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# **DIR28S2\1092**

## **Linking science to management: Restoring community forests in Nepal**

Jalthal is a highly unusual biodiversity-rich subtropical forest island in SE Nepal. Previous work shows the potential for science-based forest management, moving away from timber-centric approaches which inadequately address threats to biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, and sustainable use of natural resources. Piloted methods restoring degraded forest and conserving biodiversity through site-level, evidence-based action will be upscaled, coupled with increasing capacity of local communities for alternative livelihoods. Approaches will be promoted at regional and national levels through knowledge exchange and policy engagement.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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### CONTACT DETAILS

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### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
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Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
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## Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

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### Q3. Title:

Linking science to management:Restoring community forests in Nepal

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

DIR28S1\1374

### Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3

threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

**Biome 1**

Tropical-subtropical forests

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**Biome 2**

Freshwater (streams, rivers and lakes)

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**Biome 3**

*No Response*

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**Conservation Action 1**

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

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**Conservation Action 2**

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

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**Conservation Action 3**

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

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**Threat 1**

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

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**Threat 2**

Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases

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**Threat 3**

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

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## Q5. Summary

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

**Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

Jalthal is a highly unusual biodiversity-rich subtropical forest island in SE Nepal. Previous work shows the potential for science-based forest management, moving away from timber-centric approaches which inadequately address threats to biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, and sustainable use of natural resources. Piloted methods restoring degraded forest and conserving biodiversity through site-level, evidence-based action will be upscaled, coupled with increasing capacity of local communities for alternative livelihoods. Approaches will be promoted at regional and national levels through knowledge exchange and policy engagement.

## Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q6. Country(ies)

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

**Country 1** Nepal

**Country 2** No Response

**Country 3** No Response

**Country 4** No Response

**Do you require more fields?**

No

### Q7. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 July 2022

**End date:**

31 March 2025

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

2 years 9 months

### Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
<b>Amount:</b>	£114,611.00	£116,944.00	£109,313.00	<b>£</b> 340,868.00

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

**Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

This project is in collaboration with Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs), local government offices, and the Division Forest Office. Based on discussions while formulating the project, these bodies are willing to contribute in-kind support to project activities. We will jointly organise co-funded programs with CFUGs where they can contribute financial support as well as in-kind support. Division Forest Office (DFO) Local governments (LGs) will channelize some of their funds into promoting pro-biodiversity agroforestry activities. ForestAction (FA) will contribute office facilities and infrastructure in Kathmandu, and staff time in preparing resource materials for training and preparation of communication materials. FA contributes in kind to develop guidelines for forest restoration, training materials for an apprenticeship, as well as in managing, monitoring, and oversight of the project and its finances. RBGE will provide in-kind support of staff time in mentoring, in preparing reports and book publications, undertaking UK-based training.

**Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)** ██████████

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

NA

## Section 4 - Problem statement

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### Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

**Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?**

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

Jalthal is a biodiversity-rich, 6000-hectare forest island in Southeast Nepal, surrounded by a sea of intensively cultivated farmland. This large remnant of a subtropical forest that once covered these lowlands, is now a refuge for 27 nationally threatened birds (including Jerdon's baza, stratified grassbird), globally threatened fauna (including CR Chinese pangolin, CR elongated tortoise, EN Asiatic elephant), and Nepal's largest population of VU Cycas pectinata. Jalthal comprises a mosaic of forest types, including many unusual trees. A previous project (DI 26-022) recorded a remarkable 10 tree species as new to Nepal, demonstrating both the uniqueness of this special forest and the lack of baseline biodiversity knowledge that hampers its conservation.

Jalthal forest is managed by 22 CFUGs and is a source of livelihood for over 80,000 local people. CFUGs have been effective in preventing encroachment, increasing tree density, and controlling fire and hunting. In a way the forest appears to be protected, but biodiversity is being neglected as management regimes narrowly focus on only a few timber species, to the detriment of the other biodiversity essential to maintaining healthy ecosystem function. In recent years demand for firewood and fodder has increased significantly, threatening several rare tree species. Furthermore, large areas of Jalthal forest are becoming increasingly degraded with spreading invasive species, including new arrivals (e.g. Mimosa diplotricha, identified for the first time in DI-26-022, which also causes death of livestock that feed on it). In common with other forests in Nepal, rural poverty and lack of awareness (knowledge gap) of biodiversity are the underlying causes of biodiversity loss (NBSAP 2014-2020).

Realising the need for immediate action, previous work (DI 26-022) led by ForestAction was initiated in 2019. Good progress was made in preparing a solid scientific foundation (documenting key biodiversity components, identifying specific threats and their causes, communicating ecological significance of the forest with local communities and government, piloting invasive species management practices, and identifying locally suitable agroforestry) for forest biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources. The project demonstrated the effectiveness of alternative livelihood options and created a strong collaborative environment and engagement with local communities. This project revealed not only the great complexity of the ecological problems but demonstrated that adaptive management using piloted interventions could be effective in forest restoration. It also revealed the complex socio-economic drivers that cause forest degradation and can impact on the effectiveness of interventions. Other elements, such as the national forest policy environment and local communities' capacity and resources, were identified as significant challenges to long-term forest restoration.

This project builds on and is informed by, the results of DI 26-022, using the new knowledge generated, scaling up successful pilot interventions, capitalising on opportunities identified, and mobilising a network of highly-engaged local communities. CFUGs are now aware that restoring forests and the better management of bio-resources not only benefits threatened fauna and flora, but also ensures sustained supply of ecosystem services and other benefits to forest-dependent, poor people.

## Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

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### Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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

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

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

## Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

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

The proposed project aims to generate workable models on forest restoration combining biodiversity conservation with livelihoods enhancement in complex socio-ecological dynamics. Project interventions include direct actions on forest management and livelihoods improvement, capacity building, evidence generation, and policy engagement. The outputs and outcomes are expected to contribute to multiple national policies and multilateral environmental agreements, including several of the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of the outputs contribute to more than one policy goal.

The project broadly aims at restoration of degraded Jalthal forest and the conservation of its biodiversity, directly contributing to the UN Decade of Restoration (2021-2030), a major international initiative.

Projects' outcomes include substantial decrease in Invasive Alien Species (IAS) infestation, promotion of the growth of native species (and removal of exotics), ecosystem restoration and increased supply of ecosystem services, enhanced livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, adoption of/scaling up successful models, and increased stakeholder capacity. These outcomes will collectively contribute to the CBD Goals (A-D) and Milestones of UN post-2020 biodiversity framework first draft and its 2030 action targets (more specifically targets-2, 3, 4, 6, 10).

Project activities include local level planning and capacity building for biodiversity conservation and forest management which is also a priority action envisioned by Nepal Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Management of invasive species (prevention, Control, eradication) will contribute towards CBD Article 8(h) and Post 2020 Biodiversity framework, target 6.

Enhancing carbon stock and its sequestration by reducing forest degradation is an important policy goal of Nepal's REDD+ strategy 2018, which is also clearly mentioned in Nepal's second NDC report 2021. Controlling of IAS, promotion of native species, and enhancing livelihoods through promotion of agroforestry are also the high priority actions suggested by the National REDD+ Strategy 2018. Similarly enhancing carbon sequestration through sustainable forest management and mitigation of IAS is a strategy of the National Climate Change Policy 2019. Furthermore, our activities will contribute to the ambitions set by UN decade on Ecosystem restoration and will follow the 10 golden rules of forest restoration recently proposed by Sacco et al 2021.

Similarly, restoration of wetlands for enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services directly serves to achieve strategic goals, particularly Goal 3 target 12 and 13 of the fourth Ramsar strategic plans of 2016-2024.

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

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### Q13. Methodology

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

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

Context: ForestAction's experience with CFUGs in general, and of DI 26-022 in particular (see Q11), have shaped this project. Previous work in Jalthal has built a strong evidence base, revealed the complexity of environmental and socio-economic drivers of forest degradation, developed strong working relationships and engagement with stakeholders, raised awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and demonstrated viable pilot interventions to IAS control, forest restoration, and alternative livelihoods.

These successes need to be expanded and firmly established in order to be sustained. The capacity of local communities needs to be further strengthened, the awareness of these approaches widened to surrounding areas, and the benefits introduced into local, regional and national community forest management policy. This project has been designed to build

upon ongoing efforts towards further strengthening and scaling out of the successful interventions in Jalthal. The basis for effective, sustainable interventions is set – this project upscales them into a workable model on forest restoration.

Scientific foundation: The project will draw from on-going global debates around nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration. It will follow the 10 golden rules of forest restoration (Sacco et al. 2021), capitalising on forest succession and assisted natural regeneration. Whilst acknowledging that solving poverty requires much bigger political commitment and resource mobilisation, the project will develop sustainable model for income generation of local poor and offsetting biomass pressure.

Project understands that conservation of biodiversity and forest restoration is a multi-level task i.e., local-scale actions need to be supported by broader policy and regulatory frameworks. Despite good evidence that conservation of natural regeneration is economical and ecologically desirable, national policies still incentivise the plantation of (usually exotic) trees. Our project must engage at higher levels using locally-generated robust evidence to inform and influence the forest policy process.

Approach: DI 26-022 has provided a robust scientific base, excellent working environment, and identified and piloted interventions. We now understand that forest management-related activities organised by CFUGs and stakeholders are discrete in space and time, and somewhat less coherent within a broader framework of long-term objectives of forest restoration. We address this gap in designing the proposed project and have tailored activities around social and ecological aspects of forest restoration, whilst bearing in mind the social and ecological vulnerabilities of the forest and forest-dependent communities.

We have identified low-cost, socially-acceptable and ecologically-sound options to increase income of forest-dependent people, poor and disadvantaged group of people. Through careful screening, we have selected agroforestry (turmeric and cardamom intercropping), compost production, fodder orchards and goat keeping for smallholders as the most promising interventions for poverty reduction and income generation activities that integrate both ecosystem restoration and livelihoods objectives.

Methodologies (activities in the Logframe)

Output 1 Includes site-specific, targeted activities to restore degraded forest areas and conserve rare/threatened species. CFUGs are trained to protect/encourage natural forest regeneration. CFUGs are empowered in propagation of rare/threatened plants. Plantation of exotics in natural forests will be strongly discouraged. During planning and execution, CFUG members will be fully engaged and supported.

Existing and newly reported invasive alien plant species (IAPS) will be managed in Output 2, using both proactive and reactive tried and tested measures. Local capacity of CFUGs will be enhanced towards ecological approaches for IAPS management. Awareness-raising, stakeholder sensitisation and policy discussions will be used to influence management of IAPS in forest planning.

Output 3 addresses rural poverty-biodiversity relationships. Enterprises will be supported to increase income for women and disadvantaged people, and offset biomass pressure on forests. Low-cost, small-scale agroforestry, goat-keeping and compost production will be supported – enterprises selected using local socio-ecological conditions. Alternative sources of livestock fodder plants will be developed and promoted.

