predator proof corrals (PPC) were constructed in all three BZUCs and 11km of solar fencing maintained at Amleshwor BZUC and Manahari BZUC.

2.3.1 Support Predator Proof Corral

With an objective to minimize human wildlife conflict and reduce livestock depredations for establishing human wildlife co-existence, a total of 120 PPC were constructed in three project communities (Amleshwor BZUC:35, Lokhit BZUC:45, Manahari BZUC:40) (*Annex 4.12.1, 4.12.2, 4.12.3 & 4.12.4*). These PPCs hold in average of 850 small livestock (goat) worth around NPR 93,50,000/£58,437 (on average). Of the total beneficiary households, 72.5% belong to women and 68% are indigenous and disadvantaged group. One PPC costs approximately NPR 55,000/£343. 50% of the total cost was provided by the project in the form of equipment and technical support, with the remaining 50%, mainly for wooden frames, shared by beneficiary HHs.

2.3.2 Wildlife preventing fence maintenance/installation (Solar/mesh wire/biological)

Following the second-year activities, 11km long solar fencing was maintained through the PNP in the Manahari BZUC (7km) and Amleshwor BZUC, hattisar area (4km) (*Annex 4.13.1, 4.13.2*). The purpose of the maintenance work was to ensure that the solar fence, which serves as a barrier to prevent wild elephants from entering the nearby farmland and settlements, is functioning properly. With these solar fences maintained, 700 HHs and 370 ha of agricultural land in Manahari BZUC and in Amleshwor BZUC, 250 HHs and 40 ha of agricultural land was secured from rhino and wild elephant intrusion.

In addition, three existing and three new community streetlights have been diligently maintained, ensuring that they continue to illuminate the Amleshwor village (*Annex 4.13.1, 4.13.2*) surroundings with 210 households. Each of these night lamps holds four powerful halogen bulbs, 1600 watts of light. This initiative focuses on providing residents with improved visibility during

the night-time from wild animals especially elephants passing the areas. Further, a total of 325m of mesh wire (*Annex 4.13.1, 4.13.2*) was installed in Chakari BZCF of Lokhit BZUC directly benefitting 170 HHs and 150 ha of agricultural land. These measures ensure the preservation of vital resources for the community's livelihood and fostering harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.

2.3.3 Maintain HWC relief fund within BZUC

The compensation mechanism devised by the government of Nepal and implemented through the National Park office is characterized by its complexity and hindered by various bureaucratic obstacles. Consequently, individuals entitled to financial assistance experience delays in receiving the aid they deserve. To tackle this problem, a quick relief fund was established at the BZUC level within the project sites in Amleshwor BZUC and Manahari BZUC, with an initial fund of NPR 560,000/£3,500 in each BZUC (*Annex 4.14.1, 4.14.2, 4.14.3, 4.14.4, 4.14.5, 4.14.6*). Following the activation of this relief fund after the endorsement of the guidelines (*Annex 4.14.3 & 4.14.4*), formulated under the provisions outlined in Buffer Zone Management Regulation 2052, Clause 10, by the Chief Conservation Officer of PNP, the fund is ready for disbursement in case of incident associated with HWC within the BZUC, with replenishment occurring once the victim receive relief from the Nepal government. This fund will also facilitate relief in cases of human casualties caused by animals not explicitly mentioned in the Relief Distribution Guideline, 2080, GoN. However, the project does not cover the relief to the damage on crop loss caused by the wild animals.

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

Various interventions were carried out in the community to raise the awareness on HWC including installation of information boards on HWC, dissemination of animated videos on HWCx, orientation, HWC management and rescue training to PA staff and community members.

2.4.1 Install Hoarding boards on HWC.

Three information boards (12ftx8ft) were installed at a strategic location of Manahari BZUC, Amleshwor BZUC and Lokhit BZUC to disseminate awareness regarding tiger and elephant conservation and avoiding potential conflict among community members (*Annex 4.15.1, 4.15.2 & 4.15.3*). The message conveyed by the information board can inspire community members to take proactive measures in safeguarding themselves and their properties from wildlife, such as constructing strong fences or refraining from leaving food sources outdoors. Moreover, the board serves as a constant reminder to the community about the importance of preserving tigers and elephants and their natural habitat, protecting them from encroachment and other threats.

2.4.2 Develop IEC materials on HWC.

In addition to the hoarding board for raising awareness on HWC, awareness material such as [audio visual](#) regarding the HWC issues and possible solution to mitigate them has been produced (*Annex 4.16.1*). The project aims to use this audio visual in events organized at the community level and at school and any other suitable forum to constantly remind about the ways of avoiding conflict. The project will broadcast the audio visual on the PNP website in the following year.

2.4.3 Orient and train HWC vulnerable local community

Three orientation events on HWC were held on 29 November 2023, 30 November 2023 and 15 December 2023 at Lokhit BZUC, Amleshwor BZUC and Manahari BZUC respectively, engaging a total of 118 community members with 63% participation of Indigenous and disadvantaged people and 27% women (*Annex 4.17.1, 4.17.2*). During the event, community members were informed about the current practices to mitigate HWC conflict in Nepal and introduced appropriate mitigation measures tailored to the local scenario and legal provision of relief for HWC victims.

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

Training on HWC management and wildlife rescue training was provided to 25 participants including game scouts (10), Nepal Army (5), community members (10) from 29 December to 31 December 2023 (*Annex 4.18.1, 4.18.2, 4.18.3*) with the objective of strengthening the capacity of PA staff and community members to wildlife rescue techniques, including first aid, handling, and transportation of injured or distressed animals.

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 concerns support to livelihoods, with livelihood and tourism as two major components. Activities under this output are focused on developing knowledge related to livelihoods and strengthening women-led community banks, as well as tourism promotion through website maintenance, homestay promotion, hospitality and nature guide training.

3.1 Provide sustainable diversified livelihood to the local people (skill training/community banking/cooperatives).

This year, intervention was carried out to build the capacity of the community members in terms of community bank operation and who have access to soft loans through the women led community bank established by the project.

