

Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

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

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

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

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

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	29-028
Project title	Linking science to management: restoring community forests in Nepal
Country/ies	Nepal
Lead Partner	ForestAction Nepal
Project partner(s)	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) UK, Kathmandu Forestry College (KAFCOL), Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
Darwin Initiative grant value	£ 340,867
Start/end dates of project	July 2022/March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	July 2022-April 2023/ Annual Report NO 1
Project Leader name	Dr. Naya Sharma Paudel
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/JalthalBiodiversity/ https://twitter.com/BiodiversityNep
Report author(s) and date	Lila Nath Sharma, Muna Bhattarai, Rabindra Pun Magar, Naya Sharma Paudel and Bhaskar Adhikari

1. Project summary

The project builds on results of earlier Darwin project (26-022) and has been implemented in Jalthal forest of Jhapa district in south eastern Nepal (Figure 1). Earlier work demonstrated that Jalthal is a high biodiversity moist tropical forest island with notable richness of tree flora. The forest has several species of rare and threatened plants. The forest is also an important habitat of threatened and protected fauna like Asiatic elephant (EN), Chinese Pangolin (CR) and Elongated tortoise (CR). The forest is an important livelihood resource for around 80,000 people living around the forest. However, the biodiversity rich forest is not adequately managed, the biodiversity is threatened and forest has been degraded. Forest biodiversity is threatened by invasive alien plant species, lack of awareness on biodiversity, high pressure of biomass

extraction, improper development work and human elephant conflict (Sharma et al 2021)¹. Previous project has prepared a scientific foundation for concrete action.

The project aims to restore degraded forest and conserve biodiversity through evidence-based forest management and capacity enhancement of stakeholders engaged in forest management. Project primarily works with local communities who are users and custodians of forest biodiversity. Project activities are designed to benefit both local people and the forest. Project interventions include direct actions on forest management and livelihoods improvement, capacity building, evidence generation and policy engagement. Among other, invasive species management and conservation of rare and threatened trees of Jalthal are priority actions of the project. Project supports livelihood improvement of forest dependent poor people through agroforestry interventions, compost production and goat farming.

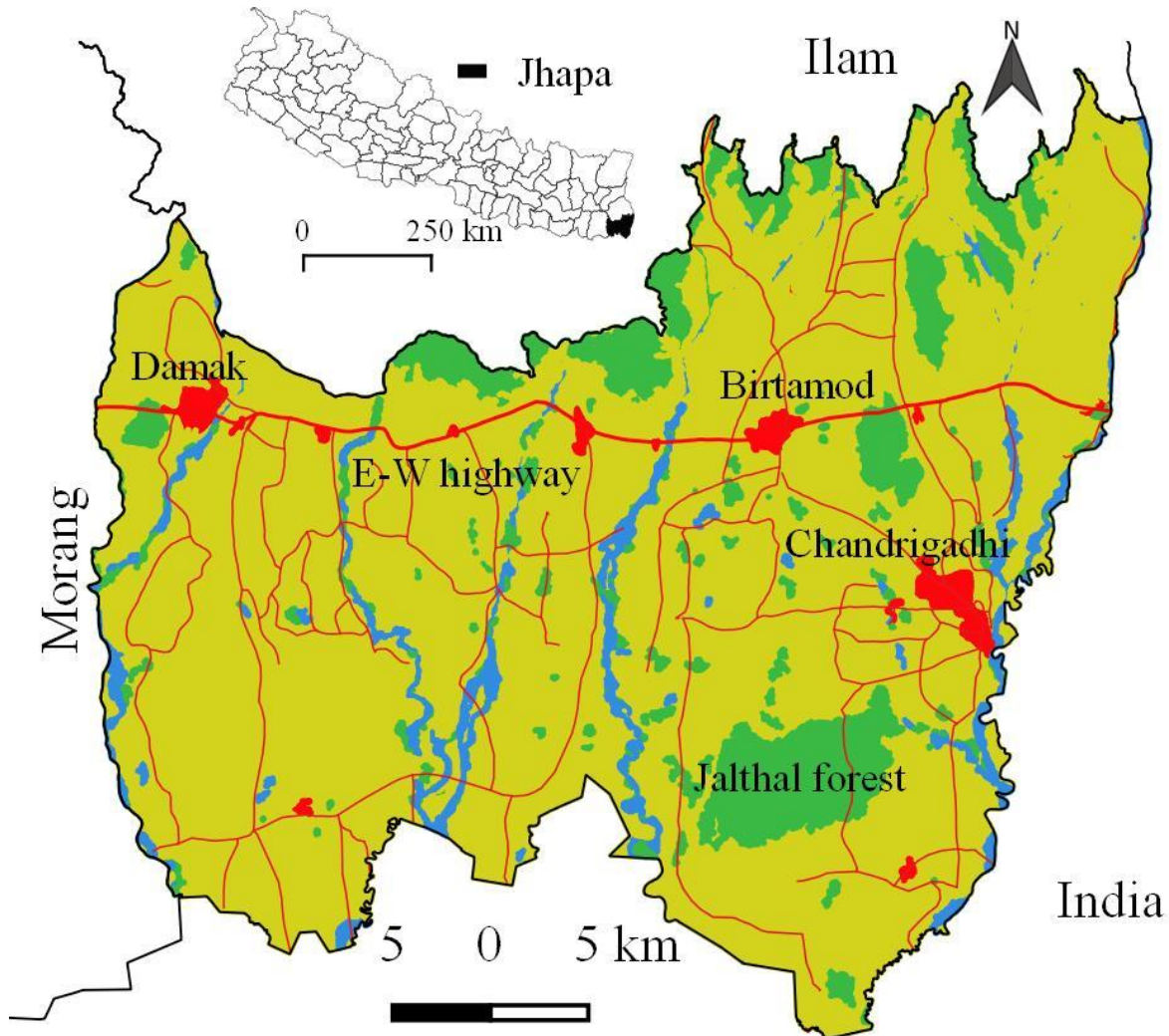


Figure 1: Location map of project district and site (Jalthal forest)

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

This is ForestAction Nepal (FAN)- a non for profit organisation established by Nepali professional in 2002, led project. Kathmandu Forestry College (KAFCOL), Federation of Community Forest User Groups Nepal (FECOFUN) and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) are project partners. The project partnership was developed from earlier joint works including Darwin Project. ForestAction Nepal and FECOFUN are working on various issues of forest management and governance since long. Similarly, FAN has been collaborating with RBGE since 2016. Partners' role in this project has been allocated based on the expertise and capacities.

¹ <https://forestation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Sharma-et-al.pdf>

Project planning and implementation is collaborative among partners. There have been meetings and regular communications among project partners and activities are organised jointly wherever possible.