Output 4 creates the environment and capacity for long-term restoration and biodiversity conservation. Gaps in existing policies/programmes will be identified and new knowledge generated for effective implementation of policies. Training, awareness-raising workshops, exposure visits and production/dissemination of communication materials are critical for this output.

Project administration and partnership: A dedicated team of FA staff will implement this project, working with international, national and local partners (see Q33 for roles). This builds on an existing strong and successful partnership. Proven communication channels will be continued (virtual, in-person meetings, email, etc), all reporting will be joint. A field office will be established with two technical and local staff to handle implementation of field activities and supporting CFUGs. Project manager is an experienced ecologist who has strong background on ecological and social science research and field-level mobilisation. Project progress will be monitored against the log frame and timeline on a half-yearly basis.

## Q14. Capability and Capacity

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

Based on the capacity gap assessment, there needs three types of interventions: a) understanding and appreciation of the



significance of ecosystem health and biodiversity among stakeholders and policy actors; b) skills on the removal of IAS, forest/ecosystem restoration and agroforestry practices, nursery management among the local communities; c) leadership among the youths in evidence-based planning and policy engagement. The target groups includes local people, women cooperatives, CFUG leaders, DFO staff, Local Government (LG) officials, and policymakers. Major methods include training, on the field coaching, exposure visits, participatory planning and monitoring, reflection workshops.

We will select 75 youths who have prospects for working at the local level and in CFUGS, from eastern Nepal and train them for future leadership in conservation and forest restoration. A module combining theory and practice will be designed and delivered by group of professionals within the outside project team. Forest transects walk, exposure visits and project activities will help participants understand broader concepts like biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, conservation, and sustainability along with the sustainable and inclusive local economy.

We will organise short programmes (lectures, presentations, forest tours) targeting secondary school students (grade 10-12) focusing on local environmental issues and global environmental challenges. They will be later organised as ECO clubs in schools around Jalthal forest.

CFUG/FECOFUN leaders trained in forest restoration and biodiversity conservation will help integrate the forest restoration component in the CFUG planning process. Similarly, at least some of those trained in agroforestry and other small enterprises will engage in establishing and operating micro-enterprises with support from the project and/or the LGs.

Project will support two Master's level students (from TU) in conducting MSc thesis. In addition, at least five students from Kathmandu Forestry College will be engaged in various assessments as part of their project work.

## Q15. Gender equality

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

Gender inequality is higher among rural poor. Women have low access to economic resources which hinders their capacity in decision making. Community forest movement has ensured women participation in CFUGs but their role in decision making is still lower than anticipated. The project will ensure at least 40% women participation in all project activities and women will benefit through capacity building and income generation activities (agroforestry and goat keeping). Goat keeping is an important but underestimated source of cash income among rural poor. Project will organise leadership training for women so that women's leadership will increase in forest management decision making. While appointing project staff, priority will be given to women and member of disadvantaged group of people, at least one local woman will be employed.

There is gender-differentiated roles on forest product collections. Women are responsible for collection of firewood and fodder. The collection of these products is taking considerable time for women. Projects approach of planting trees in private land and fodder orchard near forest boundaries will benefit women making the products easily accessible and save collection time.

While forming agroforestry groups, priority will be given to women from poor and disadvantaged groups. Agroforestry will generate cash income for women. Having cash will empower women

Based on ongoing projects experience, we understand that women's participation in activities in the timing of the activities. After 15.00 o'clock women tend to leave the program to meet household responsibilities. We will consider this in the project activities.

ForestAction and its partners in this project hold core value of enhancing gender equality and increasing women's meaningful participation in the decision-making process. This has also been maintained in recruiting staff, wherein among three full-time staff in on-going project two (field officers and a local mobiliser) are female.

## Q16. Awareness and understanding

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

Project will prioritise awareness raising on the importance of biodiversity and its underlying and proximate threats. Local people, CF leaders, LGs, youths and students are the target audience. The project will adopt knowledge generation through publications, outreach and engagement with stakeholders as its approach to awareness raising. We will publish materials (leaflets, photo stories, short videos and newspaper articles) in Nepali language that will help aware local people.

Use of social media: We will use DI26-022's Facebook page (1.3 K followers, mostly local people from project site) to share

project activities and notable results. This has served to have projects' accountability to local stakeholders and community members.

Trainings and forest walk- We will provide biodiversity awareness training to over 1000 people including high school students. Conservation leadership training will be instrumental in biodiversity awareness. Forest walks with government officials and media persons will also be useful means to aware people about biodiversity and its loss.

Poverty-biodiversity relationship: Forests of the global south including Nepal is an important resource for the livelihood of poor people living around the forest. High pressure on biomass, illegal felling and wildlife hunting are direct drivers of biodiversity loss and rural poverty, while lack of awareness has triggered biodiversity loss. Acknowledging the fact that biomass extraction is exerting pressure, we will work with stakeholders to offset it. Plantation of fodder trees in private land, engaging the poor in income-generating activities, developing fodder orchard, and conservation apprenticeship would be supportive towards addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss.

Publication and communication: All materials published by the project will be shared among relevant stakeholders. Printed copies will be distributed for free and e-copies will be shared through the projects' Facebook page and ForestActions' website.

## Q17. Change expected

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

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

The project will bring a notable change in forest, biodiversity and household income during the project life and beyond through various activities.

In the short term: Forest restoration plan will be prepared, control of invasive plant species including recently reported species will be initiated and their density and coverage will be significantly reduced by the end of project. Forest leaders and patrol team will be trained on seed collection of rare and threatened tree, and nurseries will be established to grow and distribute rare and threatened species. Women group will make extra income from agroforestry. Mikania biomass will be managed through compost production, and the produced compost will be used by the local people and the surplus will be sold in the market to generate extra income. There will be a significant decrease on the forest fire, and the wetland will be restored to support aquatic flora and fauna.