3.1.3 Support Skilled based trainings and toolkits (commercial vegetable and livestock farming, plumbing, electrician, tailoring, motorcycle etc)

To overcome the informational, theoretical, and practical gap required to sustain the means of livelihood that the beneficiaries have chosen, we have started to respond to their needs. Altogether, three events of livelihood training engaging 82 members, were provided to the members of community bank who had initiated or are planning to execute their income generation activities via accessing the soft loan through their respective community bank. The training conducted at Manahari-7, Ramauli, Makawanpur, for the members of the Makhamali women income generation subcommittee (MWIGSC), Manahari BZUC, from 17-23 August 2023 focused on livestock rearing, with 30 female participants and 63% belonging to Indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.19.1, 4.19.2, 4.19.3, 4.19.4*). A 41% increase in knowledge score was observed after analysing pre-test and post-test results (*Annex 4.19.5*). Similarly, a three-day mushroom farming training that took place from 1-3 December 2023 at Surakshya Women Income Generation Sub-Committee (SWIGC), Amlashwor BZUC was attended by 97% women and 87% belonging to Indigenous and disadvantaged group (*Annex 4.20.1, 4.20.2, 4.20.3, 4.20.4*). Hands-on activities, such as cutting and treating straw, and understanding the cultivation process were among the training content. A 22% increase in knowledge score was observed after analysing pre-test and post-test results (*Annex 4.20.5*). Likewise, a two-day goat rearing course was conducted at Janahit Women Income Generation Sub-committee (JWISC), Lokhit BZUC on 13 and 14 March 2024 aimed at providing knowledge on various goat breeds, common diseases affecting goats, proper measurement techniques, and suitable fodder options for goat rearing (*Annex 4.21.1, 4.21.2, 4.21.3*). Of the total of 22 participants, 82% were women and 95% belonged to the Indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Post test showed a 37% increase in knowledge score from the pre-test (*Annex 4.21.4*). Additionally, certificates were awarded to all participants, which can serve as documentation of their attendance and participation, should they seek further training opportunities through the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT).

3.1.4 Form/Strengthen community bank/cooperative (trainings, cooperative education, and institutional support)

Three women-led community banks i.e., SWIGC, JWIGC and MWIGC, which were initially formed as part of a community bank during the first year, have now achieved recognition as subcommittees under the BZUC, endorsed by the Parsa National Park (*Annex 4.22.1*). This development signifies that these community banks are now officially part of BZUC, allowing them to work with authenticity to enhance livelihood activities, in accordance with the specific objectives outlined in the Buffer Zone Management Regulation, 2052. In addition to this, 58 members (98% women and 94% Indigenous and disadvantaged groups) were added in these three community banks (SWIGC:22, JWIGC:22 and MWIGC:13), making 145 members in total as of year two (SWIGC:48, JWIGC:52 and MWIGC:45) (*Annex 4.22.2, 4.22.3, 4.22.4*).

Further, this year, the project provided support to these three community bank livelihood subcommittees to enhance their understanding of operational procedures, transparency, accountability, and administrative efficiency. Additionally, we supplied them with the necessary stationery to facilitate and document their financial transactions, ensuring transparency in the allocation of financial assistance to beneficiaries (*Annex 4.22.5, 4.22.6*).

3.1.5 Support materials to start livelihood activities including seed money.

Following the project activities and provisioning additional seed fund to support each of the community banks, the final instalment of seed money NPR. 23,40,000/£14,625 has been

provided (*Annex.4.23.1*). With this final instalment, a total of NPR 32,85,000/£20,531.20 (including the seed fund provided during year one) has been supported as a seed fund by the project (each community bank is supported with NPR 10,95,000/£6843.75). So far, NPR 583,857/£3,649 has been added by the members themselves in form of entry fee, share amount, monthly savings and interest collected from the loan provided, which is an 18% increase in the total seed fund making a total of NPR 38,68,857/£24,180 as of year two (SWIGC: NPR 1,294,207/£8088.7, JWIGC: NPR 12,72,915/£7955.7, and in MWIGC: NPR 13,01,735/£8135.8) (*Annex 4.23.2*). Out of total NPR 38,68,857/£24,180, NPR 37,42,000/£23,387.5 has been utilized by 91 members (SWIGC: 26, MWIGC: 35 and JWIGC: 30) (*Annex 4.23.2*). These loans have been taken for livestock rearing (Goat:44, Buffalo:5, Cow:17 Pig:2, Vegetable:6, Grocery Shop:8, Poultry:6 and Other: 3) (*Annex 4.23.3*).

3.2 Promotion of ecotourism opportunities in PNP and buffer zone including infrastructure support through collaboration (training for ecotourism, information centre, other infrastructure and its BZ 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 and in need of support. In line with this, the project helped PNP to maintain its website, established a home stay, prepared a documentary, installed a hoarding board for tourism promotion, trained the community on nature guides and hospitality, and further carried out workshops at local level as well as central level.

3.2.1 Conduct nature guide training

In collaboration with PNP, 8 days nature guide training from 21st May 2023-7th June 2023 for 21 youths (M;15, F:6) of BZUCs of PNP was carried out with an objective to promote tourism in PNP (*Annex 4.24.1, 4.24.2*). The training curriculum covers various aspects of ecology, wildlife behaviour, conservation practices, and interpretation techniques to ensure guides can effectively educate and inspire visitors while promoting responsible tourism (*Annex 4.24.3*). The training increased the participants average knowledge by 33.8 % (pretest average score 30.81% and post-test average score 64.27%) (*Annex 4.24.4*). These training participants are in the process of receiving the nature guide license for PNP to be issued by PNP.

3.2.2 Conduct hospitality training (Cook/housekeeping/Waiter/bartending)

From February 7th to 13th, 2024, a Hospitality Management Training program was conducted at Classic Plaza Hotel in Simara (*Annex 4.25.1, 4.25.2, 4.25.3*). The primary goal was to equip participants with knowledge in various aspects of hospitality, thereby improving livelihoods and reducing dependency on forest resources. A total of 19 participants (M:10, F:9), 16 participants from Amleshwor BZUC and three from Lokahit BZUC attended the program. The training focused on three key areas: cooking, service, and housekeeping. The average post-test score showed that the participants knowledge on hospitality increased by 41% (pretest average score 5.10 and post-test score was 7.21 (*Annex 4.25.4*). These participants received a certificate allowing them to be eligible for employment opportunity in hospitality management.

3.2.3 Support/strengthen information centre

This year, an information center at Hattisar, Amlekhjung within PNP was supported to enhance the visitor's experience and impart knowledge about PNP and biodiversity conservation (*Annex 4.26.1, 4.26.2*).

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 as well. This year maintenance included installing features such as the means to allow the administration to publish important notices, obtain website visitor statistics, graphic representation to showcase revenue structure, as well as a map with event notifications that help PNP to know the exact location of or the perimeter of the most recent animal sightings (*Annex 4.27.1, 4.27.2*).

3.2.5 Strengthen community tourism initiative (Community homestay, lodge, tower etc)

Homestays act as a conduit linking conservation initiatives with local communities, granting visitors a genuine experience while generating economic prospects for residents living aside the PNP. Hence, with this objective, the project supported NPR 825,000 /£5156 to Amleshwor BZUC i.e., Amleshwor Buffer zone homestay, for its implementation (*Annex 4.28.1*). At the first instance, 15 members (M:3, F:12) are included in the homestay program.

3.2.6 Install signages along tourist route

To facilitate the tourists visiting the PNP, the project supported installing signage showing the direction and distance to major tourist attractions at different places (*Annex 4.29.1, 4.29.2*).