Project has been collaborating with other stakeholders, mainly the local governments and Division Forest Office (DFO) and Ministry of Forest of Koshi Province government (Doc 01). Project approaches and activities have been shared among these stakeholders.

Project is also working with relevant experts outside the project, for example, nursery trainers, compost trainers and subject experts/panellist in youth training were all from outside the project team. Project has worked with diverse stakeholders, from farmers and subject specialist depending on the nature of the activity (Doc 26).

3. Project progress

Project has made satisfactory progress during the last nine months of establishment. Staff arrangement, project approval from relevant authorities, stakeholder consultations were conducted as preparatory works. As this project is implemented in the earlier Darwin project, project start was smooth. Below we have presented the progress in activities and results.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

In the year 1 of the project implementation several activities were organised across all four outputs. Activities against each output has been presented below and number (Bold face) in the parenthesis indicates activity number in the projects logical framework which is followed by supporting documents. Only activities related/planned to this year are reported.

Output 1: *Forest ecosystem restored and biodiversity conserved in Jalthal community forests:* Project inception meeting was organised on September 09, 2022 in Triveni CF, a project site, which was attended by about 100 people from various stakeholders (1.1, Doc 02). Participatory mapping for restoration was conducted in Kamaldhap Rampokhari and Bishal CF (1.2, Doc 03, 04), and a restoration plan has been prepared (2.2, Doc 04). Several forest transect walks and meetings with CFUGs, forest patrol teams and local people have been organised which involved over 100 local people (1.3, Doc 08, 01). A three-day hands-on practice was organised in Jalthal on 1 to 3 February 2023, which was participated by 22 people (1.4, Doc-06). Eco clubs were formed in five schools around Jalthal in January 2022 (1.6, Doc 07). Bamboo and elephant apples have been planted in Bishal CF in July-August 2022(1.7, Doc 08). Wetlands restoration has been initiated in Kamaldhap Rampokhari and Bishal CFs (1.8, Doc 08).

Output 2: *CFUGs, local governments and stakeholders take strong policy and operational measures to control existing and newly reported invasive alien species:* CFUGS have organised Mikania removal activities with clearing of over 50 hectares of invaded forest (2.1, Doc 09). Distribution map of Mimosa diplotricha has been prepared and the map is based on the survey conducted in potential habitats. Similarly, livestock loss data collection has been initiated (2.2, Doc 10). We have organised an awareness campaign in four municipalities around Jalthal forest (2.3, Doc 11). In a wider public participation, we have removed Mimosa diplotricha from 143 points which was mainly at the newly gravelled/constructed roads (2.4, Doc 11). One province level meeting was organised on March 10, 2023 which was attended by secretary, senior officials and other stakeholders of the ministry of forest (2.7, Doc 12).

Output 3: *Income and employment of forest-dependent people increased through better management of land and bioresources:* Several meetings were organised with CFUGs and local people to initiate forest-based enterprise that support in forest restoration (3.1, Doc 01, 08). Preparation has been done, CFUGs, sites and interested individuals have been identified for agroforestry intervention (3.2, Doc 08). Monitoring of sapling growth has been done in bush cleaning areas (3.3, Doc 11). Production of compost manure has been started in three CFUGs where already some products have been harvested (3.4, Doc 08, 13a, b). Fodder trees have been identified through users' workshop (3.5, Doc 15, 16). Goat keeping women groups have been supported in Bishal and Abhimukteswor CFs which will benefit 65 poor women (3.6, Doc 17)

Output 4: *Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and sub-national policy framework through active stakeholder engagement and evidence informed policy making:* Rare trees of Jalthal have been identified (4.1, Doc 18) and population survey of one of the selected species have been started (4.1, Doc19). Nursery assessment has been initiated by Kathmandu Forestry College and it takes some time to complete (4.2, Doc 20). A communication

material has been developed about propagation management of rare and threatened trees, it will form a basis of book/manual on propagation management (4.3, Doc 18). An article has been published in national daily published from eastern Nepal (4.4, Doc 21). A week-long leadership training was organised in February 2023 (4.5, Doc 26).

3.2 Progress towards the project outputs

Projects activities organised during the implementation period have given some results while other are likely to deliver some results in later part of the project life. As far as possible supporting documents have been prepared. In the parenthesis, Indicators are followed by supporting documents.

Output 1: Forest ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation: Project activities planned for the reporting period have been organised and these activities contribute towards this output. We have initiated planned forest restoration in two CFs in local leadership. For forest restoration, planning workshops, field-based restoration plans, bush cleaning (in 55 hectare) and natural regeneration protection (5500 saplings) have been carried out (1.1, 1.2, Doc 01, 03, 04, 11, 15, 16) in an integrated manner. Similarly, nursery training focussing on rare/threatened species has been provided to 23 people and a conservation nursery has been started to propagate and disseminate rare and threatened tree species (1.3, Doc 06, 23). Fodder species (Bamboo and elephant apple- 1500 seedlings) have been planted; it will be helpful in improving elephant habitats in the forest as well (1.5, Doc 08). Similarly, two wetlands, important for conservation, have been improved (1.5, Doc 08).

Output 2: Invasive species management/control: Project has made its good reputation for invasive species management. *Mikania micrantha* and other invasive species have been removed in over 55 hectare of degraded forest in 12 CFs (2.1, Doc 09, 01). Newly reported invasive species *Mimosa diplotricha* has been mapped in potential areas, and a distribution map has been published and shared with relevant stakeholders (2.2, Doc 10, 01). Early detection and rapid response have been taken to contain the weed through awareness and local stakeholders' capacity building (2.2, Doc 11). CFUGs are promoting natural regeneration in their forest management activities. So far 5500 native seedlings/saplings of over 50 species have been protected (2.3, Doc 01, 08, 09).

Output 3: Income and employment: Project has just passed nine months. Outputs related to income require some time. Compost production has already made a notable progress with over 15 metric tons of compost (3.2, Doc 13) produced. Fodder species have been planted in two CFs to increase fodder availability. Over 1400 fodder seedlings have been planted (3.3, Doc 08). We have initiated activities and prepared foundation of income generation for poor forest-dependent women. 65 poor women in two CFS are supported with mother goat for income generation (3.5, Doc 17). They will start getting return within a year. Agroforestry has been initiated in three CFs which will benefit local poor (3.4, Doc 08, 01)

Output 4: Mainstreaming forest restoration: Population assessment of *Cycas pectinata*-one of the IUCN red listed species (VU), has been completed. This process also trained a research intern (4.1, Doc 19). Assessment of Nursery has been started but result is yet to achieve (4.2, Doc 20). Protocol for propagation is not available for rare species. Project is undertaking experiments, results of the experiments are crucial for the protocol development (4.3, Doc 10, 20, 23). We have prepared a guiding document for conservation of rare and threatened species and has been published (4.4, Doc 18). An article about conservation significance of Jalthal forest has been published to inform policy makers (Doc 21). Tree data collection continues which will be used to publish tree guidebook (4.8, Doc 01). First cohort of youth leadership training completed and participant reported it as wonderful program. This was very powerful to develop leadership through deep and clear understanding about various issues around development, environment and conservation (4.5, Doc 26).

