

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

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Project reference | <i>DIR28S2\1038</i> |
| Project title | Community-based conservation of snow leopard and its habitat in Pakistan |
| Country/ies | Pakistan |
| Lead Partner | Snow Leopard Foundation |
| Project partner(s) | Snow Leopard Trust |
| Darwin Initiative grant value | £ 267,450 |
| Start/end dates of project | 1 June 2022 to 31 March 2025 |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023 – Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3) | Annual Report #1: June 2022 to March 2023 |
| Project Leader name | Dr. Muhammad Ali Nawaz |
| Project website/blog/social media | - |
| Report author(s) and date | Mr. Tayyab Shahzad, Dr. Jaffar Ud Din, Dr. Hussain Ali, Dr. Shoaib Hameed, Dr. Muhammad Ali Nawaz April 30, 2024 |

1. Project summary

Nestled amid the mighty mountain ranges of the Hindu Kush, Pamir, Karakoram, and Himalayas, northern Pakistan harbors an enchanting landscape and rich biodiversity. The economy is predominantly agropastoral and millions of the marginalized mountain communities depend on the fragile ecosystem services for sustenance. With the explosion of the human population, the dependency of the local communities on biodiversity and other ecosystem services in the region is increasing and resulting in the escalation of many conservation issues. Iconic species such as the snow leopard are facing human-induced and economically fuelled threats such as retaliatory killing & poaching, loss of natural prey, and habitat degradation. Addressing the human-wildlife conflict under the umbrella of snow leopard conservation is thus essential to safeguard local livelihoods and conserve wildlife species and their habitat. The Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) has been implementing conservation and livelihood improvement initiatives in the region in collaboration with the wildlife departments and the local communities. To expand the spatial coverage of its interventions through the replication of tested conservation tools in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), the SLF team identified thirteen sites in consultation with the wildlife department and local communities. This project is thus developed to foster the community-based conservation of snow leopards and their habitat in the newly identified sites in GB. Specifically, the project is supporting

the communities to conserve snow leopards, their prey, habitat, and local livelihoods through human-snow leopard conflict mitigation and compensation measures like predator-proof corrals, livestock insurance & vaccination, and establishment of snow leopard enterprises (SLE) by involving local women. The capacity building of the communities and youth in project management, environmental education, and awareness raising through the development and dissemination of thematic resource material are some other important initiatives that the project will deliver. The project valleys include Chipurson, Bunji, Khunjrab Village Organization (KVO), Misgar, Khyber, Ghulkin, Gulmit, Quramber, Sikander Abad, Passu, Hanzal, Khuda Abad, Thoi, Darkut, Naz bar, Shimshal and Phander (**Project sites map is at E1**) falling in Gilgit-Baltistan.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), Community-based Organizations (CBOs), and the Provincial Wildlife Departments constitute key project partners in this project and hence were taken on board during the planning and implementation of the project activities.

The SLT provided overall guidance during the planning of the project activities. For instance, the project proposal was developed in consultation with the SLT and based on the needs identified during meetings with local communities and the provincial wildlife department. The SLT also provided matching funds to supplement the operational and field costs associated with the project implementation.

The local communities being direct beneficiaries were mobilized and engaged in the implementation of the project interventions at the grassroots level. For instance, the CBOs contributed their share in kind and led the construction of 13 predator-proof corrals as per the conservation agreements signed during the reported period (**E2 to E14**). Construction of seven predator-proof corrals was completed (**E15 – E21**).

Project site communities also participated enthusiastically in the establishment and management of the seven Livestock Insurance Schemes (LISs) and the strengthening of five LISs established/strengthened during 2022-2023 as per the tripartite agreements (**E22 to E33**) signed and augmented the seed grant provided by the project with the in-cash community share. The CBOs also identified potential participants for the training in CBO management and SLE. The Ecosystem Health Workers (EHWs) from the local communities successfully launched livestock vaccination and deworming campaigns under the umbrella of the CBO management in their respective valleys.

The Government Wildlife Departments through their field staff extended support during the wildlife surveys and wildlife surveillance in the project sites. They also participated in the establishment of the LISs and endorsed the agreements (**E22 to E33**). The UK British High Commission was informed about the progress of the project and invited to the inaugural session of training through an invitation letter (**E34**) but the High Commission wasn't able to make it convenient to attend the vent.

Other stakeholders included the Provincial Livestock Department which supported the communities and project team to identify essential vaccines and dewormers for livestock vaccination drives and helped monitor the campaigns in the project sites.

3. Project progress

The progress of the project is narrated in the subsequent sections of this report.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The project activities and milestones planned for the reporting period were achieved. Progress made against each project output is summarized below.

Output 1: Conservation and income-generating initiatives including livestock vaccination, predator-proof corrals, livestock insurance, and handicrafts enterprises established in 12 valleys.

Hold meetings with all the community-based organizations (CBOs) of the project sites to foster community mobilization and gender empowerment, and collect progress reports (**E35-E52**). Identified and procured vaccines for the black quarter, *Haemorrhagic septicemia*, goat pox, sheep pox, *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), lumpy skin, and Enterotoxaemia diseases as per vaccination protocol/ calendar and dewormer (Ivermectin) as per feedback from the Gilgit-

Baltistan (GB) Livestock Department. Vaccinated 244,350 livestock including 57,864 cattle/ yak and 177,570 goat/sheep through the local Ecosystem Health Workers (EHWs) [E65]. Monitored vaccination drives to collect and compile vaccination data and made payments to 54 EHWs (E16). Identified sites for the construction of predator-proof corrals in consultation with the CBOs and prepared feasibility and cost estimates. Signed agreements with 13 Valley Conservation and Development Organizations (VCDOs/ CBOs) for the construction of predator-proof corrals (E2 to E14), transferred funds to their bank accounts, and monitored the construction work. Signed agreements with the VCDOs for the establishment/ strengthening of 7 Livestock Insurance Schemes (LISs) [E22 to E33]. Provided additional funds to 5 LISs established under the project last year. Ten thousand livestock were protected through 12 LISs. Monitored collection of community share by the VCDOs as per agreements. Since the initiation of the project, 12 VCDOs contributed PKR 5.669 million in total to the LIS funds while the project contributed PKR 9.415. Formed committees for the provision of compensation to community members for livestock losses due to predators. Developed content and selection criteria for the Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE), community/financial management, record keeping, monitoring & reporting training of men and women community members. Facilitated the communities to identify trainees as per the selection criteria. Arranged two SLE trainings of two weeks each for 58 women (E56 & E57).

Output 2: Effectiveness of conservation initiatives on livestock losses, household income increased, attitudes towards conservation including gender effects are improved in 12 valleys and a new Protected Area added.

Thus far, 17 agreements have been signed for the construction of predator-proof corrals with communities at 14 program sites. Of these, seven have been completed (E15-E21). The completed seven corrals will protect 3,500 livestock during their stay in the pastures, while the total of 17 corrals will protect 8,500 livestock and will be completed by the end of September this year. Similarly, ten thousand livestock were protected through the establishment of 12 LISs.

SLE has been established in an additional four valleys by providing two training sessions lasting 14 and 15 days respectively to 58 women folk. An outlet to sell SLE products developed at the program site has been rented out in the Gems and Handicraft Market at Chinar Bagh, River View Road in Gilgit. SLE products, including cushion sets, shoulder bags, carpet shoes, and gentlemen's wallets worth PKR 40,000 have been sold so far and the revenue generated was distributed in the producer group. The Parks and Wildlife Department of Gilgit-Baltistan has provided its comments on the Valley Conservation and Development Plan for Khuda Abad Valley (E54).