In the long term- Forest users' behaviour will be changed, and they will be continuing the management activities within a broader framework of forest restoration. In the long run; i) degraded patches will be restored with enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services and tree density and cover will be increased; ii) plantation of exotic species in the forest will no longer be a part of government programme wherein the government will develop and implement new plantation guidelines; iii) wildlife hunting in the forest will cease and rare and threatened flora and faunal species' population will increase; iv) sporadic and discrete activities on forest management will be organised and prioritised as a part of long term strategy on forest restoration; v) threats to forest biodiversity from invasion will substantially reduce, and vi) wildlife habitats will be improved, vii) fodder will be more accessible, viii) there will be proactive policy response to prevent biological invasion. Likewise, local communities will take ownership over forest management, and a sustained income source of local people will be ensured through agroforestry and composting.

Project beneficiaries: Project will benefit both nature and people. Forest user groups, local people, forest management practitioners, researchers and policy makers will be benefited. The apprenticeship (training) will directly benefit 75 youths, who will in the long run, serve as custodians of biodiversity conservation. Around 100 CFUG leaders will be benefited from forest restoration activities and rare and endangered tree nursery management programmes. Around 1000 high school students will be benefited from school focussed awareness programmes, interactions and eco clubs. Over 2000 people will be benefited from projects diverse activities including temporary job opportunities. Over 200 poor households will have their income increased through agroforestry and another 200 households will be benefited from goat keeping and fodder orchards. Through use of compost soil health will be improved. Women's access to fodder will be improved and enhanced through fodder plantation in private and communal lands. Our knowledge products in Nepali language will benefit thousands of community forest user groups throughout Nepal.

## Q18. Pathway to change

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

Project activities will bring change by mitigating both underlying and proximate causes of biodiversity loss and forest degradation as reflected in theory of change. Project will bring change through (i) Knowledge base, awareness and sensitisation-with recently established new knowledge about the significance and uniqueness of forest biodiversity, we will sensitise CFUGs and stakeholders to take actions towards biodiversity conservation, ii) Capacity enhancement: through various activities like hands in practice training, we enhance capacity of local communities and stakeholders to improve management, iii) Sustainable interventions- Project activities linking forest restoration with income generation will not only incentivise locals, but will also make the intervention sustainable leading to change in both forest and socio-economy of local people in longer term, (iv) Enabling policy-project will work to create policies or incentive mechanism that acknowledges and appreciates forest management and biodiversity conservation with long term outcomes (v) Offsetting pressure-Project will offset biomass extraction pressure in forest through alternative sources of fodders and better management of degraded forest which will have positive impacts on forest biodiversity. In this project, we will work at operational and policy level so that there will be a complementarity between site-level action and policy level engagement.

## **Q19. Exit Strategy**


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


The project will mainstream good practices in CFUGs planning process so that those interventions will sustain beyond project life. The project, in coordination with local stakeholders, will establish 'Jalthal Biodiversity Resource Centre'. The project will provide initial support to establish the center. The center will either be co-owned by DFO Jhapa or FECOFUN Jhapa, depending on their interest and willingness. The center will be a source of motivation for the continuation of conservation and restoration activities. The centre will be connected with LG for financial arrangements. In addition, we will make a network of 22 CFUGs of Jalthal forests. The network of will be taking ownership of project activities. Forest restoration through the agroforestry approach will be a source of income for communities and forest-dependent poor people; this will be an incentive for continued engagement of communities in Mikania and other invasive species removal activities.

While initiating the restoration project, we will prepare a participatory plan to ensure local ownership. The project will organize the project closing workshop towards the end of the project in presence of local governments and other stakeholders. Before the closing workshop, the project will organise series of workshops and discussions with stakeholders about follow-up activities and the continuation of good practices. Our approaches will be fully participatory so that CFUGs will be capable and motivated to carry on with the legacies of the project.

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

 [Supplimentray document. Theory of change](#)

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 pdf 484.61 KB

## **Section 7 - Risk Management**

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### **Q20. Risk Management**

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

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

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<p><b>Fiduciary</b></p> <p>There are some risks for funds channelised to local communities through CFUG being used for activities other than those originally intended. There are potential risks on the misuse of funds while purchasing the equipment.</p>	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	This will be mitigated by preparing the detail budget plan alongside with the list of mutually agreed activities and deliverables. ForestAction has robust procurement policies and procedure which ensures that the process is transparent and follow the good practices. All the funds used in the project activities will be checked	Minor
<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p>There could be potential risk of pre-existing exploitation, abuse and harassment, staff safety and welfare, or unintended harm between the local communities.</p>	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	ForestAction is familiar with RBGE safeguarding policy, and all partners will follow the guidelines to fully meet key principles of ethical implementation of project as suggested by DI guidance document. All partners will always respect social norms and traditional knowledge and culture of local communities and people.	Minor
<p><b>Delivery Chain</b></p> <p>CFUG leaders are mostly active within political parties, their mobilisation sometimes interrupted by the national and local political activities, including the upcoming elections. Similarly, uncertainty with evolving covid-19 variant will affect overall delivery. Changes in staff is also a potential risk in delivery chain.</p>	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	Prior planning and assessment of major political activities will be done regularly. Large events will be reduced and small meetings will be organised. Site office for the project specific work will ensure progress during pandemics as well. A good transition time ensured between staff changes, if any.	Minor
<p><b>Risk 4</b></p> <p>Potential risk of Elite capture of Agroforestry With benefit coming out of the agroforestry practices, the forest land and agroforestry itself might be captured by local elites.</p>	Minor	rare	Minor	We will coordinate with DFO and FECOFUN to ensure that the poor gets benefit from agroforestry practices. DFO can regulate CFUGs agroforestry practice ensuring participation of poor and disadvantaged. FECOFUN advocates for good governance in CFs.	Minor
<p><b>Risk 5</b></p> <p>Agroforestry group compromising forest recovery Members practicing agroforestry are likely to prioritise their crops in forest which potentially may not favour natural regeneration and undermine forest recovery.</p>	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	We will work with agroforestry groups and CFUGs to regularly monitor growth of saplings and protection of natural regeneration in agroforestry blocks.	Minor