3.3 Progress towards the project outcome

Outcome statement: *Forests restored and biodiversity conserved with substantive livelihood benefits through concrete initiatives in Jalthal forest*

Project activities organised and results so far achieved, indicate that the project is in right track towards the project outcomes. Project has prioritised restoration of degraded forest and biodiversity conservation. Restoration plans have been prepared in collaboration with local and

other stakeholders (Doc 03, 04, 15, 16, 27). Project approach of integrated management of bioresources has already formed a sustainable model of forest restoration and income generation to forest dependent poor people (Doc 27). Building on previous Darwin project results, project has started concrete actions to conserve rare and threatened trees of Jalthal forest (Doc 18). This will be an important contribution towards biodiversity conservation in longer run. Project has designed activities-agroforestry, compost production and goat keeping to support income generation of forest-dependent poor. Native fodder species in degraded forest will in turn help in restoring forest and support in goat keeping while offsetting biomass pressure in forest. Project indicators are suitable to assess the progress towards outcome. Based on the progress of first nine months activities, project is, we believe, very likely to secure the outcomes.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Nepal's planned election for federal, provincial and local government will be conducted in peaceful manner and in time.

Comments: Planned election took place in all three level of government. It was peaceful and as planned. It did not have major impacts on project activities.

Assumption 2: Current legal framework of forest management and tenure arrangement of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) will remain the same.

Comments: Yes there has not been any major shift in the tenure arrangement. Any change would impact project outcomes.

Assumptions 3: Human-elephant conflict will remain at present level and will not exacerbate further.

Comments: Human wildlife conflicts increased compared to the project development period. We are updated with the field situation. We are trying to keep our staff and field workers safe. We have communicated this to Darwin (Doc 28). This changed situation has some impacts on our activities and timing. We need to see how it develops in the future.

Assumption 4: Local government and federal government support organic farming and current targets of increasing soil organic matter to 4%.

Comments: Although government has policy of increasing soil organic matter but there lack solid programs towards it. Recently, local governments have committed in supporting organic manure production in Jalthal area (Doc 29).

Assumption 5: Local government understand the threat and severity of invasive species.

Comment: Through series of interactions and meetings, project has developed an awareness about invasive species among local governments of project sites (Doc 29)

Assumption 6: Federal government works towards commitment of controlling invasive species as envisioned by Nepal biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Comments: There is policy of supporting invasive species control but there lacks a concrete action by the governments. Recently, policy level officials at the Ministry of Forest has committed towards specific programs for invasive species management (Doc 12).

Assumption 7: Community forest secure extra resources through local governments (specially Prime Minister employment programme) for invasive species control program.

Comments: Local governments have assured us about supporting invasive species control. Hopefully, it will be incorporated in coming fiscal arrangements (Doc 29).

Assumption 8: Community forest user groups invest portion of their income in poverty reduction as provisioned by the Forest Act 2019.

Comment: There is mixed response. Some CFs are seriously working while others need to invest more. In addition, the regulating body (DFO) also needs to monitor CFs investment in forest management.

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

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

Project's approach of participatory restoration planning and implementation, and data-informed forest management is expected to have long term and wider impact. Project's approaches are not only scientific but also cost-effective and locally adaptive. Field interventions are interlinked so that one activity reinforces other activity (Doc 27). Project is working to address biodiversity loss (Doc 18), manage invasive species (Doc 09) and restore degraded forest (Doc 15, 16). These activities are now have been realised by CFUGs as their regular job. Project has combined both field level actions and policy level engagement to assure sustainability of project activities. Top bureaucrats and elected representatives of local governments have committed towards addressing biodiversity challenges, which helps making project interventions sustainable and impactful.

Project is designed to address the pertinent biodiversity challenges, restore degraded forest and improve livelihood of forest-dependent poor people through capacity building and stakeholder engagement. Projects activities are grounded and informed by fine scale data. These all things together will contribute to the delivery of results that, in the long run, will have a wider impact on reducing ecological and social vulnerabilities.

4. Project support to the conventions, treaties or agreements

The outputs and outcomes are expected to contribute to multiple national policies and multilateral environmental agreements, including several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Some of the outputs contribute to more than one policy.

First of all, the project broadly aims to restore the degraded Jalthal forest and conserve its biodiversity, directly contributing to the UN Decade of Restoration (2021-2030), a major international initiative of this decade. Similarly, project activities on restoration of degraded forest are very well aligned with Target 2 of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Goal A and B of Kunming-Montreal Global Goals for 2050.

Projects' output includes substantial control in Invasive Alien Species (IAS) infestation, promotion of the growth of native species (and discouraging 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 outputs will collectively contribute to the CBD Goals (A-D) and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (more specifically targets-2, 3, 4, 5, 6). Management of invasive species (prevention, Control and eradication) will specifically contribute towards CBD Article 8(h) and Post 2020 Biodiversity framework, target 6.

Jalthal forest is managed natural biodiversity rich forest, which represents CBD's Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and conservation in OECMs is an important goal of GBF.

Project activities include local-level planning and capacity building for forest restoration, which is also a priority action envisioned by the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2014-2020).

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 serve to achieve strategic goals, particularly Goal 3 target 12 and 13 of the fourth Ramsar strategic plans of 2016-2024².

5. Project support to poverty reduction

Rural poverty is a biodiversity challenge. Project has activities that will benefit local people while conserving biodiversity. Some of the project's activities will directly contribute to poverty reduction, while others indirectly support the livelihood improvement of poor and disadvantaged groups of people. It may take some time (may be end of next year) to demonstrate outputs of poverty reduction. Here we present what have been done towards poverty reduction.