3.2.7 Prepare documentary

To promote tourism in PNP, documentary highlighting the major tourist attractions inside the PNP, ways to reach PNP, including jungle safaris, prominent wildlife species, tourist spots, and religious sites has been produced (*Annex 4.30.1, 4.30.2*). This documentary has been constantly played in Simara airport (Act 3.2.11) giving information to travellers about the PNP (*Annex 4.32.5*). The project will broadcast the documentary on the PNP website in the following year. In addition to this, the project captured an opportunity to raise awareness of HWC at a local fair attended by 47,300 people (source: Jeetpur Simara Municipality based on the ticket sold) held from 1st March to 13th March 2024 at Jeetpur Simara Sub Metropolitan City- 3, Bajani, Bara. The audio visual related to HWC and biodiversity conservation followed by the documentary prepared was displayed for people to watch.

3.2.8 Install hoarding boards in Janaki Temple area and Birgunj

A hoarding board was installed near Birgunj, close to the India-Nepal border at Sukrachayara Gate, to boost tourism at Parsa National Park. The 8×12 square feet board targeted Indian tourists, featuring handwritten messages highlighting the park's attractions. Additionally, Parsa National Park branding was extended to Janaki Temple in collaboration with Janakpur Metropolitan City, aiming to attract temple visitors and promote the park as an alternative destination (*Annex 4.31.1, 4.31.2*). This initiative aimed to diversify visitor demographics by tapping into religious tourism, expanding the park's reach beyond conventional tourism avenues.

3.2.9 Conduct central level workshop with NTB, HAN, TAAN

On November 10, 2023, a central-level tourism promotion workshop took place at Parsagadi Municipality Ward-3, involving 46 participants (M:43, F:3) with the aim to promote tourism in PNP (*Annex 4.32.1, 4.32.2*). The workshop underscored the importance of Indian tourists as a significant demographic for promoting ecotourism in Parsa, with discussions focused on the current major attractions, tourist places, the Jungle Safari routes, major animal sightings, and other activities within the park. This workshop not only showcased the commitment of local authorities and conservation officers to boost tourism but also served as a platform to highlight the unique offerings of Parsa National Park, aiming to attract a broader audience and elevate its status as a prominent ecotourist destination.

3.2.10 Conduct Local level workshop for tourism promotion

Two events of local level workshops were held on 21st June 2023 and 22 September 2023, for tourism promotion in PNP, engaging stakeholders and to discuss various aspects related to tourism promotion at the local level (*Annex 4.33.1, 4.33.2*). The program identified key issues, such as access to clean drinking water and essential services, the role of stakeholders, and future activities that could promote tourism effectively. This collaborative effort aimed to create a more vibrant and sustainable tourism in PNP.

3.2.11 Support digital display (Simara Airport and Madhesh province HQ)

In a continued and concerted effort to boost tourism in PNP, the project extended a collaborative initiative which led to the successful installation of a digital display at Simara Airport. This endeavour was undertaken in partnership with PNP, Jeetpur-Simara Sub-Metropolitan City, and the Civil Aviation Authority, Simara, aimed to attract both national and international tourists to explore the park's offerings (*Annex 4.34.1, 4.34.2*). Through the autoplay videos and documentaries, visitors are shown the diverse offerings and experiences available within the park, encouraging them to include PNP in their travel itineraries.

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

The project supported the preparation of the management plan that has been endorsed by the DNPWC and has been in effect since August 2023. The management plan emphasizes the strategies for developing tourism infrastructure in the PNP and BZ, marketing in the local, regional, national and international arena, service and facilities for visitor satisfaction. It also focuses on the concept of responsible tourism so to minimize the negative impact of growing tourism to the biodiversity of PNP (*Annex 4.35.1, 4.35.2*).

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 practise

Three agroforestry training events took place this year on 11th, 12th and 16th September 2023 at Manahari, Lokhit and Amleshwor BZUC respectively. Out of 140 participants from three events, 89% were women, and 85% were from Indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Annex 4.36.1, 4.36.2, 4.36.3*). The workshop highlighted the concept of agroforestry and its benefits to the community, the current state of agroforestry in Nepal and types of agroforestry practice conducted in the Buffer Zone of National Parks (*Annex 4.36.4*). Also, the importance of integrated pest management, organic fertilizers, agroforestry, nursery management, and plantation spacing to nurture a sustainable agricultural landscape was imparted. In a survey conducted after the event, the participants knowledge was found to increase by 22.9 % compared to before the event (*Annex 4.36.5*).

4.2 Support seedling to Households for agroforestry (Fodder, fruit, bamboo etc)

On 29th June 2023, a total of 156 beneficiaries received saplings, with each household receiving more than 40 saplings for plantation in their surrounding areas in northern buffer zone (*Annex 4.37.1, 4.37.2*). Out of these beneficiaries, 71% were women and 94% belonged to Indigenous and disadvantaged groups. By providing them with saplings of fodder plants, fruit plants, and bamboo plants, we aim to improve the availability of essential resources within their vicinity. In a long run, these saplings will contribute to the growth of sustainable food sources, fuelwood, and other essential products, thereby minimizing the need to rely solely on the forest. In addition, 5000 tiger grass plants (Amliso) (used for making brooms) were distributed in the Goganpani, Manahari-1, Makwanpur of Manahari BZUC with the primary aim of generating a reliable income for disadvantaged communities (*Annex 4.37.1, 4.37.2*). Initially, the project focused on aiding 20 low-income households (100% female, 91% indigenous and marginalized group) who owned their own land. These households received a range of 100 to 500 tiger grass seedlings, tailored to their specific needs and land capacity. The remaining tiger grass seedlings were planted in the barren areas of the Janahit Buffer Zone Forest User Group where the project has initiated regeneration practice. By growing tiger grass, diversification of income streams can be achieved through the varied uses of tiger grass, including thatch roofing, crafts, broom, and animal feed. Also, it supports, environmental conservation initiatives as it takes pressure off nearby forests, acting as an alternative to wood and other forest products.

4.3 Promote wildlife deterrent cash crop (chillies, lemon, cotton, lemongrass, Asparagus, Fern, turmeric, ginger etc)

The area of the northern buffer zone of PNP, has always been one of the conflict sites, leading to a loss of wildlife and damage to livelihoods of local communities. To address these, the project aimed to promote the cultivation of wildlife deterrent cash crops in the northern buffer zone area, Janahit BZCFUGs of Lokhit BZUC to improve the livelihoods of local communities while protecting wildlife habitats (*Annex 4.38.1*). Wildlife deterrent crops such as turmeric (1200 kilogram), chilly (120 packet), ginger (600 kilogram) and 1200 grafted lemon saplings were supported to 59 HHs (73% women, 95% indigenous and disadvantage group), covering an impressive 9 ha of crop land (180 katha) within the buffer zone of Parsa National Park (*Annex 4.38.2, 4.38.3*). This initiative involved the conversion of traditional farming practices to wildlife deterrent cash crop farming thereby securing agricultural crops and maintaining HWCx. The project provided guidance on the selection of appropriate crops and the use of eco-friendly and organic practices to ensure sustainable farming.