<b>Risk 6</b> Disease in Goat Goats are vulnerable to various mouth and foot and other diseases	Moderate Possible Moderate	We will connect goat keeping group with insurance schemes. Similarly, goat keeping groups will be connected with local governments' veterinary services.	Minor
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## Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

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

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

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

-  [R28 Darwin Implementation Timetable FA](#)
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-  docx 51.33 KB

## Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

### Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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

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

Project management including monitoring and evaluation against the set targets is responsibility of ForestAction. Project monitoring and evaluation will be a continuous process throughout the project life. Project M&E is an adaptive process, project indicators will be closely monitored and strategies will be prepared for maximum possible achievement. A project management team will be formed at ForestAction to take decisions on projects' regular activities. The team will consist of PI, admin head of FA and project coordinator. A project advisory committee (PAC) will be formed representing leader from the partners and representative of local stakeholders (DFO and Haldibari Rural Municipality). A PAC meeting will be organised on a half yearly basis. Project coordinator will report to PAC and the project leader.

Projects daily activities will be coordinated and monitored by project coordinator placed at ForestAction. Project field staff (field officer and two local facilitators) will regularly collect and compile activities and relevant evidences to monitor the project activities.

Project M&E will be done at two levels. First one is by project staffs on regular basis. This includes conducting activities according to time line and allocated budget, checking progress against log frame, keeping records of activities, organising data, keeping records of financial account. Second level is at outcome/output level be PAC. For this, baseline data and

assessment will be conducted and regularly monitored by PAC.

Baseline and end line data required to evaluate project will be collected. In some cases, the baseline data has already been collected by the on-going project. Baseline and end line data on restored sites and fodder orchards will be collected wherever possible to measure the project impact. Data on Mikania cover, density of saplings and rare trees have already been collected. Reports of illegal harvesting/hunting income generated and number of people benefited will be compared by collecting baseline and end line data.

Project has set indicators for biodiversity as well as socio-economic changes.

Biodiversity indicators: There are multiple indicators to monitor the project effect on biodiversity. Forest carbon stored in above ground trees, replacement of annual invasive cover by perennial trees, ratio of invasive and native species cover. Number of saplings in the invaded area, location points of new invasive species, number of rare and threatened trees identified and protected in the CF operational plans, events of illegal felling and poaching, number of rare and threatened trees planted, area of wetland restored, number of restoration plans prepared. Project will develop several awareness raising materials, national dialogues that directly feed to biodiversity and sustainable forest management which can be qualitatively measured through interviews and participant feedbacks.

Socio-economic indicators: The indicators include: number of people engaged in agroforestry activities, amount of compost produced by communities and individual farmers, number of people engaged in compost production, number of women practicing goat keeping and sale, number of women participated in programmes, number of women staff in the project, cash income generated by women groups and communities out of the project support.

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	██████████
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	█
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	200

## Section 10 - Logical Framework





### Q23. Logical Framework

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

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

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

#### Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [R28 Darwin St2 Logical Framework FA finalfor upload](#)  
 01/02/2022  
 15:57:40  
 pdf 131.02 KB

#### Impact:

Resilience of forest increased, socio-ecological vulnerabilities reduced with restored forest, enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services through better land management

#### Outcome:

Forests restored and biodiversity conserved with substantive livelihood benefits through concrete initiatives in Jalthal forest

## Project Outputs

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### Output 1:

Forest ecosystem restored and biodiversity conserved in Jalthal community forests

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### Output 2:

CFUGs, local governments and stakeholders take strong policy and operational measures to control existing and newly reported invasive alien species

---

### Output 3:

Income and employment of forest dependent people increased through better management of land and bio resources

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### Output 4:

Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and sub-national policy framework through active stakeholder engagement and evidence informed policy making

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### Output 5:

*No Response*

---

## Do you require more Output fields?

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

- Yes  
 No

## Activities

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

### ACTIVITIES

Output 1: Forest ecosystem restored and biodiversity conserved in Jalthal community forests

- 1.1 Organize project inception (n=1), annual review (n=3), planning (n=10) and exit/sharing (n=1) meetings/workshops engaging relevant stakeholders
- 1.2 Conduct participatory mapping to identify the most degraded forest patches, prepare restoration plans for these sites and their core zones with respective CFUGs.
- 1.3 Train CFUG leaders and forest patrolling team to rescue, protect and nurture natural regeneration of trees
- 1.4 Support CFUGs and train forest patrolling team to propagate, plant, protect and monitor rare and threatened plant species
- 1.5 Organise workshops on challenges of wildlife hunting and strategies to minimise it, with local and indigenous community leaders and stakeholders
- 1.6 Support secondary schools around Jalthal in establishing eco-clubs and provide awareness training and materials
- 1.7 Plant bamboo culms and elephant apples in forest fringes (total 5 hectare)
- 1.8 Support and sensitise to improve habitats and wetland management in community forests
- 1.9 Train CFUG leaders in Jalthal to protect key structural features of Jalthal biodiversity