Output 3: Capacity of 20 community activists built for community/ financial management and record keeping, 26 teachers, 200 students for conservation, 8 members of academia, 22 Wildlife Department staff, and 28 community members for survey techniques through training and provision of resource material.

Conducted a two-day training workshop for 16 women community activists in community sensitization, financial management, record keeping, monitoring, and reporting (E53). Conducted 3-day training for 26 school teachers in environmental education for conservation skills (E55). Conducted 14 days and 15 days of two SLE trainings for 58 women (E56 & E57). A capacity of 105 students and teachers (56 male & 49 female) was built for biodiversity conservation through nature study camps (E58). Developed content, designed, and printed five posters and 20 standees on important wildlife species in the area including snow leopard, flare-horned markhor, Ladakh ural, Himalayan ibex, and blue sheep (E59 to E60). A capacity of 16 CBO members and 6 Wildlife Department staff was built in wildlife survey techniques focusing on data accuracy and crime reporting (E62).

Output 4: Impact of conservation initiatives on the abundance of wild ungulates and Snow leopards understood.

Scat samples collected from the snow leopard range during the past 10 years were analysed in 2023 and out of 1174 samples, 267 were confirmed to be snow leopards. Other species confirmed through molecular analysis of faecal samples include red fox, wolf, and lynx. The non-targeted species samples were excluded from further analysis and 179 out of 267 genetically confirmed snow leopards were successfully genotyped for individual-level identification. Using the SNP panel, a total of 56 unique snow leopard individuals were identified.

During the second year, the population of Himalayan ibex, blue sheep, Astore markhor and Ladakh Urrial estimated from above mentioned 13 project sites through double observer method in collaboration with Parks and Wildlife Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan was 2,119, 854, 461 and 12 individuals, respectively. In the four sites added later on in the project (KVO, Passu, Gulmit & Sikandarabad valleys) the population of Himalayan ibex was estimated to be 2,973 animals (**E63**).

In addition to 17 project valleys, ungulate surveys were conducted in an additional 41 valleys of Gilgit Baltistan in collaboration with the GB Parks and Wildlife Department. The estimated population of blue sheep and Himalayan ibex was 1251 individuals and 5,584 individuals, respectively (**E61**).

To furtherance its wildlife research efforts, SLF in collaboration with the National Centre for Bioinformatics, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University initiated "Whole Genome Sequencing and Conservation Genomics of the Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) in Pakistan". Markhor is the National Animal of Pakistan and is one of the six wild ungulate species that occur in the snow leopard range of the country. The advancement in Markhor genomics will help in the identification of genes that are necessary for fitness and ultimately help in developing fast and modern monitoring tools for observing its population biodiversity. It will also boost our knowledge regarding demographics, inbreeding, adaptive genetic variations, introgression, hybridization, and disease susceptibilities, for the conservation of not only Markhor but also other endangered species of local biota.

Thus, the advancement in Markhor genomics will make it possible to determine the genetic structure and measure genetic diversity, conducting parentage analysis for estimating numbers of males and females in a region contributing to the current gene pool as well as measuring effective population size, and genetic management suggestions for reintroduction for assurance colonies to increase the genetic diversity of the remaining wild population. This approach bridges the notorious rift between academic conservation biology and active conservation actions that have repeatedly been identified by prominent conservation ecologists (**E66**).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Livestock vaccination/ deworming campaigns were launched in 22 valleys while livestock insurance schemes were established/ strengthened in 12 valleys as conservation and income-generating initiatives. The community members trained as Ecosystem Health Workers are collecting data on livestock vaccination and losses due to diseases and predation. The report will be prepared during the second year of the project. Agreements were signed with the VCDOs and the construction of predator-proof corrals was initiated/ continued in 14 valleys and SLE/ handicrafts enterprises' training was imparted to 58 womenfolk in additional 4 valleys.

The progress on project initiatives was monitored and recorded by the VCDOs on the proceedings register provided and maintained at the VCDO's offices. The project staff reviewed and collected the records maintained by the VCDOs during the visit to the project sites to participate in the scheduled meetings. The women from the two communities of Chipurson, Thoi, Darkut, and Naz bar valleys actively participated in Snow Leopard Enterprises training (**E56-57**). Livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals were completely curtailed as noted during field visits. Awareness sessions were held in the communities on the conservation of snow leopards and associated species and conservation agreements were signed (**E2 to E14 and E22 to E33**) having clauses that the communities will protect wildlife and biodiversity in their areas.

Wildlife surveys were conducted to declare Khudaabad as a Community Controlled Hunting Area (CCHA). The capacity of 16 women community members was built in community sensitization, financial management, record keeping, monitoring, and reporting (E53). After the training, the trainees have initiated to update their financial records and have a better understanding of safeguarding guidelines as an outcome of the training. The impact of conservation initiatives on the abundance of wild ungulates and snow leopards will be documented at the completion stage of the project. Monitoring of the wild prey of snow leopards in the project sites revealed the viable population of ungulates and reflects community participation in the conservation efforts. The advancement in Markhor genomics will help in the identification of genes that are necessary for fitness and ultimately help in developing fast and modern monitoring tools for observing its population biodiversity. It will also boost our knowledge regarding demographics, inbreeding, adaptive genetic variations, introgression, hybridization, and disease susceptibilities, for the conservation of not only Markhor but also other endangered species of local biota.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

By the end of the second year of the project, the number of households engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood programmes was increased to 9,727. The number of valleys engaged in multiple conservation programmes in GB was 22. Construction of 13 corrals was initiated that will protect 6,800 livestock from predation by large carnivores. By the end of the project, 20 predator-proof corrals will be built protecting 10,000 livestock from predation losses, saving ~10% of livestock holdings in 13 project valleys per annum. As per the target, 12 LISs were established in program valleys. The targets set for women training and engaging in handicrafts were also met. Moreover, it is expected that the project will achieve its outcome targets of insurance programmes providing ~30% of market value for livestock lost to carnivore predation in 12 project valleys and family income of 100 women increased by at least PKR10,000 per month by the end of the project. The achievement of targets and signing of agreements will motivate men and women in the project communities to develop positive attitudes towards conservation as compared to valleys with no interventions. Resultantly, the illegal killing of wild ungulates and snow leopards will cease in the 17 project communities by the end of the project. The viable population of wild ungulates in the project sites is an indication of the success of the conservation measures. The indicators are adequate for measuring the intended Outcome of the project.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumptions:

0.1 Communities and other relevant stakeholders remain willing to engage in collaborative, multi-pronged conservation management initiatives and own these initiatives

Comments: All communities remained willing to engage in collaborative, multi-pronged conservation management initiatives and owned the project initiatives.

0.2 US and online markets for handicrafts and livestock products remain sustainable

0.3 There is no unrest due to COVID or severe socio-political situation that prevents work with communities. Based on experience and our sustained field presence, we expect occasional delays but not a cessation of our work.

0.4 Project benefits are distributed equitably among men and women members and available to disadvantaged groups in the communities.

Comments: Most of the project benefits were distributed equitably among men and women members, however, against the target of “7 women trained in community/financial management and record keeping” 17 women attended the training workshop.

0.5 Communities are willing to subscribe to livestock compensation programs.

Comments: Communities provided PKR 5.669 million against a project share of PKR 5.915 million in LISs. SLF has already provided PKR 3.5 million for these schemes.

0.6 Conflicts between communities and other stakeholders are not negatively impacting project implementation.

0.7 The political situation during project implementation is conducive to the achievement of project results.

Comments: **The assumptions 0.1 to 0.7 still hold true.**

1.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to provide better coordination in managing community-based conservation project initiatives.