4.4 Learning visit at the best agroforestry and wildlife deterrent cash crop site

During 26th-28th June 2023, an educational exposure visit was carried out to provide information about agroforestry, wildlife deterrent cash crop sites, community-managed homestays, community banking, and conservation activities at Nawalpur district (*Annex 4.39.1, 4.39.2*) to representatives of three women's groups from their respective BZUCs, and PNP. . Out of 41 participants, the majority of the participants were women (85%), with 76% belonging to

Indigenous groups. During the visit, participants learned about the significance of seed collection for agroforestry and the income potential associated with this practice. In addition to agroforestry, they visited a wildlife deterrent cash crop site, where lemon and turmeric farming techniques were demonstrated. Similarly, they gained valuable insights into the effective management of community banking and women's group management during their visit to a community bank that was established by ZSL under the UK AID Match fund program. The visit also fostered collaboration and networking among participants. For instance, a member of the Homestay Association in Kawasoti and a former Chairman of Kawasoti Municipality Ward No. 15 expressed interest in collaborating with the community to establish and manage community-managed homestays. At the conclusion of the visit, a survey was administered to evaluate participants' comprehension, revealing an average increase of 12.8% in scores compared to the pre-test (*Annex 4.39.3*).

4.5 Establish/strengthen community nursery.

For sustainable forest management, the Janahit BZCFUG of the Lokhit BZUC recently entered into a ground-breaking tripartite agreement with the Mithila Wildlife Trust and Lokhit BZUC for the joint management of the Community Nursery (*Annex 4.40.1, 4.40.2*). To ensure the effective functioning of the nursery, mesh wire fencing has been strategically installed, aiming to deter harm by cattle and provide protection to the emerging seedlings. Additionally, the agreement stipulates the establishment of nursery beds, thereby strengthening the necessary infrastructure for the nursery's operations.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

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

Output 1 focuses on community forest corridor conservation and management, and in year two the project considered the knowledge base document of the ecological situation of the northern community forest corridor of PNP produced during year one. Based on this, two wetland/water sources, 40 ha grassland, plantation and 15 ha of degraded area were maintained (*Ind 1.3, Act 1.2.1, 1.2.2, Act 1.5.2, Act 1.5.3*). Similarly, ten BZCFOPs were revised for ten BZCF covering BZCFOPs covering an area of 519.5 ha which benefit 1100 HHs (5817 individuals with 72% women) affiliated with these BZCFs to sustainably use and manage BZCF resources (*Ind 1.1, 1.2; Act 1.4*). The outputs were measured by analysing data from BZCFOP plans. In addition to this, a *Cuon alpinus* (dhole) survey was carried out to identify the status of dhole in PNP further supporting to the development of Dhole Conservation Action Plan in Y3. Furthermore, to ensure connectivity of the northern community forest corridor amidst Nepal's development needs, a stakeholder meeting took place to discuss wildlife friendly infrastructure, attended by 28 officials from different sectors in the project sites.

The management plan of PNP has been in effect since August 2023, and highlights the need to conserve this beautiful species by restoring its corridors to connect fragmented areas, improve habitat, raise awareness of its conservation and community involvement. To develop the management plan, a community level meeting and workshop were carried out to ensure the voice of the community members are included in the plan (*Ind 1.4.*), however specific to North-East Parsa community-forest corridor, a charter will be developed via participatory corridor mapping and a planning workshop to be held in Y3 (*Ind 1.1*). However, activities in relation to this have been initiated from Y1 with identification of priority sites (*Act 1.5.1*), revision of BZCFOPs (*Act 1.6*), habitat management (*Act 1.2.1, Act 1.2.2*) and restoration of degraded sites (*Act 1.5.3*) in Northern buffer zone of PNP.

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 focuses on HWC mitigation and management, with endorsement of HWCx mitigation measures developed during Y1 providing the long-term way out for investment to mitigate HWC in the landscape (*Ind 2.3, Act 2.2*). To facilitate the plans that are aligned with the project activities, the project supported the BZUCs to carry out various mitigation measures to safeguard household assets i.e., livestock and the community. A total of 1,450 HHs and 560 ha of agricultural crop land is directly benefitted with the implementation of HWC mitigation measures such as construction of 120 PPC (120 HHs) for reduction of livestock depredation (*Act 2.3.1*),

maintenance of 11 km solar fence (950 HHs; 410 ha agricultural land) (*Act 2.3.2*), maintenance of three existing and installation of three new electric lights (210 HHs) (*Act 2.3.2*) and installation of mesh wire (170 HHs; 170 ha agricultural land) (*Act 2.3.2*). However, their effectiveness needs time and a study. The reduction in livestock kill and crop raiding in project communities will be measured in Y3 (*Ind 2.5*) onwards.. Likewise, the establishment of a quick relief fund across two BZUs also helps to support an increase in the positive attitude of community members towards conservation (*Act 2.3.3*). Anyone in the community who is affected by HWC is entitled to claim the relief fund however it will be replenished once they receive fund from the government. Considering its effectiveness, as observed in other landscape where ZSL Nepal has implemented similar practices, the project anticipates an increase in the fund later in the year, with additional contributions from PNP and the respective BZUCs. Moreover, to manage the conflict at the community level, 76 HWCx champions have been formed (*Ind 2.1*) in the project community and were also trained (*Act 2.2.3*). These HWCx champions will carry out awareness campaigns, drills and will support the implementation of the HWC mitigation measures, the success of which will be assessed in Y3 (*Ind 2.4*) as they have just been formed in the project communities.

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.

This year, an additional 58 members (98% women; 94% Indigenous and disadvantaged groups) were added to the three women led community bank established during Y1, making a total of 145 members in these community banks (*Ind 3.1, Act, 3.1.4*) (SWIGC:48, JWIGC:52 and MWIGC:45) surpassing the target of 40 members in each community bank by Y3. Of these members, 82 (93% women; 82% indigenous and disadvantage group), have been trained in four skilled based training (*Ind 3.2, Act 3.1.3*) while 91 members of the community bank (63%) have accessed soft loans to engage in the livelihood options of their interest (*Ind 3.2.2, Act 3.1.5*). With the fund locally generated by the members of community bank via savings and interest from the loan, the seed fund NPR 32,85,000/£20531 has increased by 18% making a total of NPR 38,68,857/£24180 (*Act 3.1.5*). As most of the livelihood options chosen by the members is livestock rearing (75%), it takes time to generate income from such interventions hence the increase in income (*Ind 3.2.3*) will be measured from year three onwards. Similarly, as skills-based training has started 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 (*Ind 3.2.4*). However, the recipient of hospitality training has received certificated allowing them to be eligible for employment opportunity in hospitality sector. These results were analyzed using the community bank's saving information, minutes on loan disbursement and partner's report.