Output 2: CFUGs, local governments and stakeholders take strong policy and operational measures to control existing and newly reported invasive alien species

- 2.1 Support CFUGs to remove Mikania in invaded area, monitor the changes and protect natural regeneration
- 2.2 Carryout spatial mapping and monitoring of the newly reported IAS (Mimosa diplotricha) in Nepal and assess its expansion and impacts, especially livestock loss
- 2.3 Train CFUGs and stakeholders on the management of Mimosa, and develop the reporting mechanism of any further

new introductions

2.4 Eliminate *Mimosa diplotricha* in newly constructed roads and sand heaps (over 500 locations around Jalthal) and assess potential risks and communicate widely

2.5 Conduct comparative analysis of different methods of IAS management piloted in Jalthal

2.6 Prepare, publish and disseminate communication materials on evidence based best practices on invasive species management at local levels in Nepali and English language

2.7 Organise two meetings in Province 1 and five local government level seminars to share lessons from Jalthal seeking their support to incorporate invasive species management in their budgets and programmes

Output 3: Income and employment of forest dependent people increased through better management of land and bio resources

3.1 Organise meetings among CFUGs, and between CFUGs and target beneficiaries on potential agroforestry options and sites and facilitate negotiation between CFUGs and interested groups on the terms and conditions of land allocation.

3.2 Support targeted households to undertake agroforestry activities (e.g. Turmeric and Ginger)

3.3 Conduct participatory monitoring to ensure sapling protection and growth in agroforestry sites

3.4 Support CFUGs in establishing compost production facilities, and explore its multi-purpose use (domestic and commercial)

3.5 Support CFUGs and its member farmers in identifying preferred fodder trees, plantation, protection and use in Mikania cleaned areas of CF and private lands

3.6 Provide financial support and technical inputs to identified poor women in goat keeping, linking it with fodder development activity

3.7 Conduct assessment of both ecological and economic outcomes of project's livelihood interventions

Output 4: Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and sub-national policy framework through active stakeholder engagement and evidence-informed policymaking

4.1 Conduct and publish the population analysis of globally threatened species in Jalthal and nearby habitats and share results with stakeholders

4.2 Review government policies/ programmes on nursery management from the perspective of native, rare and threatened species of trees

4.3 Prepare, publish and disseminate a book on propagation/nursery management of Nepal's rare and threatened species.

4.4 Publish five media articles on biodiversity in general, and status of rare and threatened species of Nepal, in national dailies

4.5 Train youths on biodiversity conservation and environmental issues: develop module, identify candidates, negotiate on terms/conditions, organise training, provide them on-the-field exposure, support in their networking (each cohort consists of mix of youths)

4.6 Establish 'Jalthal Biodiversity Resource Centre' and mobilise it as a common platform for learning, sharing and networking of 22 CFUGs in Jalthal

4.7 Organise two national seminars on forest restoration, status of rare and threatened flora and biodiversity conservation outside protected areas

4.8 Develop and publish Manual -1, policy brief-1, journal articles-2

4.9 Conduct and publish IUCN Red List assessment (national and global) for 150 tree species of Nepal

4.10 Prepare, publish and distribute a pictorial guidebook for 150 tropical and subtropical native trees species of Nepal

## Section 11 - Budget and Funding

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### Q24. Budget

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

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





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

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

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

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 [Budget R28.DI ForestActionNepal](#)  
 01/02/2022  
 12:30:32  
 xlsx 80.1 KB

## **Q25. Financial Risk Management**

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

ForestAction has established a financial system in which two or more officials are involved in financial decisions and transactions. We have different teams for project implementation and finance. Therefore, project team will be monitored by the financial team and finance team checks if there are any unjustified expenses. All the project expenses are subject to independent external auditing. This has minimised our financial risk from fraud, corruption and bribery. Our project budget and activities needs to be approved by social welfare council-a body that regulates NGOs in Nepal. They will regularly monitor project activities and in the past visited field sites to monitoring. We will do transaction with partners and communities only through bank. We check minutes and decisions before transferring the amount to partners and communities.

One risk in projects funded in USD or Pound Sterling may be related to the fluctuation in value of Nepalese currencies in relative those currencies. The effect of any fluctuations in currency which reduce the money available to spent in Nepal will be closely monitored throughout the project. Currently we have considered rate fluctuation and high inflation while designing the activities.

## **Q26. Funding**

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

New Initiative

**Please provide details:**

This is a new initiative but benefited from earlier project DI 26-022.

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

No

## **Q27. Capital items**

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

Project includes both desk-based and field work. Field work includes daily movement of staff between office and different forests. Based on ongoing project, we realised that we will need a motorbike to commute in the field. We learnt that having new is economic than hiring. We are also planning to buy 2 printers for local partners and three laptops for project staffs. Upon the phasing out of the project, the motorbike will be used by ForestAction. By law, ForestAction cannot sell its

properties. Printers, hard drives and laptops will be used by respective organisation. The cost for capital investment is far below 5% of the project budget.

## Q28. Value for Money

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

Before budgeting, we prepared a gantt chart containing activities and timeline which helped us to figure out the tentative budget. While preparing the budget, we have considered relevant polices of Nepal Government and financial polices of ForestAction and partner organisations.

In this, we aim to allocate as much amount to the field activities as possible, therefore proposed only 12% overhead.

Partner organisation in Nepal get cost for office, communication stationery and communication and overheads.