Comments: All field implementers except the Social Organizer and Communication and SLE Specialist remained with the organization. Due to her personal reasons the Social Organizer and Communication and SLE Coordinator left the organization. The Social Organizer and Communication and SLE Specialist were replaced with the Communication Coordinator and Saleswoman. The Saleswoman manages the SLE outlets and coordinates with SLE artisans for the distribution of materials and collection of finished products.

1.2 We will be able to find effective community champions within a reasonable amount of time

Comments: Effective community champions were found and trained for community sensitization, financial management, record keeping, monitoring, and reporting of community-based interventions.

1.3 Local communities understand that critical habitats in their vicinities will benefit livelihoods and ecological security, they remain interested in corrals, handicrafts, and insurance as good options for mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, and leadership within the community remains cohesive enough to manage multi-pronged programmes.

1.4 Local community-based institutions would establish an effective institutional mechanism to facilitate conservation outcomes.

1.5 Project interventions will focus on short to mid-term benefits to avoid a long gestation period that would not be conducive to winning community support for conservation.

1.6 Communities are willing to subscribe to livestock compensation programs

Comments: **The assumptions 1.2 to 1.6 still hold true.**

2.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to make training worthwhile.

Comment: Please refer response to the comment for assumption 1.1.

2.2 Communities remain interested in corrals, handicrafts and insurance as good options for mitigating conflicts and leadership within the community remains cohesive enough to manage multi-pronged programmes.

Comments: Assumption 2.2 still holds true.

3.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to make training worthwhile.

Comment: Please refer response to the comment for assumption 1.1.

3.2 Capacities of the community groups will be adequate after the training to execute the task.

3.3 Community champions are supporting CBOs to implement wildlife conservation agenda in the respective valleys within a reasonable amount of time

3.4 Communities remain interested in corrals, handicrafts and insurance as good options for mitigating conflicts and leadership within the community remains cohesive enough to manage multi-pronged programmes.

Comments: **The assumptions 3.2 to 3.4 still hold true.**

4.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to make training worthwhile.

Comments: Please refer response to the comment for assumption 1.1.

4.2 We will be able to find effective community champions within a reasonable amount of time

4.3 400 or more genetic samples of snow leopards are detected for collection and analysis.

4.4 Project management will be able to identify, document and disseminate the best practices.

Comments: **All the assumptions 4.2 to 4.4 still hold true.**

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

The original application stated snow leopard, its wild prey, landscapes, and local livelihoods are safeguarded through integrated conservation and livelihood improvement programs and gender mainstreaming as the impact of the project. The project has signed conservation agreements with the community stating their willingness to conserve biodiversity in their area (**E2-E14 and E22-E33**). Livestock vaccination and predator-proof corrals are saving the losses of livestock. Insurance schemes have been established for the compensation of predation-induced losses of livestock. SLE products prepared by women trained through project resources are providing additional income sources for their families. These initiatives have an impact on human development and well-being (Poverty alleviation). The viable population of wild ungulates in the project sites is indicative of the positive attitudes in the communities toward wildlife and biodiversity conservation.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project is assisting in achieving the goals and objectives of Pakistan's National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) 2017-2030 including conserving biodiversity at priority sites, focussing on in-situ site-specific conservation, mainstream biodiversity as an essential element of human development by increasing awareness and promoting integration with key sectors such as poverty alleviation and agriculture/livestock and reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems and species. The project is also supporting the action of NBSAP regarding "Recovery plans will be prepared and implemented to improve the conservation status of major threatened species of fauna (annex 2) in different ecosystems." Annex-2 contains snow leopards along with the other threatened species in Pakistan.

Pakistan's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2021 has mentioned Ecosystem restoration including biodiversity conservation, NBSAP, and snow leopard and ecosystem protection as the adaptation actions to manage risks from climate impacts. The project is supporting such initiatives. The project is also supporting gender equality described as cross-cutting co-benefits in the NDC document.

The project supports the main objective of CBD "conservation of biological diversity". It is also identifying and monitoring snow leopards and associated wildlife (CBD's Articles-7: Identification & monitoring components of biological diversity), promoting the maintenance of viable populations of snow leopards and associated species (CBD's Article 8: In-situ conservation), providing economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for snow leopard conservation (CBD's Article 11), promoting research contributing to snow leopard conservation (CBD's Article 12 and Nagoya Protocol's Article 8) and facilitating the exchange of information relevant to snow leopard conservation through the dissemination of brochures and survey reports on websites of GB Wildlife Department (CBD's Article 17). Livestock vaccination and wildlife conservation supported climate change adaptation for livestock and wildlife related to Article 4.1 (b) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The economy in the project landscape is predominantly agropastoral and the human-carnivore conflict is posing a serious threat to the household economy. The project is contributing to poverty reduction by saving losses to livestock through vaccination and predator-proof corrals. Insurance schemes have been established for the compensation of predation losses to livestock (**E22 to E33**). The communities sold the products developed under the SLE initiative and earned additional revenues which will help enhance the household economy and reduce poverty.

6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ . | Nil | |
| 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 . | Most of the CBOs have membership of women in their executive bodies | |

The project trained 58 women in SLE (**E56-E57**). Sixteen women were trained in community sensitization, financial management, record keeping, monitoring, and reporting (**E53**). Livestock vaccinations and insurance schemes (**E22 to E33**) are supporting women, as women are primarily responsible for livestock rearing in the project area.

| 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 | |

7. Monitoring and evaluation

The project's M&E is the responsibility of SLF. The SLF followed participatory monitoring of the project initiatives/activities and outputs. M&E plans were developed for the project using participatory processes and tools. Standard M&E frameworks and methodologies were prepared and shared with the monitoring team of the project that involves the Deputy Director, SLF, Regional Program Manager for GB, and M&E Officer. Biodiversity surveys and monitoring were done under the supervision of relevant experts of SLF, and GB Wildlife Department and results were discussed in the joint meetings.

Before starting field activities through the VCDOs/CBOs, their organizational and financial management and record-keeping capacities were assessed. Their capacity was built based on the gaps identified. The VCDO/CBOs formed monitoring committees to monitor the

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.

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.

implementation of the construction of predator-proof corrals. The finance section of SLF assists in project financial monitoring.

8. Lessons learned

The remote terrain and harsh weather conditions of northern Pakistan sometimes made the movement and interaction with the communities a bit challenging and the management had to adopt adaptive management for the implementation of the activities. Erratic rainfalls and subsequent flash floods experienced in March-April suffered the communities and infrastructure. This necessitated introducing community-based early warning, preparedness, response, relief, recovery, and mitigation measures. The implementation of the project requires motivated and physically fit team members and abiding by the field and health safety protocols. Strengthening and sensitization of the stakeholders particularly, the local communities is essential for the successful implementation of the project. Communities in the project sites are generally poor and showed increased interest and support for activities supporting livelihoods.

The high cultural diversity in the project sites requires respect for the culture, traditions, and norms of the communities, which in turn, earns veneration and makes the mobilization drive impactful.

Conservation cannot be effective without the support of the local communities being the primary beneficiary and community-based interventions are essential to gain trust and inculcate a sense of stewardship for the snow leopards, their wild prey, and habitat in the masses.

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

An early review of the project report indicated increased participation of the womenfolk in the capacity building and other activities of the project.

During the reporting period, having considered the local culture and norms, maximum participation of the women in the project intervention was ensured. For instance, instead of six women being trained in different management training, the project built capacity of sixteen women folk from the project sites. Similarly, 49 women teachers and students participated in the nature study camps organized under the project during the reporting period.

10. Risk Management

Risk 6: efforts to engage women folk and vulnerable people in the community in project activities and benefits may be resisted by the communities, resulting in gender-biased and insufficient focus being given to the needs and priorities of women and vulnerable people.