- Project activities like bush cleaning, wetland restoration requires labour. Project employes local poor in these activities and it's a source of income for local poor people (Doc 09).
- Project has distributed goats to 65 forest-dependent poor households. Goats are important source of cash income in poor households (Doc 17).
- Project has initiated agroforestry in three CFs (Doc 08) and local people will be benefited from agroforestry.
- Project has initiated compost production, CFUGs will benefit by use of and selling of compost (Doc 13 a, b).
- Project will work to restore the degraded forest. Invasive species control has been started in 65 hectare area of the forest (Doc 09). Invasive species control, biodiversity conservation and forest restoration will eventually enhance access and availability of ecosystem services. This will benefit forest-dependent poor who visit forest on day to day basis for ecosystem services.
- Projects will demonstrate models of integrating forest restoration and livelihood benefit through integrated site management, which can be scaled out for wider ecological and social benefits.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ³ .	30
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 ⁴ .	0.3

ForestAction Nepal considers gender and social inclusion in all our activities. We have written policy for Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Policy-GEDSI (Doc-30). We support in women leadership and support to income generation of poor and disadvantaged group of people. Following are some points which demonstrate our commitment in actions.

- Fair and transparent recruitment of staff: We have four full time staffs in the project. Among them two are female. Our field officer Mrs Muna Bhattarai-who leads field activities, is female. Our social mobiliser Lalita Rajbanshi is female and comes from

² Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2016. The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024. Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands, 5th edition, vol. 2. Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

indigenous community. Our Forest ranger, Mr Rabindra Pun Magar and Nursery staff, Mr Nayendra Kandgwanwa, both are from indigenous community.

- We consider women's issues in project meetings and activities. Given the household responsibilities of women we organise our meetings are trainings during the day. To participate women, we try to finish our program well before 16:00 O'clock.
- Women have low economic resources and less access to sources of income. To improve this we promote women in income generating activities. We have provided 65 mother goats to poor women. This will start generating income within six months.
- We encourage 40 percent women participation in our trainings and other activities.
- We support women and girls in leadership. In the environmental leadership training, among 23, 15 participants were girls.
- As part of capacity building, we are employing students as interns. Our two interns are girls.
- ForestAction regularly organises activities to promote women leadership.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

- ❖ ForestAction Nepal and this project does not have separate team for project monitoring and evaluation. However, we do monitoring of project activities and progress. Monitoring of the project against the set targets is the responsibility of the lead organisation i.e., 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. Monitoring will be done by the project leader, CoPI from KAFCOL Dr. Ambika P. Gautam and RBGE researcher Dr. Bhaskar Adhikari. Project manager will report to PI and CoPI and he will be responsible to implement the day-to-day activities.
- ❖ Initial data and photographs have been taken that will be used to demonstrate changes caused by project interventions.
- ❖ Project activities are shared in board and staff meetings of ForestAction Nepal, which is also a place to discuss about project targets and outputs.
- ❖ To monitor the field activities, ForestAction Nepal has formed a project management committee, which regularly monitors project activities. In every six month, project team needs to update the project's progress at internal meetings of FA. We also need to update progress to Social Welfare Council (SWC) and local government. For accounting administrative purpose in ForestAction, we need to present brief report about achievement after each fieldwork. We conduct activities according to our project timeline. In the beginning of year 2, a reflection on year 1 will be done and planning for year 2 will be done by involving all project partners and stakeholders at local level. These arrangements help us monitoring project activities and outputs.
- ❖ Field staff meeting is regular in project site office. This is also a way to monitor the project activities.

8. Lessons learnt

We have some achievements and some lessons from the project managements. Following are key lessons.

- *Mimosa diplotricha* is recently reported invasive species in Nepal and the species arrived in the project area just two year ago. We have organised early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to control new invasive species in Nepal i.e., *Mimosa diplotricha*. This is probably the first of its kind in Nepal. We got a very good response and result from the campaign. we ill elaborate on this and next year. Nepal has yet to develop an EDRR framework.
- Projects interventions are based on forest data generated from our own survey; this developed our confidence in project implementation.
- Community forests interventions are short-term, discrete and sporadic. To bring them within a framework of forest restoration it takes time. We need some more effort in developing institutional capacity including institutional memory.

- Regular dialogue with local government and data-informed interventions attracted local governments attention. In addition, data on various specific aspects of forest biodiversity has helped in making a good profile of the project.
- In the agroforestry interventions and compost productions, local people were very concerned about the market of the product. We will also need to work further to secure market of surplus products.
- We have organised a week long environmental leadership training to students of bachelor and master level. We got an overwhelming and inspiring comments from the training participants. They found it very rewarding and fruitful. We are thinking of increasing number of such trainings to reach to more people. We will work more for regular follow up and support.
- We are trying to propagate rare and threatened tree species in our nursery facility. Protocol for those species is not available. We have both success and failure in the new nursery. We need more trail and careful interventions where we have failed. For example, *Baccaurea rammiflora*-It is a very rare tree in Nepal, its local seed source is not easy so we tried stem cutting, which did not work in first attempt).
- Restoring forest that is actively used is complex than we have thought. Local people depend on forest mainly for firewood and fodder. Saplings and seedlings rescued from the IAPS management interventions are likely to be lopped by fodder collectors. We have to aware the users about the impacts of such destructive activities and find solutions to reduce pressure on forest. We have already changed our plans and increased effort in training forest patrol team and forest users.

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

We received some feedbacks and concerns during the application stage. Questions were regarding the institutional strengthening, sustainability of the interventions and basis for income generation through project interventions.

In order to strengthen project intervention, the project has been working with diverse stakeholders. It has also invested in local and national level leadership development. There will be some loose network of 22 CFUGs that will be working to coordinate activities going into the sites. Local stakeholders agree to form such network and we already have some progress towards this. The network will be a forum to discuss about the conservation and development. Poverty related issues have been included in section 5.

10. Risk Management

Yes, the project has faced some risks which had some impact on project implementation. These risks have been registered in the risk register. Human-elephant conflict increased during September 2022 to January 2023. This has affected our staff's mobility and we had to change mobility and increased invigilence. Some of the risks were related with misunderstanding with members of local communities and minor accidents/injuries in the field.

We are thinking of making some adjustment in the way we pay to project partners and local communities. This is to ensure that the project money is governed in right way. Right now we do not have details of this, we will share with Darwin Initiative any development.

We have prepared and started updating the risk register.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Our project approach, methodologies and activities are still relevant to project outputs and outcomes. We have not changed the design of the project, and we do not have plans for it in near future. However, we will adjust activities depending on the lessons learnt as indicated in section 8.

12. Sustainability and legacy

This project builds on previous Darwin Project (26-022). Previous project has done a notable job in terms of scientific documentation of the project and piloting of forest management and biodiversity conservation related activities. The project also made a notable achievements in

terms of preparation and dissemination of awareness and communication materials in Nepali language. Building on a local and national recognition of previous project, this project has several advantages. Since the beginning, this project has a good profile and got a warm reception (Doc 02, Doc 29). Project has organised interactions with local governments and province governments (Doc 02, Doc 29) where governments have shown interest in project activities and are willing to support some interventions. Previously there were not any programs of local government to support CFUGs but now they are planning to support.