A management plan of any national park in Nepal is contingent upon the approval of Initial Environment Examination (IEE). PNP led the initial environment examination (IEE) of the management plan of PNP which included the tourism plan (*Act 3.2.12*) of PNP as well. On 18 November 2023, a public notice was issued for public hearing and public audit where all the executives of all the BZUCs, BZCFUG, CBAPU, hoteliers, elected local bodies and local community people were invited (*Ind 3.3*). Further, on 18 January 2024, a public notice was announced giving the opportunity for community members to give their feedback on the implementation of the conservation and development work (*Annex 4.35.3*). Some of the feedback received in relation to tourism are promotion of homestay program for livelihoods, creation of fire line connecting Chitwan National Park via Subarnapur to Ramauli, Pratappur, so that tourist visiting Chitwan National Park would visit Parsa National Park enjoying Jungle safari, development of infrastructure for tourism, creation of wetland for tourism promotion to help strengthen livelihoods and discourage IWT (*Annex 4.35.4*). This feedback has been considered in the management plan.

Additionally, the project captured the opportunity to promote tourism in PNP at a local fair organized for 11 days at Jeetpur Simara Municipality which was attended by over 47,000 people (*Source: Jeetpur Simara Municipality based on the ticket sold*). Showing the documentary (*Act*

3.2.7), plus the installation of hoarding boarding in Janaki temple and Birgunj (Act 3.2.8) and having a digital display (Act 3.2.11) demonstrating the benefits of tourism in PNP, has allowed to reach diverse people in different geographical regions (Ind 3.4). This has contributed to an increase in both national and international tourist numbers in PNP in FY 2023/2024 i.e., April 2023 to March 2024, 1,329 tourists (1253 national tourists and 76 international tourists) (Source: PNP Data FY2023/24) which is far more than our target set during the baseline (Ind 3.5). Since, the tourism is flourishing, it is too early to analyze the tourism related income in the community hence will be measured in Y3 (Ind 3.6).

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 140 community members (89% female; 85% indigenous and disadvantaged groups) on enhanced agroforestry practices (Ind 4.1; Act 4.1), establishment of the local nursery (Ind 4.2; Act 4.5), 11,150 seedlings (Nepiyer grass: 2,500; fodder: 2,700, fruits: 900, lemon: 400, Amliso:5000) (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

With the accomplishment of the activities in Y2, the project has made steady progress towards achieving the outcome. The increase in the number of members of the women led community banks (n=145) has surpassed the number of members to be achieved by Y3 in Y2. Members have continued to increase the seed fund by 18% while 62.5% members are adopting alternative livelihood options. This positive trend shows that the wellbeing of the participating HHs is likely to be improved (Ind 0.4) by the end of the project and will be measured through post project assessment/endline survey. The project has carried out various habitat management interventions to secure the habitat for the tiger and the prey species. In doing so, two water holes, 40 ha of grassland, and the restoration 15 ha. of degraded land has been carried out in Y2. This progress in activity is geared towards achieving Ind 0.2 and 0.3 which will be measured in Y3 via occupancy survey in PNP and its buffer zone.

Additionally, the project progress towards decreasing natural dependency, burden of HWC (Ind 0.5) is significant. The project supported BZUCs to implement the endorsed HWCx plan in three project communities directly benefiting 1,450 HHs and 560 ha. of agricultural land. To practice agroforestry, 150 HHs (75%) received 11,150 seedlings of Napier grass (2,500), fodder (2,700), fruits (900), lemon (400) and Amliso (5000). A further 59 HHs received turmeric (1200 kilogram), chilly (120 packet), ginger (600 kilogram) and 1200 grafted lemon seedlings to practice agroforestry and also a wildlife deterrent crop. The survival and continuation of such practice by the household will be measured in Y3 (Ind 0.6).

As outlined in the proposal, the joint community-forest corridor management plans will be agreed and implemented by year three. Year two 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.

With the completion of Y2, some tangible evidence demonstrated in the outlined outcomes and outputs section, shows that the project is steadily making contribution towards the impact. The project laid the foundations by documenting required knowledge bases to implement project activities in each of the outputs during Y1 that paved the way forward for the Y2 activity implementation. Based on this knowledge, the project worked to conserve critical connectivity sites with the help of communities while addressing their stress points like HWC, natural resource dependency and lower income situation in Y2.

This year, the project has directly benefited 1509 HHs and safeguarded 569 ha of agricultural land in project sites which equals around 7,696 community members through various livelihoods, HWC and agroforestry interventions. Of these, 72.5% belonged to women and 68% to Indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, the project has also indirectly benefitted an additional 1100 HHs (around 5610 community members; 72% women) through interventions such as revision of the ten BZCFOPs.

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 (two wetlands and 40 ha of grassland) and regeneration of 15 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 ten 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 79% women and 81% 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 (two wetlands and 40 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 15 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 ten BZCFOPs (*Ind 1.2, Sec 3.1- Act 1.4*) is contributing to the National Forest Policy 2019. Management of degraded habitats (two wetlands

and 40 ha of grassland) and regeneration of 15 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 and functioning of three women-led community banks for livelihood activities (Ind 3.2, Sec 3.1-Act 3.1.4) and engagement of 79% women and 81% 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 (two wetlands and 40 ha of grassland) and regeneration of 15 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.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project is targeting three communities in the northern buffer zone area of the PNP, namely: Amleshwor 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). The project is aiming to reach at least 120 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 year two, 58 members (98% women and 94% indigenous and disadvantaged group) were added to three community banks, making 145 members in total and a total of NPR 32,85,000/£20531 (including the seed fund provided during year one) has been supported as a seed fund by the project (each community bank is supported with NPR 10,95,000/£6843.75). As predicted during Y1, so far, NPR 583,857/£3,649 has been added by the member themselves in form of entry fee, share amount, monthly savings and interest collected from the loans provided, which is an 18% increase in the total seed fund making a total of NPR 38,68,857/£24180 as of year two (Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5). Of this total seed money, NPR 37,42,000/£23,387.5, has been released through soft loans to 91 community members to conduct income generating activities (Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5). The project further expects to increase in the number of members in community bank as well as the seed fund and the members accessing soft loan.

In addition to the direct livelihood support, the project has also reached 1,509 HHs in project sites which equals around 7,696 community members through various livelihoods, HWC and agroforestry interventions (Sec 3.1, Act 2.2, Act 2.3, Act 4.1, Act 4.3). Of these, 72.5% belonged to women and 68% to Indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Moreover, HWC support is helping communities safeguard their livelihoods (850 small livestock/goats and crops across 569 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.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

<p>Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board¹.</p>	<p>Overall, there are 15 team members (ZSL and MWT) for this project, of which 40% (N=6) are female.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two programme staff (2 male) in ZSL including Project Lead, dedicated to project implementation in Nepal. • Four programme staff (1 male and 3 female; 75% female) in MWT, fully
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¹ 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.