As mentioned earlier, the engagement of the women in the project activities was ensured during the reporting period. This risk is now diluted.

10. Sustainability and legacy

The intended sustainable benefits for the post-project are still valid.

For instance, since the initiation of the project, 12 VCDOs have contributed PKR 5.669 million in total to the LIS funds while the project contributed PKR 9.415 which shows their increasing interest and capacity resulting from the project. This will develop LISs with built-in self-sufficiency. As community members pay insurance premiums, they build the insurance fund until it reaches a self-sustaining level.

The viable population of snow leopards and wild ungulates in the project sites indicates the participation of the communities in the conservation initiatives with an informed attitude.

Local communities will take responsibility for conflict management, with long-lasting benefits, including improved resilience towards predators, increased leadership and management skills, and greater long-term sustainability of conservation efforts.

Valley Conservation Development Organizations (VCDOs) and Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE) groups will have increased capacity to sustainably manage long-term conservation-linked livelihood improvement programs that will continue to scale and mature beyond this project. Building capacities of Valley Conservation Development Organizations will ensure that these initiatives are sustainable.

Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) is supporting bottom-up approaches, encouraging communities to take ownership of schemes and resources. This project builds on long-term partnerships and community relationships and is focused on the delivery of multi-pronged, collaborative schemes of individual programmes that are well-piloted working closely with communities. Therefore, this Darwin project will support the development of a robust, self-sustaining programme that will continue under SLF's guidance in the longer run.

11. Darwin Initiative identity

The Darwin Initiative logo was used in the publication of backdrops for training workshops, five posters, and 20 standees published using project resources. Besides, the logo was also used in all project-related events and awareness training sessions.

12. 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 [<i>If yes, please provide their name and email</i>] |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | Yes Partners' Principles for Effective Snow Leopard Conservation held on 3-4 Jan. 2024 in Islamabad. (E64) |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | 13 SLF staff members received training on Partners' Principles for Effective Snow Leopard Conservation (E64) 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. | No |
| Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. | No |
| Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. | The capacity of 16 women community members was built in community sanitization, financial management, record keeping, monitoring, and reporting (E53) . After the training, the trainees have initiated to update their financial records and have a better understanding of safeguarding guidelines as an outcome of the training. |
| 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. | No |

13. 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 Total Darwin Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Staff costs (see below) | ██████████ | ██████████ | ██████ | |
| Consultancy costs | ██████████ | ██████████ | ██████ | |
| Overhead Costs | ██████████ | ██████████ | ██████ | |
| Travel and subsistence | ██████████ | ██████████ | ██████ | |
| Operating Costs | ██████████ | ██████████ | ██████ | |
| Capital items (see below) | 0 | 0 | 0% | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Others (see below) | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

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 (£) | | | Snow Leopard Trust, Parks and Wildlife Department, Government of Gilgit Baltistan |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | - | - | |

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

12. 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 (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

| File Type (Image / Video / Graphic) | File Name or File Location | Caption including description, country and credit | Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none) | Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |

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

| Project summary | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Impact</p> <p>Snow leopards (SL), their wild prey, landscapes, and local livelihoods are safeguarded through integrated conservation and livelihood improvement programs and gender mainstreaming.</p> | <p>Communities were mobilized and sensitized to foster conservation and livelihood improvement agenda. The capacity building, conservation, and livelihood improvement measures implemented as per the work plan contribute towards biodiversity, landscape conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, equitable sharing of benefits among men and women and economic empowerment of the target communities.</p> | |
| <p>Outcome: Snow leopards, their wild prey, landscapes and local livelihoods are safeguarded through integrated conservation and livelihood improvement programs and gender mainstreaming.</p> | | |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>By the end of the project, the number of households engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood programmes increased from 552 to 8,000.</p> | <p>0.1 By the end of the second year of the project, the number of households engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood programmes increased to 9,727.</p> | <p>The number of households engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood programmes will be noted during the third year of the project.</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>By the end of the project, the number of valleys engaged in multiple conservation programmes increased from 7 to 12.</p> | <p>0.2 The number of valleys engaged in multiple conservation programmes increased to 17.</p> | <p>The number of valleys engaged in multiple conservation programmes will be noted.</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>By the end of the project, livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals will be completely curtailed, saving about 11% of livestock holdings in 13 project valleys per annum.</p> | <p>0.3 Livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals were completely curtailed.</p> | <p>Livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals will be noted.</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>By the end of the project, insurance programmes will provide about 30% of market value for livestock lost to carnivore predation in 12 project valleys.</p> | <p>0.4 The insurance program for protecting livestock from loss to carnivore predation was expanded to 12 project valleys.</p> | <p>The percentage market value of insurance program for protecting livestock lost to carnivore predation in project valleys will be worked out.</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.5</p> <p>By the end of the project, number of women trained and engaged in handicrafts will be increased from 0 to 100, and their family income increased by at least PKR10,000 per month in project valleys.</p> | <p>0.5 The number of women trained and engaged in handicrafts was increased to 74 (16 during 2022-23 and 58 during 2023-24). These women earned PKR40,000 from the sale of handicrafts as a contribution to their family income.</p> | <p>26 women will be trained for SLE and engaged in the handicraft business causing an increase in their family income by at least PKR10,000.</p> |

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| <p>Outcome indicator 0.6</p> <p>By the end of the project, men and women in the project communities will have a measurable increase in positive attitudes towards conservation as compared to valleys with no interventions, measured through questionnaire survey.</p> | <p>0.6 The baseline of positive attitude of men and women towards conservation in the project communities was noted last year. It will again be measured at the end of the project.</p> | <p>A positive attitude of men and women towards conservation in the project communities will be worked out during the last year of the project.</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.7</p> <p>By the end of the project, the illegal killing of wild ungulates and SL will cease in the 13 project communities.</p> | <p>0.7 No report of illegal killing of wild ungulates and snow leopards in the project valleys was received from the community or the GB Wildlife Department.</p> | <p>Illegal killing of wild ungulates and snow leopards will be searched out in the 17 project communities during the last year of the project.</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.8</p> <p>By the end of the project, a viable population of SL and wild ungulates will be confirmed through field surveys in the project sites.</p> | <p>0.8 A viable population of wild ungulates (Himalayan Ibex: 2,035, Blue sheep: 633, Astor markhor: 392, and Ladakh Urial: 133) was confirmed through field surveys in the 13 project sites during first year of the project.</p> <p>During second year, the viable population of Himalayan ibex, blue sheep, Astore markhor and Ladakh Urial estimated from above mentioned 13 project sites was 2,119, 854, 461 and 12, respectively. In the four sites added later on in the project (KVO, Passu, Gulmit & Sikandarabad valleys) the viable population of Himalayan Ibex was estimated to be 2,973.</p> | <p>Viable population of wild ungulates (Himalayan Ibex, Blue sheep, Astor markhor and Ladakh Urial) will be confirmed through field surveys in the project sites during last year of the project.</p> |
| <p>Output 1. Conservation and income-generating initiatives including livestock vaccination, predator-proof corrals, livestock insurance, and handicrafts enterprises established in 12 valleys.</p> | | |
| <p>Output indicator 1.1 Vaccination of 50,000 cattle/ yak and 100,000 goat/sheep for Black Quarter, Enterotoxaemia, Foot and Mouth or other necessary vaccines and medicine used for protection against ectoparasites as recommended by the Livestock Department, twice (spring and autumn seasons) in a year.</p> | <p>1.1 Vaccinated 244,350 livestock including 57,864 cattle/ yak and 177,570 goat/sheep through the 54 local EHWs for black quarter, <i>Haemorrhagic septicemia</i>, goat pox, sheep pox, PPR, lumpy skin and Enterotoxaemia diseases as per vaccination protocol/ calendar and provided dewormer Ivermectin injection for protection against ectoparasites and endoparasites as recommended by the Livestock Department.</p> | <p>Vaccination campaigns will continue.</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.2 Twenty additional corrals built (2 corrals in year 1, 8 in year 2 & 10 in year 3), protecting 14,000 livestock by project end, over baseline of 6 corrals in project valleys</p> | <p>1.2 Seven additional predator-proof corrals were built through the participation of the project/SLF and the local community. Construction work of six additional corrals was initiated during 31 March 2023 to 31 March 2024.</p> | <p>(Highlight key actions relevant to this indicator planned for next period)</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.3 15,000 livestock in 12 communities protected through insurance schemes by project end (4 in year 1 and 8 in year 2), over baseline of 7 valleys and 5000 livestock.</p> | <p>1.3 Ten thousand livestock in 12 communities were protected through insurance schemes.</p> | <p>Membership of existing insurance schemes will be increased and additional one</p> |