Project's low cost, effective and localised approaches in forest restoration and biodiversity conservation will be adapted by stakeholders even after the project completion. Project is working to form a network of 22 CFUGs. We will train and support the network; The network will be coordinating future development in the project site. In addition, project is working with the key and local stakeholders of forest management, i. e. CFUGs. As our activities are carried out by CFUGs, we believe, project activities, will survive. Project has prepared scientific foundations to tackle the biodiversity challenges and invested in local capacity building, which will also be the basis for the continuation of project's legacy.

Projects major activities-forest restoration, invasive species management and agroforestry are now part of CFUGs regular plan. This is a basis for project's legacy beyond project life.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

Project, ForestAction and partners have acknowledged Darwin Initiative in different ways. Following are few examples.

1. This is a standalone project funded by Darwin Initiative, UK and the project has clear aim and objectives. This information has been maintained throughout all our activities. Researchers especially botanists, ecologists and wildlife biologist, stakeholders related to forest and invasive species, CFUG leaders and local governments are aware of the project and its source of funding. Local journalists are also aware of the project and DI.
2. We have prepared detail account of the project in Nepali language to inform local people about the project (Doc 25). We have clearly mentioned that this project is funded by DI, UK. This document is circulated in project area and to relevant stakeholders in different parts of the country. Similarly, we have prepared the project approach for conserving rare and threatened plant species (Doc18). We have used Darwin Initiative logo in all the public documents and awareness raising materials.
3. We have mentioned DI in all formal communications, for example, invitation letters to the participants, guests, etc. In all the program banners, we have used the Darwin logo.
4. We have informed authorities (federal government and local governments) about the funding source i.e., Darwin Initiative. In a presentation in Kathmandu, we had opportunity to explain DI's funding areas while responding a government officers' questions about the nature of funding of DI.
5. In all the presentations made by project staffs DI logo has been used in the cover (front) page of presentation. We have presented about various aspects of the project with federal, provincial and local governments.
6. Projects Facebook account is popular in project locality; we have mentioned about DI in the page. Projects twitter account now has been linked with Darwin Initiatives twitter handle. We mention DI in each tweet.

14. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes (Doc-31)
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	Yes
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes [Rahul Karki: XXXXXXXXXX]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	NO

What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 50 % [6] Planned:50 % [6]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. Yes: We have some plans for social and environmental safeguards. Human elephant conflict is a growing challenge in the project site. We will be organising a program to minimize human elephant conflict. Awareness program, sharing of information about elephant movement and stakeholder dialogues will be organised. Similarly, we will be organising program to minimise impacts on native vegetation in our agroforestry interventions and bush cleaning activities.	

15. Project expenditure

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

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	101673	99736.3		

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin Initiative?

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

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

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

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

Comments: We have materials to share. However, we will share such materials later.

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

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact		Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation has been initiated through integrated management of degraded forest, local scale planning and capacity enhancement (Doc 03, 04, 18, 27) These interventions will eventually enhance resilience of both ecological and social systems	
Outcome Forests restored and biodiversity conserved with substantive livelihood benefits through concrete initiatives in Jalthal forest	<p>0.1 Over 5000 people of 22 CFUGs from Jalthal directly benefited by end of the project from capacity building trainings, agroforestry, fodder orchards, goat farming, compost production and temporary job opportunities created by the project</p> <p>0.2 Plans for restoration of degraded forest patches prepared and implemented in five CFUGs by end of year 2.</p> <p>03. IAS fully controlled in 500 hectare forest with 25,000 saplings of native species protected</p> <p>04. Forest carbon stock doubled (as of baseline of previous project) in selected degraded patches (ca. 100ha), by end of the project.</p> <p>05. Population of saplings of threatened and rare trees doubled in Jalthal forest by end of year 3</p> <p>06. Compost production method (decomposition time) improved with 100 metric tons of compost produced using invasive species biomass by end of year 3.</p> <p>07. A sustainable model of agroforestry approach of forest restoration and invasive species management developed and scaled out by end of year 2</p> <p>08. A new generation of conservation leaders (n=300) developed through capacity building packages by end of year 2.</p> <p>09. A Jalthal Biodiversity Resource Centre established and functional which also provides a platform for networking of 22 CFUGs of the area</p> <p>010. Forest regulations and Guidelines becomes more clear and concrete on forest restoration and biodiversity conservation in CF</p>	<p>0.1. Over 2000 people have already connected with project in bush removal, restoration plans, trainings and goat keeping (Doc 01, 08)</p> <p>0.2. Restoration plans have been prepared in two CFs through series of meetings and planning workshop (Doc 03, 04, 15, 16)</p> <p>0.3. Invasive species control has been started; so far over 50 hectare has already been cleared (Doc 09)</p> <p>0.4. Baseline data collected but yet to analyse</p> <p>0.5. Population assessment has been started with <i>Cycas pectinata</i> (VU) (Doc19)</p> <p>0.6. Compost experiment to demonstrate locals has started and so far over 15 metric tons of compost produced (Doc 13 a, b)</p> <p>0.7. We have initiated integrated site management with strong agroforestry component, this will be fully (Doc 27) implemented during the project (Doc 25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Invasive species cleaning as a campaign</i> ➤ <i>Natural regeneration protection</i> ➤ <i>Preparation of restoration plans</i> ➤ <i>Agroforestry support</i> ➤ <i>Compost production continued</i> ➤ <i>Capacity development of youths and CFUG leaders</i> ➤ <i>Rare tree propagation and dissemination</i> ➤ <i>Wetlands and forest habitats improvement</i> ➤ <i>Data management and communication materials preparation</i>

	011. Scientific assessments and other data are analysed, synthesised, published and communicated to academic and policy actors (books-2, policy brief-1, journal articles-2) by end of year 3.		
Output 1. Forest ecosystem restored and biodiversity conserved in Jalthal community forests	<p>1.1 Forest restoration plans developed and integrated in the regular CFOPs, and implemented in five most degraded community forests by end of year 2</p> <p>1.2 Natural regeneration promoted against plantation of exotic species (the approach piloted by previous project), more than 25,000 saplings rescued and protected in degraded patches by end of year 3</p> <p>1.3 Density of threatened and prioritised (for conservation by previous project) species increased at sapling layers by 50% across Jalthal forest by end of the project (as of baseline of previous project).</p> <p>1.4 Forest carbon stock doubled in selected degraded patches (ca.100ha) by end of year 3.</p> <p>1.5 Wildlife habitat improved through forest fringe plantation (5 ha) and waterholes (n=5) restored by end of year 3</p> <p>1.6 Conservation Strategy for core areas and biodiversity hotspots prepared and adopted by end of year 2.</p> <p>1.7 Hunting of critically endangered species minimized in Jalthal forest</p>	<p>1.1 Restoration plans for two degraded community forests has been prepared and started implementing, and remaining three will be developed this year (Doc 3, 4, 16, 16)</p> <p>1.2 Natural regeneration protection has been prioritised over plantation and so far, 5500 saplings have been protected in bush cleaned areas (Doc 09)</p> <p>1.3 Preparatory works have been done but actual results are still to come</p> <p>1.4 Baseline data collected and will be processed further</p> <p>1.5 Fodder plantation started targeting elephant and wildlife, and so far, 1400 seedlings planted and two wetlands have been improved (Doc 08)</p> <p>1.6 For Y2</p> <p>1.7 For Y2</p>	
Activity 1.1 Organize project inception (n=1), annual review (n=3), planning (n=10) and exit/sharing (n=1) meetings/workshops engaging relevant stakeholders		Inception meeting was held on 9 September, 2023 in project site (Doc 02, 01)	Review and planning meetings will be organised
Activity 1.2 Conduct participatory mapping to identify most degraded forest patches, prepare restoration plans for these sites and their core zones with respective CFUGs.		Completed in two CFs and three CFs remaining (Doc 03, 04)	Restoration plan preparation continues
Activity 1.3 Train CFUG leaders and forest patrolling team to rescue, protect and nurture natural regeneration of trees		Organised several forest transect walks with CF leaders (Doc 01)	Same activity will be continued
Activity 1.4 Support CFUGs and train forest patrolling team to propagate, plant, protect and monitor rare and threatened plant species		This issue was covered in the nursery training (Doc 06)	More training will be organised for more people
Activity 1.5 Organise workshops on challenges of wildlife hunting and strategies to minimize it, with local and indigenous community leaders and stakeholders		No progress	Events will be organised
Activity 1.6 Support secondary schools around Jalthal in establishing eco-clubs and provide awareness training and materials		Eco clubs have been established in five schools (Doc 07)	Events will be organised in these clubs and more will be formed

Activity 1.7 Plant bamboo culms and elephant apples in forest fringes (total 5 hectare)		Plantation conducted (Doc 08)	More plantation in monsoon season this year
Activity 1.8 Support and sensitise to improve habitats and wetland management in community forests		Two wetlands improved in the forest (Doc 08)	More will be done this year
Activity 1.9 Train CFUG leaders in Jalthal to protect key structural features of Jalthal biodiversity.			Events will be organised in this year
Output 2 CFUGs, local governments and stakeholders take strong policy and operational measures to control existing and newly reported invasive alien species	<p>2.1 500ha of forest cleared from <i>Mikania micrantha</i> through expansion of previous piloting.</p> <p>2.2 Recently reported IAS (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>) monitored and eliminated in newly constructed roads and sand heaps (over 500 locations around Jalthal and its potential risks communicated widely by end of year 1</p> <p>2.3 'Natural regeneration rescue' method will be published and widely disseminated as a new technological innovation to control invasive species by year 1</p> <p>2.4 A report on comparative analysis of different methods of IAS management piloted in Jalthal prepared and disseminated by end of year 1.</p>	<p>2.1 Invasive species removal has been started in 50 hectare of the forest (Doc 09)</p> <p>2.2 <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> mapping done (Doc 10), and removal organised in 143 locations around Jalthal forest (Doc 11)</p> <p>2.3 Natural regeneration has been initiated and so far 5500 saplings/seedlings have been recovered from <i>Mikania</i> invasion (09)</p> <p>2.4. Experiments have been initiated, data will be analysed and published next year</p>	
Activity 2.1. Support CFUGs to remove <i>Mikania</i> in invaded area, monitor the changes and protect natural regeneration		Planned bush cleaning started and removed in 55 hectare (Doc 09)	This will be expanded and continued
Activity 2.2. Carryout spatial mapping and monitoring of the newly reported IAS (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>) in Nepal and assess its expansion and impacts, especially livestock loss		Mapping of the species conducted and the most updated distribution map has been prepared (Doc 10)	Conduct assessment of loss caused by the species
Activity 2.3. Train CFUGs and stakeholders on the management of <i>Mimosa</i> , and develop the reporting mechanism of any further new introductions		A campaign cum training was organised which reached above 700 people (Doc 11)	Will be continued in new locations
Activity 2.4. Eliminate <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> in newly constructed roads and sand heaps (over 500 locations around Jalthal) and assess potential risks and communicate widely		A campaign was organised which removed the weed in nearly 150 locations (Doc 11)	Removal campaign will be continued
Activity 2.5. Conduct comparative analysis of different methods of IAS management piloted in Jalthal		Experiments have been organised	Analysis and publication will be completed
Activity 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			

Activity 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		A meeting was organised to share the results and seek provincial ministry support (Doc12)	Another workshop will be organised in this year
Output 3. Income and employment of forest dependent people increased through better management of land and bio resources	3.1 Income of poor households (n=300) increased by 20% (as per the baseline of project start) by the end of the project. 3.2 A total of 100 metric tons of compost produced in four community forests with an income of 1.5 million rupees by end of year 3. 3.3. Fodder orchard developed in 5ha through plantation of native species (n=5000) by end of year 2. 3.4 Fodder orchards developed in 500 farms through plantation of native species (n=10,000) by end of year 3. 4.5 200 poor women benefited from goat keeping schemes by end of year 3, and 100 more women will be benefited from agroforestry.	3.1 Foundation has been prepared towards income generation through agroforestry, goat keeping and compost (Doc 17, 13, 08, 01) 3.2. Compost production initiated and 15 metric ton has already been produced 3.2. Fodder plantation organised in two CFs with 1400 seedlings (Doc 08) 3.3. It will be started in this year, due to seasonality of the work 3.4. Mother goat has been distributed to 65 households (Doc 17)	
Activity 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.		Over a dozen meetings were organised with CFUGs to plan for agroforestry (Doc 01, 08).	Agroforestry will be expanded and progress will be monitored
Activity 3.2 Support targeted households to undertake agroforestry activities (e.g. Turmeric and Ginger)		Agroforestry has been initiated in three CFs (Doc 08, 01)	Expansion of agroforestry will be continued
Activity 3.3 Conduct participatory monitoring to ensure sapling protection and growth in agroforestry sites		Natural regeneration protection and bush removal organised in 12 CFs (Doc 09)	Sapling protection will be continued
Activity 3.4 Support CFUGs in establishing compost production facilities, and explore its multi-purpose use (domestic and commercial)		Compost production initiated in three CFs (Doc 13)	Same activity will be continued
Activity 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		Fodder species have been identified through restoration workshop (Doc 15, 16)	Fodder trees will be cultivated and nurtured
Output 4. Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and sub-national policy framework through active stakeholder engagement and evidence	4.1 Comprehensive assessment of population structure of 5 rare and globally threatened tree species conducted using two stage adaptive cluster sampling (species identified as so by previous project) by end of year 1 4.2 Gap analysis of government policies and programs on conservation of rare and endangered species (including nurseries, training curriculum) conducted and communicated to stakeholders by end of year 1. 4.3 A bilingual manual for propagation management for Nepal's rare and threatened tree species (n=20) prepared and distributed by end of year 3.	4.1 Population analysis of <i>Cycas pectinanta</i> has completed (Doc 19); its analysis and remaining species will be conducted in this year. 4.2. This assessment started but need some time to complete (Doc 20). 4.3. A guiding framework has been prepared (Doc 18) and experiment is being conducted in nursery (Doc 23) which will form basis for the planned publications. 4.4 One newspaper article published (Doc 21) 4.5. 22 Youths were provided with youth leadership training (Doc 26).	