	<p>dedicated to project implementation in the project sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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 ² .	The lead ZSL project manager for this project is female. All project partners (DNPWC, PNP and MWT) are led by men.

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

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, 79% of people engaged are women, and 81% belong to Indigenous and/or underrepresented groups. The proportion of women and those from historically underrepresented groups varies across specific activities. As part of project implementation, we track demographic data, disaggregated using GESI principles, to allow us to monitor gender equity and social inclusion throughout the lifespan of the project. Community training on HWC and agroforestry practices also ensured participation of 58% female and 74% Indigenous and disadvantaged groups (*Sec 3.1, Act 2.4.3 and Act 4.1*).

A major achievement for gender equity during this project period has been the formation of three women-led cooperatives with 145 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 32,85,000/£20531.2 (including the seed fund provided during year one) (*Ind 3.2, Act 3.1.5*). Women members have full management rights over this seed money. Based on the fund management guidelines, 91 members (all women 88% indigenous and disadvantaged group) 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

² 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.

underrepresented groups (with 72.5% of participants belonging women and 68% to Indigenous and disadvantaged 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 during Y1. Similarly, the PNP in coordination with project partners, buffer zone representatives and local communities, are conducting regular monitoring of project progress at the site (*Annex 4.2.6*). 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.

To track the progress of the project towards output and outcome level, the beneficiary database was properly maintained by ZSL and the partner. Frequent cost-effective virtual meetings were held with the implementing partner to reiterate the outcome of the project, and to discuss on any issues related to the project operation (*Annex 4.3*). Additionally, the partners shared the quarterly workplan and was duly consulted on the process of executing the planned activity for the quarter allowing both the partner and ZSL to have a clear understanding of what needs to be done and how it is to be done.

8. Lessons learnt

ZSL experienced a change in staffing when the member of staff responsible for overseeing the project went on maternity leave. Before this change, several one-on-one handover meetings were organized to ensure a smooth transition in project management. Progress debriefing meetings were also held with our implementing partners. Importantly, this staffing change did not impact the project's timeline or budget allocation.

To address the challenge of human-wildlife conflict (HWC), in addition to the quality habitat management and investments in cutting-edge wildlife monitoring tools and research, prioritizing an insurance mechanism emerges as a sustainable solution, guaranteeing adequate compensation for HWC victims, encompassing crop damage, livestock predation, and human casualties. This area of support can be way out for the sustainability of the project as it ensures safeguarding of the household asset.

Engaging stakeholders in project activity maximises the opportunity to tap the resources of the local government, to showcase not only value for money but also means of sharing the responsibility for a common cause. Hence, strategy for stakeholder should be made clear during the proposal development and methods of their engagement during the implementation period.

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

No specific comments were provided by the reviewer to address regarding the first-year annual report of the project.

10. Risk Management

No new risks have emerged in the last 12 months.

11. 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 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 18% (*Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5*), which shows their investment in and ownership of project activities. Further, Jeetpur Simara Municipality ward no.21, supported NPR 15,00,000/£9375 to Surakhsya women income generation group to construct their own building to operate day to day functioning of the community bank (*Annex 4.2.4*). Likewise, in Manahari BZUC, Manahari rural municipality ward no. 7, supported the 26 HHs by purchasing goats worth NPR 230,000/£1,437, to the households whom the project has supported through the construction of PPC. This support helped household to have additional goats in their coral. This responsibility taken by the local government is very much a crucial contribution to the sustainability of the project more than impact as it shows the importance the project activities. Furthermore, tripartite agreement with Amleshwor BZUC to operate homestay to promote tourism

in PNP after the approval of Jeetpur Simara sub metropolitan city, validates the sustainability of the homestay program (Sec 3.1, Act 3.2.5). Finally, project activities tied up with the priority efforts of PNP, buffer zone of Northern area and the local government, the project is optimistic that the project activities remain in the community contributing to the impact for longer period.

12. Darwin Initiative identity

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. 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 stakeholder meetings and consultations (Annex 4.41).

13. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes [If yes, please provide their name and email] Asmita [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No, as the focal person has recently joined following the resignation of the previous focal point. [If yes, please provide date and details of training]
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During this project period, there has been no formal training on Safeguarding for project staff. However, prior to the inception of this project, all project staff were briefed on ZSL's Global Code of Conduct and Global Safeguarding. 	Past: % [and number] Planned: % [and number]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have not been any particular lessons learnt or challenges but as Safeguarding is a relatively newer term for 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. 	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	

14. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative since last Annual Report)	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)

		Total Darwin Costs (£)		
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				To incorporate tourism plan which will be incorporated in all the site using national park management plan with effect in environment, the cost slightly exceeded the budget but will have long and better effect in overall incorporation of tourism plan.
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	218,581.00	218581.00		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

15. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

This is not applicable to this report.

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 to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes.

The target intervention area for the project entitled “*Terai Arc: Community stewardship to secure wildlife corridors and livelihoods*” for Y2 was primarily based on the knowledge documents

produced during Y1. This year the project directly reached 1,509 HHs in project sites which equals around 7,696 community members through various livelihoods, HWC and agroforestry interventions. Of these, 72.5% belonged to women and 68% to Indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Moreover, HWC support is helping communities safeguard their livelihoods (850 small livestock/goats and crops across 569 ha of cropland). Wildlife deterrent crop support will help communities make income from crops such as ginger, turmeric and lemon which will not be raided by wildlife.

In year two, 58 members were added to these three community banks, making 145 members (99% women; 84% Indigenous and disadvantage group) in total as of year two and a total of NPR 32,85,000/£20531 (including the seed fund provided during year one) has been supported as a seed fund by the project (each community bank is supported with NPR 10,95,000/£6843.75). So far, NPR 583,857/£3,649 has been added by the members themselves in form of entry fee, share amount, monthly savings and interest collected from the loan provided, which is 18% increase in the total seed fund making a total of NPR 38,68,857/£24180 as of year two.