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| | | insurance scheme will be established. |
| Output indicator 1.4 One hundred households in 7 communities (16 in year 1, 52 in year 2 & 32 in year 3) engaged in producing and selling quality handicrafts under the umbrella of Snow Leopard Enterprises by project end, over a baseline of 0 households. | 1.4 Fifty-eight households in an additional four communities were engaged in producing and selling quality handicrafts under the umbrella of Snow Leopard Enterprises. | 26 women will be trained for SLE. |
| Output indicator 1.5 Twelve new conservation contracts (8 in year 1 and 4 in year 2) signed for 12 communities by Year 2. | 1.5 23 Conservation contracts were signed with communities in 16 valleys. | Additional contracts will be signed as needed. |
| Output 2. Effectiveness of conservation initiatives on livestock losses, household income increased, attitudes towards conservation including gender effects are improved in 12 valleys and a new Protected Area added. | | |
| Output indicator 2.1. Livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals will be completely curtailed, saving about 2% of livestock holdings in communities per annum from predation by project end, | Livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals were completely curtailed inside 7 corrals built during the second year of the project, saving 3,500 livestock holdings. | Percentage saving of livestock from predator-proof corrals will be worked out during last year. |
| Output indicator 2.2. By the end of the project, 100+ households in 7 valleys receive profits from SLE sales. | During the second year, 20 women from 4 valleys received profits from SLE. | The 100 women trained will be supported to get profits from SLE. |
| Output indicator 2.3 By the end of the project, men and women in the project communities have increased acceptance of SL and other predators. | - | Acceptance of men and women for snow leopards and other predators in the project valleys will be noted. |
| Output indicator 2.4 By the end of the project, Khudaabad valley community will present its draft plan to the Wildlife Department for the declaration of Khudaabad valley as a community-controlled Hunting area (CCHA) in year 2 and the valley will be declared as CCHA in year 3 | The Parks and Wildlife Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has provided its comments on the Valley Conservation and Development Plan for Khuda Abad Valley | Efforts will be made to declare the Khudaabad valley as a CCHA. |
| Output 3. Capacity of 20 community activists built for community/ financial management and record keeping, 26 teachers, 200 students for conservation, 8 members of academia, 22 Wildlife Department staff and 28 community members for survey techniques through training and provision of resource material | | |
| Output indicator 3.1: 20 community activists (at least 30% women) have increased capacities for community/financial management, record keeping and importance of wildlife conservation in Year 1 and are successfully managing the CBOs' finances and records after getting the training (Year 2 & 3). | The capacity of 16 women community members was increased in community/financial management, record keeping, monitoring, reporting and the importance of wildlife conservation. | The progress of trained persons will be monitored. |
| Output indicator 3.2: 20 community activists trained for community/financial management, record keeping and importance of wildlife conservation have worked as | The community activists trained during year 1 were engaged in dialogues working as community conservation champions. | The trained community activists will be engaged in dialogues |

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| community conservation champions (at least 30% women) actively engaged in dialogue with 20 communities to guide them for project initiatives and sensitize them for conservation of snow leopard and its wild prey by end of yr 2. | | working as community conservation champions. |
| Output indicator 3.3: 26 teachers (13 men and 13 women; 13 in year 2 & 13 in 1st. quarter, year 3) have increased capacities for conservation and training skills and each disseminated the learned skills among 20 students by end of 1st quarter of year 3. | Conducted 3-days training for 26 teachers (15 men and 11 women) in environmental education for conservation and training skills | Utilization of training skills by teachers will be monitored. |
| Output indicator 3.4: Capacity of 200 students (at least 50% participation from girls) increased towards biodiversity conservation through engagement in 13 nature clubs and nature study camps by end of 1st quarter of year 3. | Capacity of 105 students and teachers (56 male & 49 female) was raised for biodiversity conservation through nature study camps. | Capacity of 95 students will be raised for biodiversity conservation through nature study camps. |
| Output indicator 3.5: By the end of the project, 28 CBO members (4 in year 1, 12 in yr. 2 & 12 in yr. 3), 8 academics (at least 50% women) (2 in year 1, 3 in yr. 2 & 3 in yr. 3), and 22 Wildlife Department staff (4 in year 1, 9 in yr. 2 & 9 in yr. 3) trained in wildlife survey techniques, that are effectively conducting wildlife surveys. | 16 CBO men members and 6 Wildlife Department staff members were trained in wildlife survey techniques focusing on data accuracy and crime reporting. | One-day workshops teaching wildlife survey techniques for 12 men members of CBO, 8 members of academia, and 16 Wildlife Department staff will be conducted. |
| Output indicator 3.6: By the end of the project, resource materials including 5 posters (1 in year 1, 2 in yr. 2 & 2 in yr. 3) and 5 leaflets (1 in year 1, 2 in yr. 2 & 2 in yr. 3) on conservation topics developed and disseminated among stakeholders, resulting in increased understanding of stakeholders on snow leopard conservation | Resource materials including 5 posters, 5 leaflets/ booklets and 20 standees were published on conservation topics. The leaflets/ booklets were disseminated among stakeholders, resulting in an increased understanding of stakeholders on snow leopard conservation | - |
| Output 4. Impact of conservation initiatives on the abundance of wild ungulates and Snow leopards understood. | | |
| Output indicator 4.1: <i>By the end of Year 1, baseline ungulate populations were determined through field surveys in all 13 project valleys.</i> | The baseline ungulate populations determined through field surveys during the first year in all 13 project valleys included Himalayan Ibex: 2,035, Blue sheep: 633, Astor markhor: 392, and Ladakh Urial: 133. | - |
| Output indicator 4.2: <i>By the end of the project, ungulate population trends and wild prey indices will be determined by comparing baseline data to field survey data collected in Year 1.</i> | - | Ungulate population trends and wild prey indices will be determined by comparing baseline data to field survey data |

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| | | collected in Year 1 during last year of the project. |
| Output indicator 4.3: <i>By the end of the project, 400 genetic samples (60 in yr. 1, 240 in yr. 2 & 100 in yr. 3) will have been collected and analyzed (100 in yr. 2 and 300 in yr. 3) to determine a reliable SL population estimate in the 12 project valleys.</i> | A total of 1,174 Scat samples collected from the snow leopard range were analysed, and 267 were confirmed to be from snow leopards. Other species confirmed through molecular analysis of faecal samples include red fox, wolf, and lynx. A total of 179 out of 267 genetically confirmed snow leopards were successfully genotyped for individual-level identification. A total of 56 unique snow leopard individuals were identified. | Additional genetic samples of snow leopard and related species will be collected and analysed to determine a reliable SL population estimate in the 17 project valleys. |
| Output indicator 4.4: <i>By the end of the project, reported killings of predators and wild herbivores will be reduced by 50% in participating households and communities.</i> | - | Reduction in reported killings of predators and wild herbivores in participating households and communities will be calculated during final year of the project. |
| Output indicator 4.5: <i>By the end of the project, two peer-reviewed papers will have been submitted for publication.</i> | Published two papers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals during first year of the project. Published 9 papers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals/chapters of books during the second year of the project | One additional peer review paper will be submitted for publication. |
| Output indicator 4.6: <i>By the end of the project, one best practice will have been documented and shared with stakeholders</i> | - | One best practice will be documented and shared with stakeholders. |