Rates of events and activities are based on current market, field assessment and experience from our ongoing projects. We have put practical and cost-effective rates for all the activities.

We worked out to minimise the administrative and staff costs. Number of staff are proposed based on workload at the office and in the field. Project leader gets 10% of his salary and Project officer will work for 100 % of his time. His salary is based on qualification, salary history and regulations of ForestAction.

ForestAction, KAFCOL and FECOFUN have a clear understand of financial transparency on purchase of equipment and services. We ensure procurement under the project follows good practice and achieves the best value for money.

Project will be implemented by establishing a project office in the site which will reduce the cost and time for travel and will maintain close contact with local stakeholders to efficiently operate the project activities.

All the fund of this project will be spent in developing country.

Exchange rate of £1=160 NRS was used in budget calculations

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### Q29. Safeguarding

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

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

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

<b>We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked

**We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards**

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Checked

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

Currently ForestAction do not have formal safeguarding policy. However, we are aware of the safeguarding requirements. Soon we will make our own safeguarding policies.

We have read RBGE's safeguarding policies and understood the provisions. We follow RBGE and Darwin Initiates safeguarding policies. We will respect and strictly follow international and domestic safeguarding policies until we will make our own.

As a project leader ForestAction Nepal will work to protect vulnerable people and communities. We respect human rights and right of indigenous and local people. We protect personal data and maintain safety of project staff and people engaged in the project activities.

### **Q30. Ethics**

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

Project will comply with Nepal Governments and Darwin Initiatives ethical guidelines concerned with project implementation, following points will be considered.

1. Consent forms will be prepared and will be read aloud to participants. A Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of local communities will be ensured before any interview and data collection at the household level. For any information to be obtained from local people we will comply with FPIC principles and personal data privacy will be strictly maintained.
2. We will not collect specimens of rare, endangered and threatened species and will follow research guidelines of the Government of Nepal . Project staffs will not engage in consumption or promotion of trade of wildlife and/or its parts and any other derivatives originating from wildlife.
3. Project will consider health and safety of project staff and local community members who will be involved in various forest related activities. At appropriate times, the project staff will be briefed on the importance of health and safety, assessing risks, and the rigorous standards expected. Project staff and field expedition teams will be given medical and travel insurance for field visits. For practical and safety purpose, people will be mobilised in pair or group(s).
4. Threats from wildlife will be pre-assessed before conducting any activities inside the forests.
5. Project will not plant or support exotic species in forest.
6. We will respect privacy of individuals, and human rights will comply with labour regulations and national and international human rights principles.

## **Section 13 - FCDO Notifications**

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### **Q31. FCDO Notifications**

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

No

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

No

**If no, why not?**

We have not contacted the British Embassy as there are no specific issues. However, we will seek an appointment to the embassy soon do discuss our activities under the previous project.

## Section 14 - Project Staff

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### Q32. Project staff

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

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Naya Sharma Paudel	Project Leader	15	Checked
Lila Nath Sharma	Project coordinator	80	Checked
Mark Francis Watson	Co-PI	10	Checked
Colin Alistair Pendry	Researcher/Biodiversity expert	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?





Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ambika Prasad Gautam	Partner lead (KAFCOL)	15	Checked
Bhaskar Adhikari	Researcher-Nepal flora expert	15	Checked
Murari Joshi	Agroforestry expert	10	Checked
TBC	Project officer	100	Checked
TBC	Forest ranger	100	Checked
TBC	Local facilitator	80	Checked
Bed Prakash Bhandari	Partner lead (FECOFUN)	10	Unchecked
Rahul Karki	Researcher/documentation officer	10	Unchecked

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

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

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 [CV-FA-final](#)  
 01/02/2022  
 11:29:55  
 pdf 760.87 KB

**Have you attached all project staff CVs?**

No

**If you cannot provide a CV or job description, please explain why not.**

Projects Key staff CV has been included. Only two staffs CV has not been included but they were involved in the application preparation. Bed Bhandari has not prepared his CV.

## Section 15 - Project Partners

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### Q33. Project partners

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

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

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

<b>Lead partner name:</b>	ForestAction Nepal
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.forestaction.org/">https://www.forestaction.org/</a>
<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b>	<p>Roles and responsibility: As a lead organisation, FA will administer and implement the overall project. It coordinate and communicate among partners and stakeholders, undertake monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E), and report to DI. FA will manage finance, keep an account of the project activities and outcomes, publicise project activities, prepare manuals for trainings capacity building activities for the forest user groups and forest technicians.</p> <p>Capacity: Established in 2000, FA is a not for profit and politically nonaligned organization in Natural Resource Management (NRM) related research and policy advocacy in Nepal, and has long standing dialogue and working collaboration with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of Nepal. It has its own office facility in Kathmandu, human resources and local networks to implement local as well as international projects.</p> <p>Involvement: FA led the conception and designing of the project, established contacts with partners, organised a visit to the proposed site, held consultations with the local government and forest authorities and identified problems to be addressed.</p> <p>Experience: FA implemented several action research projects with public/civil society organisations pertinent to forestry, natural resource management, rural livelihood and climate change adaption. Among others, ForestAction is implementing a DI funded project since 2019 June.</p>

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** 

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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

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**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) UK

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**Website address:** www.rbge.org.uk

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

Experience: RBGE leads the Flora of Nepal project ([www.floraofnepal.org](http://www.floraofnepal.org)) and has a long-standing research programme on the Himalayan flora, including botany, education, capacity building, sustainable development, conservation, and soft diplomacy.