<p>informed policy making</p>	<p>4.4 Five newspaper articles on biodiversity conservation (including rare and threatened plant species) published by end of year 2</p> <p>4.5 75 local youths (in three batches) from eastern Nepal selected and provided with conservation leadership training by end of year 2</p> <p>4.6 An institutional arrangement to coordinate among 22 CFUGs in Jalthal forest established by end of year 2</p> <p>4.7 A policy brief highlighting gaps in policies and barriers in actions for forest restoration published by end of year 2</p> <p>4.8 A pictorial guidebook on conservation status of 150 tree species of Nepal prepared and published by end of year 2</p> <p>4.9 Two journal articles on IAS management and status of threatened species published</p>	<p>4.6 Consultation and meetings have been organised but no concrete progress has been made.</p> <p>4.7. Year 2 activity.</p> <p>4.8. Field data (Photographs as well) collection and literature reviews have been conducted, which will form the basis for guidebook publication.</p> <p>4.9 Target towards the end of the project</p>
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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
Impact: Resilience of forest increased, socio-ecological vulnerabilities reduced with restored forest, enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services through better land management (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Forests restored and biodiversity conserved with substantive livelihood benefits through concrete initiatives in Jalthal forest	0.1 Over 5000 people of 22 CFUGs from Jalthal directly benefited by end of the project from capacity building trainings, agroforestry, fodder orchards, goat farming, compost production and temporary job opportunities created by the project 0.2 Plans for restoration of degraded forest patches prepared and implemented in five CFUGs by end of year 2. 03. IAS fully controlled in 500 hectare forest with 25,000 saplings of native species protected 04. Forest carbon stock doubled (as of baseline of previous project) in selected degraded patches (ca. 100ha), by end of the project. 05. Population of saplings of threatened and rare trees doubled in Jalthal forest by end of year 3 06. Compost production method (decomposition time) improved with 100 metric tons of compost produced using invasive species biomass by end of year 3. 07. A sustainable model of agroforestry approach of forest restoration and invasive species management developed and scaled out by end of year 2 08. A new generation of conservation leaders (n=300) developed through capacity building packages by end of year 2. 09. A Jalthal Biodiversity Resource Centre established and functional which also provides a platform for networking of 22 CFUGs of the area 010. Forest regulations and Guidelines becomes more clear and concrete on forest restoration and biodiversity conservation in CF 011. Scientific assessments and other data are analyzed, synthesized, published and communicated to academic and policy actors	0.1 Social media posts, news cover, community forest user groups, record book 0.2 Printed and e copies of plans, CFUG minutes 0.3 Peer reviewed publications and newspaper article 0.4 Users record book, baseline and end line survey 0.5 Activity report, news cover, activity report, Log book of seedling distribution 0.6. Survey report 0.7. Project report, CFUG minutes, news articles 0.8. Project reports, CFUGs report. 0.9 Training manual, participants project work, program hands out 0.10. News article, project report, social media posts 0.11 Printed and e-copy of published documents	1.1 Nepal's planned election for federal, provincial and local government will be conducted in peaceful manner and in time 1.2 Current legal framework of forest management and tenure arrangement of Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) will remain the same. 1.3 Human-elephant conflict will remain at present level and will not exacerbate further. 1.4 Local government and federal government support organic farming and current targets of increasing soil organic matter to 4%.

	(books-2, policy brief-1, journal articles-2) by end of year 3.		
Outputs 1 Forest ecosystem restored and biodiversity conserved in Jalthal community forests	1.1 Forest restoration plans developed and integrated in the regular CFOPs, and implemented in five most degraded community forests by end of year 2 1.2 Natural regeneration promoted against plantation of exotic species (the approach piloted by previous project), more than 25,000 saplings rescued and protected in degraded patches by end of year 3 1.3 Density of threatened and prioritized (for conservation by previous project) species increased at sapling layers by 50% across Jalthal forest by end of the project (as of baseline of previous project). 1.4 Forest carbon stock doubled in selected degraded patches (ca.100ha) by end of year 3. 1.5 Wildlife habitat improved through forest fringe plantation (5 ha) and waterholes (n=5) restored by end of year 3 1.6 Conservation Strategy for core areas and biodiversity hotspots prepared and adopted by end of year 2. 1.7 Hunting of critically endangered species minimized in Jalthal forest	1.1. Field record, Users (community forest users group) record book, social media updates 1.2 Copies of plans, project reports, photographs 1.3 Project report, journal article 1.4 Users record book, project report, news cover by media 1.5 Users record book, Activity report 1.6. Social media updates, field photographs and published documents 1.7 News report, workshop reports	1.1 Community forests and DFO follow the provision of forest act 2019 pertaining to forest management 1.2 Human wildlife conflict does not increase
Output 2 CFUGs, local governments and stakeholders take strong policy and operational	2.1 500ha of forest cleared from <i>Mikania micrantha</i> through expansion of previous piloting. 2.2 Recently reported IAS (<i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>) monitored and eliminated in newly constructed roads and sand heaps (over 500	2.1 CFUG report, GPS mapping, CFUG minutes 2.2 Maps and activity reports	2.1 Local government understand the threat and severity of invasive species 2.2 Federal government works towards commitment of controlling invasive species as envisioned by Nepal biodiversity strategy and action plan