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

| Project Summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of Verification | Important Assumptions |
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| Impact: Snow leopards (SL), their wild prey, landscapes and local livelihoods are safeguarded through integrated conservation and livelihood improvement programs and gender mainstreaming. (Max 30 words) | | | |
| Outcome: Conservation and livelihood programs supporting additional 8000 households in 17 valleys reduce livestock losses, increase income and improve attitudes, leading to stable or increased abundance of Snow-leopards and wild ungulates. (Max 30 words) | 0.1 By the end of the project, the number of households engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood programmes increased from 552 to 8,000. 0.2 By the end of the project, the number of valleys engaged in multiple conservation programmes increased from 7 to 17. 0.3 By the end of the project, livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals will be completely curtailed, saving about 11% of livestock holdings in 17 project valleys per annum. 0.4 By the end of the project, insurance programmes will provide about 30% of market value for livestock lost to carnivore predation in 12 project valleys. 0.5 By the end of the project, number of women trained and engaged in handicrafts will be increased from 0 to 100, and their family income increased by at least PKR10,000 per month in project valleys. 0.6 By the end of the project, men and women in the project communities will have a measurable increase in positive attitudes towards conservation as compared to valleys with no interventions, measured through questionnaire survey. | 0.1 Annual reports from field teams highlighting the number of communities approached, champions identified, meetings held, schemes adopted and conservation contracts signed. 0.2 Field visit reports of visit to valleys. 0.3 Baseline and final survey reports for relevant communities highlighting livestock vaccinated, corral improvements, involvement in insurance programmes, premium payments, and involvement in handicraft production, sales and price received. 0.4 Annual reports of predation events reported for each of the 17 communities and those serving as controls. 0.5 Baseline and final survey reports for sample households in sample communities measuring household income and attitudes towards interventions, predators and ungulates. 0.6 Questionnaire survey report of attitude of men and women community members towards conservation. | 0.1 Communities and other relevant stakeholders remain willing to engage in collaborative, multi-pronged conservation management initiatives and own these initiatives 0.2 US and online markets for handicrafts and livestock products remain sustainable 0.3 There is no unrest due to COVID or severe socio-political situation that prevents work with communities. Based on experience and our sustained field presence, we expect occasional delays but not a cessation of our work. 0.4 Project benefits distributed equitably among men and women members and available to disadvantage groups among the communities. 0.5 Communities are willing to subscribe to livestock compensation programs 0.6 Conflicts between communities and other stakeholders are not negatively impacting project implementation. |

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| | <p>0.7 By the end of the project, the illegal killing of wild ungulates and SL will cease in the 17 project communities.</p> <p>0.8 By the end of the project, a viable population of SL and wild ungulates will be confirmed through field surveys in the project sites.</p> | <p>0.7 Annual reports of illegal killing of SL and wild herbivores from 17 project communities and 3 control communities, incorporating information from long-term community contacts (key informants), community champions, protected area staff and records from wildlife departments.</p> <p>0.8 Reports from wildlife surveys (genetic sampling and double observer techniques).</p> | <p>0.7 Political situation during project implementation is conducive to achievement of project results.</p> |
| <p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Conservation and income generating initiatives including livestock vaccination, predator-proof corrals, livestock insurance and handicrafts enterprises established in 17 valleys.</p> | <p>1.1 Vaccination of 50,000 cattle/ yak and 100,000 goat/sheep for Black Quarter, Enterotoxaemia, Foot and Mouth or other necessary vaccines and medicine used for protection against ectoparasites as recommended by the Livestock Department, twice (spring and autumn seasons) in a year.</p> <p>1.2 Twenty-three additional corrals built (2 corrals in year 1, 8 in year 2 & 13 in year 3), protecting 16,000 livestock by project end, over baseline of 6 corrals in project valleys</p> <p>1.3 15,000 livestock in 12 communities protected through insurance schemes by project end (4 in year 1 and 8 in year 2), over baseline of 7 valleys and 5000 livestock.</p> <p>1.4 One hundred households in 7 communities (16 in year 1, 52 in year 2 & 32 in year 3) engaged in producing and selling quality handicrafts under the umbrella of Snow Leopard Enterprises by project end, over baseline of 0 households.</p> <p>1.5 Seventeen new conservation contracts (8 in year 1, 4 in year 2 and 5 in year 3) signed for 17 communities by Year 3.</p> | <p>1.1 Annual livestock vaccination reports.</p> <p>1.2a Agreements signed with VCDs/CBOs for corral construction.</p> <p>1.2b Corrals completion reports.</p> <p>1.3 Agreements signed with VCDs/CBOs for Livestock Insurance schemes.</p> <p>1.4 Handicrafts' production and sale, annual reports.</p> <p>1.5 Agreements/ Conservation contracts signed with VCDs/CBOs for handicrafts/SLE.</p> <p>1.6 Baseline and end-line survey reports of household incomes.</p> <p>1.7 Programme data, stories, field reports and receipts collected by SLF to monitor corrals building, insurance scheme progress, livestock vaccination and handicraft production and purchases.</p> | <p>1.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to provide better coordination in managing community based conservation project initiatives.</p> <p>1.2 We will be able to find effective community champions within a reasonable amount of time</p> <p>1.3 Local communities understand that critical habitats in their vicinities will benefit livelihoods and ecological security, they remain interested in corrals, handicrafts and insurance as good options for mitigating human wildlife conflicts and leadership within the community remains cohesive enough to manage multi-pronged programmes.</p> <p>1.4 Local community-based institutions would establish an effective institutional mechanism to facilitate conservation outcomes.</p> <p>1.5 Project interventions will focus on short to mid-term benefits to avoid long gestation period that would not be conducive to win community support for conservation.</p> |