Local government engagement emerged as a highlight, with financial support from Jeetpur Simara sub metropolitan city and Manahari Rural Municipality demonstrating a shared commitment to project sustainability. Tripartite agreements, such as with Amleshwor Buffer Zone User Committee (BZUC) for homestay operations, underscored the project's collaborative approach towards tourism promotion in Parsa National Park (PNP). Capacity-building initiatives and the establishment of a local nursery facilitated the distribution of over 11,000 seedlings, laying the groundwork for enhanced agroforestry practices. Ongoing assessments will gauge the adoption of these practices and the success of seedling plantations, ensuring long-term sustainability. Looking ahead, the project remains aligned with its intended outcomes, with post-project impact assessments poised to comprehensively measure its legacy. Through community engagement, sustainable resource management, and economic empowerment, the project is positioned to leave a lasting positive imprint on the Parsa National Park corridor and its surrounding communities.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	Livelihood training	Participants practical session during livestock rearing training, Mahari BZUC, Nepal PC: Satyam Chaudhari (MWT)		
Image	Hoarding Board	Displaying awareness on Elephant Conservation, Amlekhgunj, Nepal PC: Satyam Chaudhari (MWT)		
Image	Tourism Promotion Workshop	Workshop session on Tourism Promotion, Aadahvaar, Nepal PC: Satyam Chaudhari (MWT)		
Image	Mushroom Farming training	Participants learning to sow mushroom seeds, Amleshwor BZUC, Nepal PC: Satyam Chaudhari (MWT)		

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against log frame for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact: Secured sustainable connectivity from the crucial lowland PAs to the Shivalik and eastern Terai Arc Landscape using community forest networks as corridors.</p>	<p>The project laid the foundations by documenting required knowledge bases to implement project activities in each of the outputs during Y1 that paved the way forward for the Y2 activity implementation. Based on this knowledge, the project worked to conserve critical connectivity sites with the help of communities while addressing their stress points like HWC, natural resource dependency and lower income situation in Y2.</p> <p>This year, the project has directly benefited 1509 HHs and safeguarded 569 ha of agricultural land in project sites which equals around 7,696 community members through various livelihoods, HWC and agroforestry interventions. Of these, 72.5% belonged to women and 68% to indigenous and disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, the project has also indirectly benefitted an additional 1100 HHs (around 5610 community members; 72% women) through interventions such as revision of the ten BZCFOPs.</p>	
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 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>10 BZCFOPs covering an area of 519.5 ha which benefit 1100 HHs (5610 individuals) (<i>Annex 4.6.1 & 4.6.2</i>)</p>	<p>5 BZCFOPs will be renewed</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 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>Baseline- The species wise occupancies are calculated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hystrix indica</i> (Indian crested porcupine)- Not calculated due to low detection. • <i>Felis bengalensis</i> (leopard cat)- 0.473 • <i>Felis chaus</i> (jungle cat)- 0.228 • <i>Lepus nigricollis</i> (Indian hare) – 0.184 	<p>Increase in occupancy of small and medium sized mammal in the community forest corridor will be measured in Y3.</p>	<p>Occupancy survey will be carried out</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sus scrofa (wild boar)- 0.262 • Muntiacus vaginalis (barking deer)- 0.525 		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.3 Increased evidence of Panthera tigris moving through the corridor, from pre-project baseline, by end of Y3.</p> <p>Baseline- 3 individual <i>Panthera Tigris</i> (tiger) detected from three different sites (3 out of 32 grids).</p>	<p>Increased evidence of Panthera tigris moving through the corridor will be measured in Y3.</p>	<p>Increased evidence will be tracked during occupancy survey</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 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>Baseline- The average wellbeing index for overall site – 0.39</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amleshwor BZUC - 0.42 • Manahari BZUC - 0.41 • Lokhit BZUC – 0.33 	<p>The increase in the number of members (n=145) has surpassed the number of members to be achieved by Y3 in Y2 in women led community bank, members continue to increase seed fund by 18% while 62.5% members adopting livelihood options. This positive trend shows that the wellbeing of the participating HHs is likely to be improved (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5</i>).</p>	<p>Wellbeing will be measured via post project survey.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 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>Baseline - The average natural resource dependency index of households - 0.32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amleshwor BZUC - 0.19 • Manahari BZUC - 0.32 • Lokhit BZUC - 0.46 <p>The average HWC burden index of households - 0.05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amleshwor BZUC - 0.03 • Manahari BZUC - 0.04 • Lokhit BZUC - 0.07 	<p>Supported BZUCs to implement the endorsed HWCx plan in three project communities directly benefitting 1,450 HHs and 560 ha. of agricultural land (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 2.3.1, Act 2.3.2</i>).</p>	<p>Decrease in natural resource dependency and HWC burden will be measured via post project survey.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 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>Baseline - 31.77% willing to pay for conservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amleshwor BZUC - 33.93% • Manahari BZUC - 25.46% • Lokhit BZUC - 38.51% 	<p>To practice the agroforestry, 150 HHs (75%) received 11,150 seedlings of Napier grass (2,500), fodder (2,700), fruits (900), lemon (400) and Amliso (5000). Further 59 HHs, received a turmeric (1200 kilogram), chilly (120 packet), ginger (600 kilogram) and 1200 grafted lemon seedlings to practice agroforestry and also a wildlife deterrent crop (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 4.2, 4.3</i>).</p>	<p>Household participating in agroforestry practice and willingness to pay revenue will be measured via post project survey</p>
<p>Output 1 Joint participatory management framework for North-East Parsa community-forest corridor is established.</p>		

Output indicator 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.	Participatory corridor mapping and planning workshops will take place in Y3.	Participatory corridor mapping and planning workshops will be carried out to develop North-East Parsa community forest corridor charter.
Output indicator 1.2, 20 BZCF management plans prepared/revised: 5 by Y1, 10 by Y2 and 5 by Y3.	10 BZCFOPs were renewed (Annex 4.6.1). Total 15 BZCFOPs are renewed (Y1 and Y2).	5 BZCFOPs will be renewed.
Output indicator 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two wetlands were maintained in Manahari BZUC and Ujjawal Bhawisya BZUC (Annex 4.4.1 and Annex 4.4.2). A total of three wetlands were maintained (Y1 and Y2). 40 ha of grassland were maintained in Manahari BZUC (Annex 4.5.1). In total 42.4 ha are maintained (Y1 and Y2) Regeneration promoted in 15 ha forest land 	Grassland management will continue in Y3.
Output indicator 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.	15 BZCFOPs have been revised (5 in Y1 and 10 in Y2)	North-East Parsa community forest corridor charter will be produced.
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 indicator 2.1. 75 Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions recruited (at least 3 per BZCFUG), by Y1.	Two training were conducted at Amleshwor BZUC and Manahari BZUC to recruited 76 Human-Wildlife Coexistence (HWCx) champions (<i>Annex 4.11.1, 4.11.2, 4.11.3, 4.11.4</i>).	One HWCx champions training planned for Y3.
Output indicator 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.	Manuscript is in progress and will be available during next reporting period.	Manuscript will be produced
Output indicator 2.3, Participatory HWCx plan endorsed by all (20) BZCFUGs, (co-developed by HWCx champions, and incorporating projections from HWC assessment), by Y2.	Two BZUC HWCx plan were endorsed Amleshwor BZUC and Manahari BZUC (<i>Annex 4.3</i>)	HWCx plan will be implemented in Y3.
Output indicator 2.4, At least 80% of HWCx champions have led HWC drills, or supported intervention measures in their communities, by Y3.	HWCx champions will lead HWC drills or supported intervention measures Y3 onwards.	Continued in Y3
Output indicator 2.5, A 80% reduction in livestock kill and 25% reduction in crop raiding in project communities by Y3.	% reduction in livestock kill and % reduction in crop raiding in project communities will be measured by Y3	Post project survey will be carried to measure the indicator