Roles and responsibility: RBGE has very long experience in botanical research in Nepal, which is an asset for the project in terms of identifying and documenting rare and threatened plant species. RBGE will provide trainings to botanists on floral biodiversity identification and monitoring. RBGE will provide guidance and suggestion to lead organizations and national partners for project implementation. RBGE will lay key role in IUCN assessment and publication of pictorial guide book of Nepal's trees.

Involvement: RBGE was involved since the beginning of the project, including project concept, design, development, budgeting, and partnership building. RBGE has supported FA in developing the application and providing feedbacks and comments to the application.

Capacity: Dr. Mark Watson (Editor-in-Chief, Flora of Nepal) and Dr. Bhaskar Adhikari have a long-standing experience in collaborations with Nepalese botanists and working in Nepal. Mark has experience of leading earlier DI funded projects in Nepal and Bhaskar has served as a project officer in the same project. Currently RBGE is collaborating with FA to implement DI 26-022.

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**Allocated budget:** ██████████

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**2. Partner Name:** Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) UK

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**Website address:** www.rbge.org.uk

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

Experience: RBGE leads the Flora of Nepal project ([www.floraofnepal.org](http://www.floraofnepal.org)) and has a long-standing research programme on the Himalayan flora, including botany, education, capacity building, sustainable development, conservation, and soft diplomacy.  
Roles and responsibility: RBGE has very long experience in botanical research in Nepal, which is an asset for the project in terms of identifying and documenting rare and threatened plant species. RBGE will provide trainings to botanists on floral biodiversity identification and monitoring. RBGE will provide guidance and suggestion to lead organizations and national partners for project implementation. RBGE will lay key role in IUCN assessment and publication of pictorial guide book of Nepal's trees.  
Involvement: RBGE was involved since the beginning of the project, including project concept, design, development, budgeting, and partnership building. RBGE has supported FA in developing the application and providing feedback and comments to the application.  
Capacity: Dr. Mark Watson (Editor-in-Chief, Flora of Nepal) and Dr. Bhaskar Adhikari have long-standing experience in collaborations with Nepalese botanists and working in Nepal. Mark has experience of leading earlier DI-funded projects in Nepal and Bhaskar has served as a project officer in the same project. Currently, RBGE is collaborating with FA to implement DI 26-022.

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**Allocated budget:** █████

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**3. Partner Name:** Kathmandu Forestry College (KAFCOL)

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**Website address:** [www.kafcol.edu.np](http://www.kafcol.edu.np)

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

Experience: KAFCOL carries out teaching and research on various issues of forest, forestry and Natural Resources Management (NRM). Graduate and senior undergraduate students and faculties are involved in research in various dimensions of NRM, including biodiversity, ecosystems and application of remote sensing and GIS.  
Roles and responsibility: KAFCOL will be providing research and technical support in sustainable forest management, including silvicultural and biodiversity conservation. KAFCOL will also provide training to forest officers and CFUG leaders on forest management and restoratio. KAFCOL will organise workshops and preare policy brief and communication materials on forest restoration. It will also provide technical support in agroforestry promotion.  
Involvement: KAFCOL was involved since the project design. Ambika Gautam, who has long experience of working with local communities and excellent rapport with the DFO officials, provided site level information and took active part in defining activities and methodologies.  
Capacity: Ambika Gautam served as District Forest Officer (DFO)- in Jhapa district in the 1990s during which the community forestry process was started in Jalthal area. Recently, he led the development of Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The faculties of KAFCOL has long-term engagement in forest management related research.

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**Allocated budget:** █████

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Federation of Community Forests User Groups Nepal (FECOFUN)

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**Website address:** Not available

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

Experience: FECOFUN has a long experience working with the government, non-governmental and civil society organizations in the forestry sector in Nepal. FECOFUN has a long experience in advocacy and campaigning for community rights over forest resources. It has partnered with ForestAction in several projects in the past. FECOFUN has worked in the project sites and supported in handing over the forest to the communities in the past.

Roles and responsibilities: FECOFUN will be supporting FA in implementing the project activities at the site level. FECOFUN will mobilise CFUGs and local people. FECOFUN will also coordinate with local governments and district level stakeholders in forest restoration and biodiversity conservation.

Involvement: Former chairperson of the district FECOFUN, Jhapa, Mr. Chhatra Paudel and current chair Mr Bed Prakash Bhandari has been facilitating meetings with the local communities, stakeholders and the DFO, since the initial phase of this proposal write up.

Capacity: All the 22 CFUGs selected for this project are members of the district FECOFUN. FECOFUN is housed with the institutional capacity for networking, coordinating and community mobilisation in this project.

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**Allocated budget:** 

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes

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

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

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**Allocated budget:** £0.00

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

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**Allocated budget:** £0.00

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**Represented on the Project Board**  Yes  
 No

---

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


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


No Response

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

 [Letter combined](#)

 01/02/2022

 12:54:20

 pdf 4.25 MB

## Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
26-022	Naya Sharma Paudel	Uprating Community Forest management in Nepal: enhancing biodiversity and livelihoods
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response

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

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

Yes

## Section 17 - Certification

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### Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

ForestAction Nepal





I apply for a grant of

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



(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

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

Checked

<b>Name</b>	Naya Sharma Paudel, PhD
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Executive coordinator
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">Naya Sharma Paudel</a>  31/01/2022  16:43:10  jpg 27.41 KB
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2022

**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**

 [Audit Report 2019-2021](#)  
 01/02/2022  
 12:03:25  
 pdf 4.68 MB

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

*No Response*

## Section 18 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial Guidance".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked

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

### We would like to keep in touch!

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

Checked

### Data protection and use of personal data

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

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