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| | | | 1.6 Communities are willing to subscribe to livestock compensation programs |
| <p>2. Effectiveness of conservation initiatives on livestock losses, household income increased, attitudes towards conservation including gender effects are improved in 17 valleys and a new Protected Area added.</p> | <p>2.1 Livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals will be completely curtailed, saving about 2% of livestock holdings in communities per annum from predation by project end,</p> <p>2.2 By the end of the project, 100+ households in 7 valleys receive profits from SLE sales.</p> <p>2.3 By the end of the project, men and women in the project communities have increased acceptance of SL and other predators.</p> <p>2.4 By the end of the project, Khudaabad valley community will present its draft plan to the Wildlife Department for the declaration of Khudaabad valley as Community-controlled Hunting area (CCHA) in year 2 and the valley will be declared as CCHA in year 3.</p> | <p>2.1 Annual livestock predation reports.</p> <p>2.2 Handicrafts' production and sale, annual reports.</p> <p>2.3 Reports of surveys of community attitudes towards conservation.</p> <p>2.4a Draft plan provided to the government to declare Khudaabad valley as a CCHA</p> <p>2.4b Notification of the government to declare Khudaabad valley as a CCHA</p> | <p>2.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to make training worthwhile</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3 Communities remain interested in corrals, handicrafts and insurance as good options for mitigating conflicts and leadership within the community remains cohesive enough to manage multi-pronged programmes.</p> |
| <p>3. Capacity of 20 community activists built for community/ financial management and record keeping, 26 teachers, 200 students for conservation, 8 members of academia, 22 Wildlife Department</p> | <p>3.1 20 community activists (at least 30% women) have increased capacities for community/financial management, record keeping and importance of wildlife conservation in Year 1 and are successfully managing the CBOs' finances and records after getting the training (Year 2 & 3).</p> <p>3.2 20 community activists trained for community/financial management, record keeping and importance of wildlife conservation have worked as community conservation champions (at least 30% women) actively engaged in dialogue with 20 communities to guide them for project</p> | <p>3.1 Project notes/ reports of training delivered to community activists in community/financial management, record keeping and importance of wildlife conservation.</p> <p>3.2 Field implementer meetings with conservation champions to keep record of their involvement in community discussions</p> <p>3.3 Project notes/ reports of training/refreshers for Ecosystem Health Workers delivered to Community members</p> <p>3.4 Project notes/ reports of teachers' training.</p> | <p>3.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to make training worthwhile.</p> <p>3.2 Capacities of the community groups will be adequate after the training to execute the task.</p> <p>3.2 Community champions are supporting CBOs to implement wildlife conservation agenda in the respective valleys.</p> <p>3.3 Communities remain interested in corrals, handicrafts and insurance as good options for mitigating conflicts and leadership within the community remains cohesive</p> |

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| <p>staff and 28 community members for survey techniques through training and provision of resource material</p> | <p>initiatives and sensitize them for conservation of snow leopard and its wild prey by end of yr 2.</p> <p>3.3 26 teachers (13 men and 13 women; 13 in year 2 & 13 in 1st. quarter, year 3) have increased capacities for conservation and training skills and each disseminated the learned skills among 20 students by end of 1st quarter of year 3.</p> <p>3.4 Capacity of 200 students (at least 50% participation from girls) increased towards biodiversity conservation through engagement in 13 nature clubs and nature study camps by end of 1st quarter of year 3.</p> <p>3.5 By the end of the project, 28 CBO members (4 in year 1, 12 in yr. 2 & 12 in yr. 3), 8 academics (at least 50% women) (2 in year 1, 3 in yr. 2 & 3 in yr. 3), and 22 Wildlife Department staff (4 in year 1, 9 in yr. 2 & 9 in yr. 3) trained in wildlife survey techniques, that are effectively conducting wildlife surveys.</p> <p>3.6 By the end of the project, resource materials including 5 posters (1 in year 1, 2 in yr. 2 & 2 in yr. 3) and 5 leaflets (1 in year 1, 2 in yr. 2 & 2 in yr. 3) on conservation topics developed and disseminated among stakeholders, resulting in increased understanding of stakeholders on snow leopard conservation.</p> | <p>3.5 Project notes/ reports of nature clubs and nature study camps.</p> <p>3.6 Project notes/ reports of wildlife survey training.</p> <p>3.7 Resource material on conservation topics developed for stakeholders.</p> <p>3.8 Post training response forms from field staff and stakeholders receiving different training.</p> | <p>enough to manage multi-pronged programmes.</p> |
| <p>4. Impact of conservation initiatives on abundance of wild ungulates and Snow leopards understood.</p> | <p>4.1 By the end of Year 1, baseline ungulate populations determined through field surveys in all 17 project valleys.</p> <p>4.2 By the end of the project, ungulate population trends and wild prey indices will be determined by comparing baseline data to field survey data collected in Year 1.</p> | <p>4.1 Reports of field surveys of wild ungulates (double observer techniques).</p> <p>4.2 Ungulate population trends and wild prey indices.</p> | <p>4.1 Field implementers will remain with the organizations for long enough to make training worthwhile</p> <p>4.2 We will be able to find effective community champions within a reasonable amount of time</p> |

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| | <p>4.3 By the end of the project, 400 genetic samples (60 in yr. 1, 240 in yr. 2 & 100 in yr. 3) will have been collected and analysed (100 in yr. 2 and 300 in yr. 3) to determine a reliable SL population estimate in the 17 project valleys.</p> <p>4.4 By the end of the project, reported killings of predators and wild herbivores will be reduced by 50% in participating households and communities.</p> <p>4.5 By the end of the project, two peer reviewed papers will have been submitted for publication.</p> <p>4.6 By the end of the project, one best practice will have been documented and shared with stakeholders.</p> | <p>4.3a Reports of field surveys of genetic sample collection.</p> <p>4.3b Reports of genetic analysis</p> <p>4.4 Reports of surveys of killing of Snow leopards and wild ungulates</p> <p>4.5 Papers submitted for peer review and publication.</p> <p>4.6 Report of best practice for its dissemination to stakeholders.</p> | <p>4.3 400 or more genetic samples of snow leopard are detected for collection and analysis.</p> <p>4.4 Project management will be able to identify, document and disseminate the best practices.</p> |
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- Activities** (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)
- 1.1 Attend already established Valley Conservation and Development Organizations (VCDOs)/Community based Organizations (CBOs) meetings, provide guidance for community mobilization and gender empowerment and collect project related baseline data
 - 1.2 Conduct baseline surveys regarding household income, number of households engaged in biodiversity conservation and livelihood programmes, valleys engaged in multiple conservation programmes, livestock losses inside predator-proof corrals, insurance coverage for livestock lost to carnivore predation, women trained and engaged in handicrafts, illegal killing of wild ungulates and SL, communities' attitudes towards conservation, SL and wild ungulates population in project area
 - 1.3 Conduct end-line surveys of household income.
 - 1.4 Establish new VCDOs and CBOs as per project requirement and attend meetings to provide guidance for community mobilization and gender empowerment
 - 1.5 Identify and procure vaccines as per vaccination protocol and medicine for ectoparasites as per feedback from the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Livestock Department.
 - 1.6 Vaccinate 50,000 cattle/ yak and 100,000 goat/sheep for Black Quarter, Enterotoxaemia, Foot and Mouth or other necessary vaccines or medicines for protection against ectoparasites recommended by the Livestock Department.
 - 1.7 Monitor, collect and compile data, and make payments to the Ecosystem Health Workers
 - 1.8 Approve selected sites, prepare feasibility and cost estimates for construction of 20 predator-proof corrals
 - 1.9 Sign agreements with the VCDO/CBO for construction of Predator-proof corrals
 - 1.10 Provide payment to the account of VCDO/CBO in instalments
 - 1.11 Monitor construction of corrals by the VCDO/CBO
 - 1.12 Prepare completion report of corral construction
 - 1.13 Sign agreements with the VCDOs/CBOs for 5 livestock insurance schemes (LISs)
 - 1.14 Monitor collection of community share by the VCDOs/CBOs for LISs
 - 1.15 Form committee for provision of compensations to community members for livestock loss due to predators

- 1.16 Provide project share for LISs to VCDOs/CBOs
- 1.17 Develop and provide selection criteria for different trainings of men and women community members to VCDOs/CBOs to identify the relevant community members
- 1.18 Sign agreements for Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE) with VCDOs/CBOs
- 1.19 Provide 15 days training to women for SLE
- 1.20 . Order and purchase SLE products from women twice per year to be sold through Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) and private companies.

- 2.1 Monitor corral usage on annual basis
- 2.2 Provide wages of SLE products and conservation bonus payments to SLE participants.
- 2.3 Conduct awareness raising sessions in 17 project valleys regarding importance of snow leopard and other predators in the ecosystem to enhance public tolerance of large carnivores in their valleys.
- 2.4 Monitor predation of snow leopard and its prey through interaction with VCDOs/CBOs
- 2.5 Conduct meetings with GB Wildlife Department to share plan of Khudaabad valley to declare it as a Community Controlled Hunting area (CCHA).