measures to control existing and newly reported invasive alien species	<p>locations around Jalthal and its potential risks communicated widely by end of year 1</p> <p>2.3 Natural regeneration rescue' method will be published and widely disseminated as a new technological innovation to control invasive species by year 1</p> <p>2.4 A report on comparative analysis of different methods of IAS management piloted in Jalthal prepared and disseminated by end of year 1.</p>	<p>2.3 Published leaflets, briefers</p> <p>2.4 Assessment report, Journal article</p> <p>2.5. Leaflets and posters</p>	<p>2.3 Community forest secure extra resources through local governments (specially Prime minister employment programme) for invasive species control program</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Income and employment of forest dependent people increased through better management of land and bio resources</p>	<p>3.1 Income of poor households (n=300) increased by 20% (as per the baseline of project start) by the end of the project.</p> <p>3.2 A total of 100 metric tons of compost produced in four community forests with an income of 1.5 million rupees by end of year 3.</p> <p>3.3. Fodder orchard developed in 5ha through plantation of native species (n=5000) by end of year 2.</p> <p>3.4 Fodder orchards developed in 500 farms through plantation of native species (n=10,000) by end of year 3.</p> <p>3.5 200 poor women benefited from goat keeping schemes by end of year 3, and 100 more women will be benefited from agroforestry.</p>	<p>3.1 Baseline and end line survey of target groups/beneficiaries</p> <p>3.2 CFUG reports, project reports, photographs</p> <p>3.3 Plantation report, meeting minutes, social media posts</p> <p>3.4 Participants survey report</p> <p>3.4. Event report, news coverage in local news papers</p> <p>3.5 Activity report, social media posts, plantation report, CFUG minutes</p>	<p>3.1 Local government are willing to link their poverty reduction activities with community forest user groups</p> <p>3.2 Community forest user group invest portion of their income in poverty reduction as provisioned by forest act 2019</p>
<p>Output 4</p> <p>Forest restoration and biodiversity conservation mainstreamed in national and sub-national policy framework through active stakeholder engagement and evidence informed policy making</p>	<p>4.1 Comprehensive assessment of population structure of 5 rare and globally threatened tree species conducted using two stage adaptive cluster sampling (species identified as so by previous project) by end of year 1</p> <p>4.2 Gap analysis of government policies and programs on conservation of rare and endangered species (including nurseries, training curriculum) conducted and</p>	<p>4.1. Assessment report, peer reviewed publication</p> <p>4.2. Assessment report, articles on local journals,</p> <p>4.3. Printed copies and PDFs of Manuals</p> <p>4.4 Published articles</p> <p>4.5 Training report, training materials</p>	<p>4.1. Market of compost does not fall and the locals increase compost use</p> <p>4.2. Training participants develop strong leadership after completion of the project</p> <p>4.3. Local governments take stake in the research highlights presented by the project</p> <p>4.4. Regulatory mechanisms in forest-based enterprises do not change in near term</p>

	<p>communicated to stakeholders by end of year 1.</p> <p>4.3 A bilingual manual for propagation management for Nepal's rare and threatened tree species (n=20) prepared and distributed by end of year 3.</p> <p>4.4 Five newspaper articles on biodiversity conservation (including rare and threatened plant species) published by end of year 2</p> <p>4.5 75 local youths (in three batches) from eastern Nepal selected and provided with conservation leadership training by end of year 2</p> <p>4.6 An institutional arrangement to coordinate among 22 CFUGs in Jalthal forest established by end of year 2</p> <p>4.7 A policy brief highlighting gaps in policies and barriers in actions for forest restoration published by end of year 2</p> <p>4.8 A pictorial guidebook on conservation status of 150 tree species of Nepal prepared and published by end of year 2</p> <p>4.9 Two journal articles on IAS management and status of threatened species published</p>	<p>(hands out slides, participants project work)</p> <p>4.6. Meeting report, decision of the network</p> <p>4.7. Printed and e copies of the policy brief</p> <p>4.8. Published guide book printed and e-copies,</p> <p>4.9 Published articles</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)

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 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 minimize 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 policy making

- 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

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

The Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) use high quality and accessible Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable scaling, replication and increase the impact of the funds and the projects we support.

By asking project teams to align indicators with the Darwin Initiative Standard Indicators, we aim to increase our contribution to the global evidence base for activities that support biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and capability & capacity.

The tables below are provided to assist project teams in reporting against Standard Indicators. Please report against the Standard Indicators that you have selected specifically for your project in Table 1 below. Refer to the Standard Indicator Guidance & Menu available on the [Darwin Initiative](#) website for guidance on how to select indicators, as well as how to disaggregate reporting within your chosen indicators.

New projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing projects should copy and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period.

We recognise that our menu cannot cover all the potential monitoring needs for all projects – where necessary you can select indicators from other sources or develop your own. See our BCF MEL guidance on best practices for selecting and developing indicators.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	People attending rare threatened species conservation	Number of people attending Rare tree conservation training	People	Gender	20			20	50
E.g. DI-C17	E.g. Articles published by members of the project team	E.g. Number of unique papers published in peer reviewed journals	Number	None	1			1	4
DI B01	Number of New Management plans	Forest Restoration plans	Number	None	2			2	5
DI-B02	Species Action Plan	Species action plan	Number	None	0				3
DI B11	Area identified as important for biodiversity	Biodiversity core area	Number	None	1			1	3
Di-B12	Plantation policy	Plantation policy	Number	None	0				1
DI-C12	Social media presence/Facebook page followers	Social media presence	Number	None	1.9K			1.9K	3.0K
DI-C14	Number of Decision makers attending sharing events	Number of decision makers attending project activities	NUmber	None	15			15	50
DI-C18	Peer reviewed articles published	Journal articles published	Number	None					2
DI-C	Other publications	Communication materials	Number	Language	2			2	5
DI-C14	Decision makers attending meeting	Decision makers attending meetings	Number	None	50			50	100
DI-D01	Invasive species control area	Forest under sustainable management	Hectare	None	50			50	200
DI-D04	Rare and threatened species propagated	Rare and threatened species population	Number	Species	200			200	1000
Di-D12	Forest area restored	Forest area restored	Hectare	NOne	20			20	100

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

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g., journals, manual, 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)
Jalthal Biodiversity Approach: Conservation of Plant Diversity with Emphasis on Rare and Threatened Trees in Jalthal Remnant Forest	Discussion paper	Lila Nath Sharma, Yogendra Bikram Poudel, Rabindra Pun Magar, Muna Bhattarai, Aviral Neupane and Sajjan Regmi	Male	Nepali	ForestAction Nepal, Kathmandu	https://forestaction.org/
Jalthal Biodiversity Project: an introduction (Nepali text)	Booklet	ForestActiun Nepal	NA	Nepali	ForestAction Nepal, Kathmandu	https://forestaction.org/

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?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
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.	X
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	