(Baseline: 29 livestock killed by tiger and leopard in 2021 according to PNP FY2021 data; crop raiding baseline to be established by Y1)		
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 indicator 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.	57 new members added were added in three community banks, whom 98% women and 94% indigenous and disadvantaged group. In total 145 members reached at the end of Y2 (<i>Annex 4.22.2 and 4.22.4</i>)	Continued in Y3
Output indicator 3.2, 120 members (at least 50% women, disadvantaged and vulnerable people) trained on developing livelihood skills (including tourism enterprises) in Y1 (2 trainings) and Y2 (4 trainings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2.1 Market chain analysis completed to identify linkages in Y2 and community bank members accessing such linkages by Y3. • 3.2.2 50% of members adopting livelihood options by the end of Y3. • 3.2.3 20% increase in income of beneficiary members by the end of Y3 • 3.2.4 At least 80% of cooperative members pass vocational exams in business management, finance, hospitality, and promotion skills by Y2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2 Four training (livestock training-7 days, hospitality training-7 days, mushroom farming-3 days and goat rearing-2 days) were completed where, 101 members were trained on developing livelihood skills through livelihood and hospitality training, whom 85% women and 77% indigenous and disadvantaged group (<i>Annex 4.19.1, 4.19.2, 4.19.3, 4.19.4, 4.19.5, 4.20.1, 4.20.2, 4.20.3, 4.20.3, 4.20.4, 4.20.5, 4.21.1, 4.21.2, 4.21.3, 4.21.4, 4.21.5, 4.25.1, 4.25.2, 4.25.3 and 4.25.4</i>). • 3.2.2 62.5% engaged in livelihood options (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 3.1.5</i>) • 3.2.3 Income of beneficiary will be measured in Y3. • 3.2.4 A total of 19 participants received certificate of the completion of the training, which is accredited by 3-Star hotel and can be used of employment opportunities as well. Similarly, 29 nature guide training participants are also in the process of license of nature guide, to be issued by PNP. 	Livelihood and hospitality training will continue in Y3.
Output indicator 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	Tourism plan included in Management Plan of Parsa National Park and its Buffer Zone (2023/24-2027/28) and endorsed (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 3.2.12</i>).	
Output indicator 3.4, People reached by tourism promotion, over 50,000 people reached by Y2 and Over 120,000 people reached by Y3.	Project captured the opportunity to promote tourism in PNP at local fair organized for 11 days at Jeetpur Simara Municipality which was attended by over 47,000 people (Source: Jeetpur Simara Municipality based on the ticket sold). Further, documentary (<i>Act 3.2.7</i>), installation of hoarding boarding in Janaki temple and Birgunj (<i>Act 3.2.8</i>), digital display (<i>Act 3.2.11</i>) about the tourism prospectus in PNP, has allowed to reach diverse people in different geographical region	Tourism promotion activity will be continued via installation of digital display, broadcasting documentary in PNP website.

Output indicator 3.5, 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.	1,065 tourists visited PNP in fiscal year 2023 (961 national, 72 SAARC country and 32 international tourists).	Will continue to measure visitor information
Output indicator 3.6, Increase in tourism-related income in communities (accommodation, sales of goods)	Increase in tourism-related income in communities will be reported in Y3.	Increase in tourism-related income in communities will be measured via post project survey.
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 indicator 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.	Three events were conduct and 140 community members were trained in enhanced agroforestry practices, whom 89% were women, 85% were from indigenous and disadvantaged group (<i>Annex 4.36.1, 4.36.2, 4.36.3, 4.36.4 and 4.36.5</i>).	Training and workshop on agroforestry practice will be continued.
Output indicator 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.	Tripartite agreement has been made to establish nursery (<i>Sec 3.1, Act 4.4</i>).	Seedlings will be produced and distributed.
Output indicator 4.3, 60% of households across community-forest corridor have implemented enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings by Y3	% of households implemented enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings will be measure by Y3.	Agroforestry practices will be continued in Y3
Output indicator 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.	% of targeted households have successfully planted 10,000 seedlings from the locally established nursery will be measured by Y3.	Wil be measured via post project survey.

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
Impact: Secured sustainable connectivity from the crucial lowland PAs to the Shivalik and eastern Terai Arc Landscape using community forest networks as corridors.			
<p>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.</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>Output 1 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>1.1 Participatory corridor maps, workshop attendance records, cross referenced with baseline survey data.</p> <p>1.2 BZCF management plans</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>1.2 20 BZCF management plans prepared/ revised: 5 by Y1, 10 by Y2 and 5 by Y3.</p> <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>1.3 Participatory corridor maps showing priority areas, management reports for priority areas.</p> <p>1.4 Community-forest corridor charter</p>	
<p>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.</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. (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>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.</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 Y1 (2 trainings) and Y2 (4 trainings)</p> <p>3.2.1 Market chain analysis completed to identify linkages in Y2 and community bank members accessing such linkages by Y3.</p> <p>3.2.2 50% of members adopting livelihood options by the end of Y3.</p> <p>3.2.3 20% increase in income of beneficiary members by the end of Y3.</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. Baseline: 152 tourists visited PNP in fiscal year 2021 (147 national tourists and 5 international tourists) - Source: PNP Data FY2021</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>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	3.6. Increase in tourism-related income in communities (accommodation, sales of goods)		
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4.3 60% of households across community-forest corridor have implemented enhanced agroforestry practices on their small holdings by Y3.</p> <p>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>4.1 Workshop records</p> <p>4.2 Training certificates, attendance lists</p> <p>4.3 Nursery management plan, seedling plantation photographs</p> <p>4.4 Socio-economic surveys conducted with cooperative members capturing income breakdown data.</p> <p>4.4 Socio-economic surveys conducted with a random sample of community capturing data on agroforestry activities, and seedling planting and success.</p>	<p>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.</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>Activities (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>Output 1</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>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<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>Output 2</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> <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>Output 3</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 proving 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>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<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> <p>Output 4</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> <p>5.1, Conduct baseline and endline survey.</p>			

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	Gender	82	24		106	120
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Female	0	91		91	120
DI-A06	Number of people with improved access to services or infrastructure for improved well-being.	People	Female	87	145		145	120
DI-B01	Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Number	Language -Nepalese	5	10		15	20
DI-B03	Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed	Number	Language - Nepalese	3	3		6	3
DI-C17	Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals	Number	None	0	0		0	1
DI-D01	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Ha		7.9	55		62.9	150

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. You should include publications as supporting materials with your report. Mark with an asterisk (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	√
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	√
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	√
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	√
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	