- 3.1 Conduct 2-days training workshop for 20 community activists (13 men & at least 7 women) in community/financial management, record keeping and importance of wildlife conservation
- 3.2 Engage 20 community conservation champions (13 men & at least 7 women) in dialogue with communities
- 3.3 Conduct 4-days training for 26 teachers (13 men and 13 women; 13 in year 2 & 13 in 1st. quarter, year 3) for conservation and training skills
- 3.4 Establish Nature clubs in 13 valleys
- 3.5 Conduct 2-days nature study camps for 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls)
- 3.6 Conduct one day workshops teaching wildlife survey techniques for 28 men members of CBO (4 in year 1, 12 in yr. 2 & 12 in yr. 3), 8 members of academia (4 men & 4 women; 2 in year 1, 3 in yr. 2 & 3 in yr. 3), and 22 Wildlife Department staff (all men; 4 in year 1, 9 in yr. 2 & 9 in yr. 3)
- 3.7 Collect technical material and design 5 posters and 5 leaflets on conservation related topics
- 3.8 Print 5 posters and 5 leaflets on conservation related topics
- 3.9 Disseminate printed 5 posters (1 in year 1, 2 in yr. 2 & 2 in yr. 3) and 5 leaflets (1 in year 1, 2 in yr. 2 & 2 in yr. 3) among stakeholders

- 4.1 Provide relevant equipment/materials and conduct ungulate surveys through trained persons
- 4.2 Analyse the ungulate survey results and prepare the report
- 4.3 Provide relevant materials and collect genetic samples of wildlife during surveys through trained persons
- 4.4 Record and store the collected samples after proper processing
- 4.5 Identify Labs for analysis of genetic samples and make agreements with them
- 4.6 Send the stored genetic samples to Labs for analysis
- 4.7 Collect data from conservation champions on the of killing of predators and wild herbivores
- 4.8 Prepare 2 scientific papers and send to scientific journals for publication
- 4.9 Respond to the queries of scientific journals
- 4.10 Document one best practice and share with stakeholders

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 |
|---------------------|---|--------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| E.g. DI-A01 | E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training | People | Men | 15 | 89 | | 104 | 180 |
| E.g. DI-A01 | E.g. Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training | People | Women | 17 | 138 | | 155 | 224 |
| E.g. DI-B01 | E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed | Number | New | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| E.g. DI-B01 | E.g. Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed | Number | Improved | 1 | 0 | | 1 | 1 |

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) |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| New Distribution Records of Small Kashmir Flying Squirrel <i>Eoglaucomys fimbriatus</i> (Gray, 1837)(Mammalia: Sciuridae), with | Journal | Shakil Ahmad, Shoaib Hameed, Hussain Ali, Tauheed U. Khan, Tahir Mehmood & M. Ali Nawaz (2023) | Male | Pakistani | Acta Zoologica Bulgarica, Sofia, Bulgaria | ³ |

³https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Shakeel-Ahmad-36/publication/376787996_ACTA_ZOOLOGICA_BULGARICA_New_Distribution_Records_of_Small_Kashmir_Flying_Squirrel_Eoglaucomys_fimbriatus_Gray_1837_Mammalia_Sciuridae_with_Notes_on_its_Diel_Activity_in_the_Musk_Deer_National/links/658819462468df72d3d17b0c/ACTA-ZOOLOGICA-BULGARICA-New-Distribution-Records-of-Small-Kashmir-Flying-Squirrel-Eoglaucomys-fimbriatus-Gray-1837-Mammalia-Sciuridae-with-Notes-on-its-Diel-Activity-in-the-Musk-Deer-National.pdf

[36/publication/376787996 ACTA ZOOLOGICA BULGARICA New Distribution Records of Small Kashmir Flying Squirrel Eoglaucomys fimbriatus Gray 1837 Mammalia Sciuridae with Notes on its Diel Activity in the Musk Deer National/links/658819462468df72d3d17b0c/ACTA-ZOOLOGICA-BULGARICA-New-Distribution-Records-of-Small-Kashmir-Flying-Squirrel-Eoglaucomys-fimbriatus-Gray-1837-Mammalia-Sciuridae-with-Notes-on-its-Diel-Activity-in-the-Musk-Deer-National.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Shakeel-Ahmad-36/publication/376787996_ACTA_ZOOLOGICA_BULGARICA_New_Distribution_Records_of_Small_Kashmir_Flying_Squirrel_Eoglaucomys_fimbriatus_Gray_1837_Mammalia_Sciuridae_with_Notes_on_its_Diel_Activity_in_the_Musk_Deer_National/links/658819462468df72d3d17b0c/ACTA-ZOOLOGICA-BULGARICA-New-Distribution-Records-of-Small-Kashmir-Flying-Squirrel-Eoglaucomys-fimbriatus-Gray-1837-Mammalia-Sciuridae-with-Notes-on-its-Diel-Activity-in-the-Musk-Deer-National.pdf)

| 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) |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Notes on its Diel Activity in the Musk Deer National Park, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan | | | | | | |
| Assessing The Extent of Habitat Overlap and Resource Partitioning Between Ibex and Livestock in Khyber valley Pakistan | Journal | Javed, Faiza, Asim Aslam, and Ali Nawaz, 2023 | Male | Pakistani | Journal of Survey in Fisheries Sciences | https://sifisheressciences.com/index.php/journal/article/view/1889/1202 |
| The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program | Chapter of a book, Snow leopards: Biodiversity of the world: Conservation from genes to landscapes | ⁴ | Male | Indian | Academic Press, Massachusetts, USA | https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780323857758000091 |
| The current state of snow leopard conservation in Pakistan | | Jaffar Ud Din, Shoaib Hameed, Hussain Ali, Muhammad Ali Nawaz, 2024 | Male | Pakistani | | https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780323857758000078 |
| Trophy hunting as a conservation tool for snow leopards | Chapter of a book, Snow leopards: Biodiversity of the world: Conservation from genes | Muhammad Ali Nawaz, Jaffar ud Din, Safdar Ali Shah, Ashiq Ahmad Khan, Tahir Rasheed, | Male | Pakistani | Academic Press | Academic Press |

⁴⁴ Koustubh Sharma a, Justine Shanti Alexander b, Andrew Zakharenka c, Chyngyz Kochorov a, Brad Rutherford d, Keshav Varma e, Anand Seth f, Andrey Kushlin f, Susan Lumpkin f, John Seidensticker g, Bruno Laporte h, Boris Tichomirow i, Rodney M. Jackson j, Charudutt Mishra b, Bakhtiyar Abdiev k, Abdul Wali Modaqiq l, Sonam Wangchuk m, Zhang Zhongtian n, Shakti Kant Khanduri o, Bakytbek Dusekeyev p...Ranjini Murali a b

| 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) |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | to landscapes | Babar Khan, Tom McCarthy, 2024 | | | | |
| The Ecosystem Health Program: A tool to promote the coexistence of livestock owners and snow leopard | Book Chapter | Nawaz, M.A., Ali, H., & Din, J.U. | Male | Pakistani | Academic Press | Academic Press |
| Niche suitability and spatial distribution patterns of anurans in a unique Ecoregion mosaic of Northern Pakistan | Journal | Muhammad Rais, Muhammad Ali Nawaz, Russell J. Gray, Waqas Qadir, Syeda Maria Ali, Muhammad Saeed, Ayesha Akram, Waseem Ahmed, Anum Sajjad, Lionel Leston, 2023 | Male | Pakistani | Plos One | https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0285867 |

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? | Yes |
| Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | Yes |
| 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)? | Not applicable |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes, SLT was involved. |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |